



# Ames Chamber Artists

**15 Years of Choral Excellence**

PO Box 2263, Ames, Iowa 50010    [www.ameschamberartists.org](http://www.ameschamberartists.org)

## **PRESS RELEASE**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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### **New work by former director of St. Olaf Choir featured in concert by the Ames Chamber Artists**

The Ames Chamber Artists will premiere a new work by Kenneth Jennings, former director of the St. Olaf Choir, at their 15th anniversary concert, "My Heart Is Longing," on Sunday, May 4, at 7:30 pm, at the First Evangelical Free Church, 2008 24th Street in Ames.

*Blessings* is the thirteenth work commissioned by this 28-voice choral ensemble during their 15 year history. Marin Jacobson, the group's musical director, said, "In *Blessings*, Jennings reveals the Beatitudes text through long lines, sighing figures, and rich harmonies. The choir looks forward to performing this lush and beautiful piece for the central Iowa community."

Dr. Jennings, an alumnus of St. Olaf College and a former member of the St. Olaf Choir, with a master's degree from Oberlin Conservatory and a doctorate from the University of Illinois, became the St. Olaf Choir's third director in 1968. The St. Olaf Choir inspired audiences in the United States, Europe, and Asia with 12 international tours under the direction of Jennings.

The concert includes four sets of music, each developing the theme “My Heart Is Longing” in a unique way with works from the Renaissance to the present day. The choir will open the concert by exploring the longing to praise, to love, and for justice and hope. In the second set, small groups of singers will share songs about longing for love. The third set will feature folk songs, arranged by British composer John Rutter, about the sense of longing for one’s love during the separation of war, after love has died, while cherishing a beloved child, and for new love. The final set is one of remembrance and spiritual hope.

Tickets are available from Big Table Books and Rieman Music in downtown Ames, from members of the Ames Chamber Artists, and by mail order at [www.ameschamberartists.org](http://www.ameschamberartists.org). Prices are \$8 for adults, \$5 for senior citizens and students, and \$18 for a family (parents and children). Children under 12 will be admitted without charge. Child care is provided at no cost; call 233-5486 for more information. All tickets will be \$10 on the evening of the concert. The audience is invited to join the choir in a reception following the concert.

On Friday, May 2, at 7:30 pm, the Ames Chamber Artists will perform the same concert at Elim Lutheran Church in Randall. The performance is a part of the Artists Series and in lieu of an admission charge, a free-will offering will be taken.

The Ames Chamber Artists is an auditioned group of singers in central Iowa representing a broad spectrum of educational and vocational backgrounds. Since its inception in 1988, the Ames Chamber Artists have gained a reputation for exciting programming and superb execution unique to community ensembles. This concert is made possible in part by a grant from the Ames Commission on the Arts.