



NEWS RELEASE • 5770 E Pima Tucson, AZ 85712 • (520) 296-6277 • Dr. Julian Ackerley, Director
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Tucson Arizona Boys Chorus Lights National Christmas Tree

The Tucson Arizona Boys Chorus has been invited to perform at the Lighting of the National Christmas Tree at the White House. The event is coordinated by the National Park Foundation and the annual Pageant of Peace. Pleasant Street Entertainment is the production company organizing the lighting event that will be on Thursday, December 5, 5:00pm on the Ellipse of the White House.



The lighting ceremony, first started in 1923 under President Calvin Coolidge, begins each year's National Christmas Tree Program and includes entertainers, a military band and a presidential message of peace to the nation and the world. This year, the Tucson Arizona Boys Chorus will be featured on two solo selections; *Carol of the Bells* and *It's The Most Wonderful Time of the Year* that will be accompanied by the United States Marine Band.

The National Tree Lighting has been a significant part of the Boys Chorus' storied history with performances at the Pageant of Peace in 1963 with President Lyndon Johnson shortly after the Kennedy assassination and again in 1991 with President George H. W. Bush and the released Beirut Hostages. It was 28 years between 1963 and the 1991 performance. The 2019 appearance will also be exactly 28 years between 1991 and now. This appearance will be a part of the Tucson Arizona Boys Chorus 80th Anniversary celebration.

Founded in 1939, the Chorus has gained worldwide acclaim with thousands of boys participating over the years. During its 80th anniversary the chorus will perform commissioned works including one by former chorister Anthony Constantino, an engagement at the Fox Theatre, a performance with the Tucson Symphony, and release a commemorative book. This weekend is the Alumni Reunion at Homecoming at the University of Arizona and features the chorus and alumni singing the National Anthem at the game. The 80th Anniversary commemoration continues with the Holiday Concert on December 14, 2019 at 3:00PM and 7:30pm at Crowder Hall at the University of Arizona. Tickets are available at the chorus office.



Eduardo Caso Jeff Haskell John Davis Julian Ackerley

The chorus has had four directors in 80 years. In 1939, Eduardo Caso established the chorus and led it until his death in 1965. Jeff Haskell led the chorus from 1965-1975. Dr. John S. Davis led the chorus from 1975-1980. In 1980, Dr. Julian Ackerley was named Director. Dr. Ackerley has taken Tucson's Goodwill Ambassadors on performance tours spanning five continents and 25 countries. The Chorus has toured throughout the United States, Australia, Canada, China, Hong Kong, Japan, Korea, Mexico, Russia, Thailand, Taiwan, Vietnam, Kazakhstan, Western Europe, Eastern Europe and South Africa, collaborations with national symphony orchestras, radio and television appearances, partnerships with diverse arts and cultural organizations, performances at the Lincoln Center and Kennedy Center and numerous recordings. The Tucson Arizona Boys Chorus has five central choral groups: Cadet Choir, Training Chorus, TowneSingers, Touring Chorus, and the Young Men's Ensemble. Neighborhood choral groups include: Northwest Voices Oro Valley, Vail Voices and Sahuarita Singers.

If you know of a boy age 6-21 who would like to join the Tucson Arizona Boys Chorus, contact the chorus office. Spring registration is now underway. For more information about the chorus visit boyschorus.org, the Boys Chorus office 5770 E. Pima Street, or by calling (520) 296-6277

