

For Immediate Release:

## BYU SINGERS ALUMNI TO RELEASE FREE HYMN ANTHOLOGY

Provo, UT, June 24, 2013 - Twenty-nine years of BYU Singers alumni have been gathering once a week since the beginning of May to record an anthology of hymns that will be available for free download at the end of the summer. Each week, two hymn arrangements are learned and recorded by alumni during a two-hour rehearsal session. Led by conductor Ronald Staheli, the project's mission is to bring peace and happiness to listeners of all walks of life. Thus far, the project has earned over \$50,000 in donations, allowing for the first volume of hymns to be released via free download. Continuing donations will enable the release of further volumes. Once the costs of the recording project are covered, the remaining funds will go toward the BYU Singers endowment fund, which supplements touring costs for the choir and helps students participate.

Coming up on its thirty-year anniversary, BYU Singers is a collegiate choral ensemble from Brigham Young University in Provo, UT that has traveled the world performing for people of many nations. West Africa, England, Australia and Russia are just a few of the tours they have been on over the past three decades. Every year the group changes membership as students graduate, but the musical style and mission of BYU Singers remains the same. This legacy has allowed alumni to gather each week for this project, and rehearse and record music as if they had never left the group. There are over 550 BYU Singers alumni, scattered throughout the world, and around 200 are expected to be involved in this summer's alumni hymn project. The choir has released 10 solo albums and 6 albums with other BYU choirs over the years, but the current project is unique in that it focuses solely on hymns, and the peaceful message they offer.

For conductor Ronald Staheli, the purpose of the hymns is to "combat all of the crazy, the shrill voices of hatred and all of the ugliness and calamity, the pains of the world, the vulgarity in the world. ... I feel like we're actually doing something, rather than saying 'Oh, the world is getting so awful. The good people aren't making a strong enough statement. We should always be rising up with an outcry of 'Come on people. We're better than this!'"

"For nearly three decades Ron Staheli has led the BYU Singers to be one of the most highly acclaimed choral ensembles in the nation. This new hymn project by the alumni of the BYU Singers continues in the same tradition of excellence, beauty and spirituality." -Craig Jessop

"The BYU Singers are one of our country's most stellar choral ensembles." -Mack Wilberg

The project is seeking and will accept donations through July 8 to allow the release of 3 volumes of hymns. To learn more about the hymn project, visit <http://www.singersalumni.com>.

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