

ACDA FUND FOR TOMORROW. GROWING NEW CHORAL SINGERS. DEVELOPING NEW CHORAL CONDUCTORS.



Above: Air Force Academy Choir, Andrew Jones-Holley, cond.; Morgan Park HS Choir, Gabrielyn Watson-Foster, cond.

Join Voices, Chicago: An Urban Initiative

October 28, 2016 at St. Xavier University

Illinois ACDA - *Dr. Karyl Carlson (Illinois State University) project director*

Laura Kempa Bogan (St. Xavier University) Grace Jeong (Whitney-Young High School) co-directors

Arising out of a meeting of the Chicago Public Schools, private school music educators, Chicago-area children's choirs, churches, and ACDA leadership, **Join Voices, Chicago!** was born.

The project was a festival day at St. Xavier University that included any school-aged choral ensemble that wanted to participate. A renowned clinician worked with each choir, Illinois State University and St. Xavier music education students participated as facilitators, and teachers received professional development hours. A meal and transportation was provided for the more than 500 students that participated.

" . . . Join Voices, Chicago ! helped empower my decision to teach in Chicago Public Schools and made me realize the power of music and choir."

- Cristian Larios, ISU music education student

"For a number of years, we in Illinois ACDA have been discussing our painful awareness that access to high-quality choral events and workshops are just not available to most urban choral teachers and students. . . . Join Voices has the potential to impact a significant number of singers and teachers. . . . I found myself getting teary numerous times when I realized how profound the effects could be. . . . Over time, events like these can help bridge the gaps of accessibility and force new possibilities that enrich not only our urban population, but all of us in the choral profession.

- Lee Kesselman, IL ACDA president-elect