

## Common Repertoire

The AMCA maintains a male chorus repertoire of arrangements which it recommends to member choruses as representative of music enjoyed by audience and singer alike. This common repertoire is reviewed regularly by a music committee. The Chairman annually canvases all member choruses asking for suggestions. The Committee then publishes the International Common Repertoire for member chorus use, and use in all International Big Sings.

### "Big Sings"

Using the International or District Common Repertoire, two or more member choruses can plan and present performances in the unique male chorus style. District Big Sings are conducted annually, and, roughly every five years, an International Big Sing is presented when all member choruses are invited to share the stage with brother organizations. The sight and sound of hundreds of voices raised in song under one director is something to behold. To be part of it is an extraordinary experience! International and District Big Sings are hosted and planned by a member chorus with the assistance of the International body. These Sings present a unique opportunity for fans and devotees of male chorus singing to see what other choruses are doing. It's the perfect forum for displaying new audience-pleasing repertoire and staging.

### Afterglow

This is the "Good Fellowship" part of the AMCA motto. Following each chorus-sponsored performance or show, the Afterglow provides the environment for one and all to enjoy the "fun singing" and conviviality of the male chorus experience. No Big Sing or gathering of choruses would be complete without one.

### Scholarship Fund

The Scholarship Fund is funded by donations collected at Big Sings, outright gifts, grants and bequests, and is managed by a committee of the AMCA. Each year the Scholarship Committee reviews applications and awards scholarships to students pursuing training and education in music.

### Student Male Choruses

The AMCA wants student male choruses to know that there is male chorus "vocal life" after graduation. We invite student male choruses to join us in our organization and truly see what a wealth of fine male choruses exist throughout the world. To learn more about how your adult or student male chorus can become a member of AMCA, contact the Executive Secretary at: [InternationalOffice@amcofa.org](mailto:InternationalOffice@amcofa.org).

## Personal Benefits

Being a member of a male chorus in the AMCA gives you the opportunity to meet new friends in other choruses and to expand your talents. You forget your worries and cares as you join in learning new music - it's a great way to put yourself in another world, as it were, for a break from the daily routine. And the pride and satisfaction you get from being part of a successful performance or a profitable project are a real boost to the spirit. By contributing your time and talents in this rewarding activity you'll experience real personal enjoyment, growth and development. The fun and fellowship of male chorus involvement are the rewards you, your family and friends will enjoy for years.

### Services to Member Clubs

The AMCA furnishes services to member clubs as follows:

- It answers questions from members on such matters as how to plan Big Sings and Afterglows; business problems encountered in establishing or maintaining a chorus or district; tax questions; and it gives individual choruses the benefit of the composite experience of all its member clubs.
- Assists in securing permission to produce arrangements of copyrighted music.
- Informs its membership of tastes and trends in concert presentations, music and Afterglows through Chorister reports.
- Reviews the Common Repertoire each year, a valuable reference of popular male chorus music.
- Serves to promote good will and communication between domestic and foreign choruses through its publications and services.
- Maintains member choruses' non-profit status by annually filing necessary documents with the U.S. Internal Revenue Service.

### Music Competition Contest

Composers are invited to submit original compositions for male chorus to the annual "Male Chorus Composition Contest." The goal of this competition is to encourage original song writing for male voices and to award outstanding efforts in this genre.

The AMCA offers cash awards and the opportunities for premier performances by its choruses. Winning compositions may be presented to publisher contacts, if so desired. For more information and entry forms, visit the AMCA web site ([www.amcofa.org](http://www.amcofa.org)) or contact the Executive Secretary ([InternationalOffice@amcofa.org](mailto:InternationalOffice@amcofa.org)).

*Associated  
Male  
Choruses of  
America,  
Inc.*



**AMCA Executive Secretary**  
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**Web Site:** [www.amcofa.org](http://www.amcofa.org)

**Dedicated to the extension of  
Male Chorus Singing,  
Enjoyment, Fellowship and  
Service in North America**

## Our Philosophy, Goals, and Objectives

The Constitution of the International AMCA clearly outlines the basis of our organization. It recognizes "the power of music to entertain and instruct - a vital source of expression and inspiration to the soul of man." To help extend male chorus singing among the men of North America and thereby promote fellowship, good will and cooperation. Through our activities we work to enhance the enjoyment and the culture of our people, and to develop our music art form.

We seek:

- To maintain and extend male chorus singing in our culture.
- To create good will through music.
- To use the enthusiasm of singing to interest more men in male chorus activity.
- To bring people of varied vocations, locations and interests together to perform, experience and enjoy the unique, rich sound of male chorus music.
- To help organize new choruses.
- To encourage students of music through our scholarship fund program.
- To improve the quality of male chorus repertoire and standard of performance and thus enhance audience enjoyment.
- To bring before the public, music on a unique scale possible only through massed chorus singing utilizing hundreds of voices.

**Our Motto:** "Good Singing, Good Fellowship, and Public Service."

**Our Slogan:** "More and better male choruses to make the United States and Canada nations of singing men."



## Organization of the AMCA

### Member Choruses

As the name implies, we are an association of independent choruses engaged in learning and performing male chorus music of all types. Each chorus operates under its own rules or constitution, and becomes a member of the AMCA by providing a representative "governor" to the district, and forwarding annual per capita dues in support of the international organization. The AMCA is a non-profit organization.



### The Districts

Presently, five districts comprise the international organization. A district is made up of two or more member choruses and serves to help promote the interaction of these choruses through joint concerts and the presentation of an annual District Big Sing.

Associated Male Choruses of Ontario  
Michigan Male Chorus Association -  
(Michigan and Northern Indiana)  
New York/Pennsylvania District  
(New York, Pennsylvania and Ohio)  
Upper Midwest District -  
(Minnesota, Western Wisconsin and North  
Dakota )  
Wisconsin/Upper Michigan District

### AMCA International

This is the body which conducts the business of the AMCA. The Executive Secretary is responsible for the day-to-day operation of the AMCA under the direction of the Executive Committee. The officers of AMCA International are elected for two-year terms.

## Origin of the AMCA

In the early 1900's, Clayton W. Old, a resident of Montclair, New Jersey, was an enthusiastic supporter of the male glee club in America. Knowing the many rewards of self-expression and enjoyment through choral activity, he felt that the country needed more clubs, and that the way to establish them was through active promotion by a central cooperative organization.

At a conference held by the Intercollegiate Musical Council in March of 1924 at the Sage Foundation in New York, Mr. Old presented his plan to the representatives of these eastern glee clubs. About 50 men participated in the deliberations. On Tuesday, March 11, 1924 the Associated Glee Clubs of America, Inc. was formed, with Clayton Old being elected President. In 1945 the official name was changed to the Associated Male Choruses of America, Incorporated. Today, the operation of the AMCA is managed by the Executive Secretary under the direction of the officers of the Associated, who are elected by the general membership.

### Community Benefits

By their very nature, male choruses serve their immediate communities by providing entertainment, inspiration and a beneficial diversion from day-to-day routine. Most AMCA choruses at one time or another throughout the year present benefit concerts, and all contribute their time and talents to perform for local and visiting populace. Through annual performances and in appearances for clubs, conventions, civic affairs, religious occasions and a host of other gatherings, member choruses of the international AMCA endeavor to entertain - and enjoy it in the process!!!

### The Chorister

The Chorister is the official newsletter published for and about the singers and member choruses of the AMCA. The Chorister reports on Association matters, member activities and accomplishments, music reviews, future Big Sings and more. Intended as a vital informational tool, this newsletter also seeks to assist in popularizing male chorus activities through selective mailing to the local media.

