

## **Choir Biography**

The SINGING SAINTS is a 60-voice concert choir of Saint Paul Lutheran High School, Concordia, Missouri, USA, under the direction of Dr. Jerrode Baker Marsh. The choir is comprised of students in grades 9-12, and includes members from South Africa, Ghana, Mexico, Botswana, Taiwan, China, Germany, and Slovakia. The award-winning choir has toured annually since 1973 with over 1000 appearances in 29 states and Canada. The choir has performed in the Kauffmann Center for the Performing Arts in Kansas City, and in Carnegie Hall, NYC. The choir recently made its first international concert tour in the summer of 2018, where it performed a 19-day tour, singing in Germany, Czech Republic, Poland, Slovakia and Hungary. The choir has members who consistently receive top ratings in the state of Missouri in both vocal and instrumental solo entries, as well as in small ensembles.

The choir has a singular focus--that of proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ through music. It does this by singing a vast range of musical styles, including sacred Renaissance, German Chorales, American Spirituals, 19<sup>th</sup>-century motets, and popular world music favorites. While the choir primarily focuses on a cappella repertoire, they are incorporating the growing orchestra program into their programs as well. They sing an average of 30+ performances a season, including performances on their annual domestic tour, in nursing homes, in worship services and for numerous community events. Students who graduate from the choir are selected regularly for top choirs in universities around the United States.

Dr. Jerrode Baker Marsh came to Saint Paul Lutheran High School in the fall of 2015 from Frankfurt, Germany, where she worked for 17 years as a professional musician, performing as a pianist, conductor and collaborative artist throughout Europe. Since coming to the school, she has developed an orchestra program and instigated the elite award-winning 16-voiced Saint Paul Chamber Choir. She also teaches upper-level Conversational German and College-level Music Appreciation. Saint Paul Lutheran High School is an international four-year residential preparatory high school, located in Concordia, Missouri, in the heart of the Midwest of the United States.