



MORMON TABERNACLE CHOIR

EVERYDAY AMERICANS WITH EXTRAORDINARY TALENT

David Palmer puts down his stethoscope at least twice a week so he can volunteer his time to heal souls outside of his clinic. Carol Jefferies removes her apron and steps out of the bakery on Thursday evenings to serve more than her grocery store customers. Scott Woodbury regularly finishes his RV sales a little early in order to offer services elsewhere that pay in spiritual commissions.

David, Carol and Scott are not professional musicians, yet each week they join in the 360-voice chorus that has traveled the world and performed for presidents and kings. While their voices join together as volunteer members of the Mormon Tabernacle Choir, most schedule music practices and performances around separate careers.

As their voices blend in harmony, so do their professions and backgrounds, as diverse as the audiences for which they perform: Cecelia Fielding is campus news manager for a major university; James Christiansen is a postal worker; Eileen Gardner sews costumes for local high school performances, and Charlie

Paul recently returned from active military duty.

The moment Music Director Craig Jessop lifts his baton, however, the group combines for a magnificent sound you would expect only from professionals. Indeed, the Choir's list of accolades is punctuated with honors that are usually reserved for the world's highest-paid professional groups.

The Choir has performed for 10 U.S. presidents, earned numerous gold and platinum records, won a Grammy, performed at the ceremonies for two Olympic Games and entertained millions of people in 28 countries.

Ronald Reagan labeled the group "America's Choir."

Eugene Ormandy, renowned conductor of the Philadelphia Philharmonic Orchestra, called it "the world's greatest choir."

After narrating for the Choir's 2002 Christmas program, Walter Cronkite summarized the Choir in one word: "divine."

Music veteran Sting performed with the Choir at the 2002 Olympic Winter Games said, "I didn't know people were capable of producing such beauty."

For the everyday Americans who make up this extraordinary chorus, sharing their music with the world overshadows any honor or fame they receive. Their lives uphold a legacy of inspiration and willing volunteer service that has continued for over 150 years.