



Encore Illinois
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NATIONAL ENCORE CHORALE ORGANIZATION FOR OLDER ADULTS LAUNCHES AFFILIATE IN ARLINGTON HEIGHTS

**The Arlington Heights Encore Chorale offers adults 55 and older
the opportunity to work with acclaimed professional conductor Jonathan
in a 15-week session starting September 14th at the Arlington Heights Senior Center.**

Arlington Heights, IL – Acclaimed choral director Jonathan Miller is bringing a new singing opportunity to older adults in the northwest suburbs with the **Arlington Heights Encore Chorale**, the newest local affiliate of the national Encore Creativity organization. Singers from all over the area are invited to participate. The Arlington Heights Encore Chorale will hold a 15-week session on Wednesday afternoons, starting on September 14th, from 2:00-3:30pm at Arlington Heights Senior Center, 1801 W. Central Road, Arlington Heights.

Jonathan Miller, best known for his ongoing work as founder and artistic director of Chicago a cappella, also serves as artistic director and conductor with Encore Illinois, directing this and four other Encore Chorales in the Chicago area. Miller says, “I am very happy to be bringing Encore to the northwest suburbs. The response from the Senior Center has been terrific. I look forward to a vibrant Encore Chorale at the Arlington Heights Senior Center this fall.” Lisa Lord, an accomplished area pianist, will be the accompanist.



Eight songs of different styles, from Christmas spirituals to Puerto Rican holiday music to a new Chanukah song and even a Dave Brubeck-style take on “We Three Kings,” will be taught over fifteen weeks. Learning CDs, and sheet music to keep, are included in registration. Singers from all over the area are invited to participate.

Encore is dedicated to providing an excellent and accessible artistic environment for older adults, 55 and over, regardless of experience or ability, who seek arts education and performance opportunities under a professional artist. The Encore Chorale features daytime rehearsals, fun and eclectic repertoire, and thorough vocal warmups. There is no audition; all that is required is a desire to sing. Lifelong choral singers are welcome, as are singers who haven’t sung for a while and even those who are brand new to choral singing. Having no audition allows anyone to give it a try; in Encore Chorales, stronger singers are happy to help those who need the musical support.

OVER

Page 2

The Arlington Heights Encore Chorale is being co-sponsored by Arlington Heights Senior Center. Megann Panek, Senior Center Supervisor for the Arlington Heights Park District, says, “As soon as I heard about Encore, I wanted to have it here. I have been impressed with the quality of Encore’s programs in the other Chicago-area locations and around the country. I told Jonathan how energetic our seniors are and how much fun we have here, and we decided quickly that it was a good fit. It will be great to have people singing here every week, even people who haven’t sung in a while or are brand-new to choral singing.”



Encore registration for Arlington Heights is now open. The \$175 registration fee includes sheet music, rehearsals with conductor and accompanist, and final performance. Online registration is available at www.encoreillinois.org. Scholarships are available, based on financial need; singers wishing to apply should send a confidential e-mail to encoreillinois@gmail.com.



The 15-week fall session will culminate in a final performance on Wednesday, December 7th at 3:30pm at Arlington Heights Senior Center. Singers from the AH Encore Chorale will also be invited to participate in the all-Encore concert in Buchanan Chapel at Fourth Presbyterian Church on Thursday, December 22nd at 2:00pm. Encore performances are always free of charge to the community.

Encore also has Chorales in Evanston, Hyde Park, the Gold Coast, Oak Park/River Forest, and Hinsdale, which rehearse at various times of the week, always during the day. All choirs learn the same music at the same time. If a singer from the Arlington Heights choir needs to miss a rehearsal, he or she can easily make it up at any of the other locations.

The Arlington Heights Encore Chorale will have its opening rehearsal Wednesday, September 14, at 2:00pm, at Arlington Heights Senior Center, 1801 W. Central Road, Arlington Heights. Advance registration is recommended. Online registration is now available at www.encoreillinois.org. For more information, visit call (630) 441-5157, or e-mail encoreillinois@gmail.com.

Encore: A National Choral Movement Comes to Chicago

Encore began in the Washington, DC area in September 2001, when the late Dr. Gene Cohen, internationally renowned gerontologist and Director of the Center on Aging, Health and Humanities at

Page 3

George Washington University, asked Jeanne Kelly, then Director of the Levine School of Music in Arlington, VA, to be part of a study on the impact of professionally-conducted cultural programs on the physical health, mental health and social functioning of older adults. The study necessitated forming two new chorales to join forces with the chorale Jeanne already was directing at Goodwin House in Alexandria.

The first rehearsal was scheduled to take place on Sept. 11, 2001. It was canceled because of the horrible terrorist attacks that day. However, the next week brought in over 60 older adult singers! The rehearsals at all three locations were full of energy, excitement and a



great choral sound. Combined, over 120 older adults actively participated in a choral program directed by Jeanne Kelly, an accomplished conductor and former professional opera singer. In 2006, the results of this landmark *Creativity in Aging* study were released, showing substantial physical and mental benefits of participation, including fewer doctor visits, fewer falls, improved eyesight, and less depression. The study and the singers captured national and international attention and were featured on *CBS News* with Dan Rather, in *US News and World Report* and in over 400 newspapers worldwide.

In 2007, Jeanne Kelly formed a separate nonprofit organization, **Encore Creativity for Older Adults**, to expand the choral program. She knew that the interest and demand for challenging choral singing would only increase as the “Baby Boomers” began to retire. She was right: in the DC area, Encore now has more than 1,000 singers in 19 different neighborhood ensembles. In recent years, Encore has formed an affiliate program, making its extensive resources available to entrepreneurial choral directors around the country. Encore Illinois is the seventh affiliate outside the nation’s capital, joining existing affiliates in OH, PA, CA, NJ, IA, UT, and CO. Jonathan Miller says of joining the national Encore movement, “My wife and I have been fans of Encore for several years. We have enjoyed watching the organization grow and flourish, and we are honored to be able to enrich the lives of older adults in the Chicago area by bringing Encore here.”

The Encore Illinois Program: Brief History and Scope

Encore Illinois held two pilot choirs in Evanston and Hyde Park in the spring of 2016 and added two more choirs for the summer on the Gold Coast and in Hinsdale. 130 singers participated this summer in those four locations. This fall, along with Arlington Heights, Encore is simultaneously launching a

OVER



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Page 4

new program in Oak Park/River Forest at Trinity High School, bringing the total to six Encore Chorales in the area. One of the advantages of having so many locations is that singers who miss a weekly rehearsal in their “home” choir are able to make up practice time at any of the other locations that they wish. They are also invited to participate in any of the Encore performances held throughout the area. Encore performances are always free to the community.

Jonathan Miller, Artistic Director and Conductor, Encore Illinois

Renowned choral director, composer, arranger, and arts entrepreneur **Jonathan Miller** fills the role of artistic director for Encore Illinois and conducts five Encore Chorales in the area: Hinsdale, Hyde Park, Evanston, Gold Coast, and Arlington Heights. For those choirs, he leads all rehearsals and performances. He is best known to Chicago audiences as the founder of Chicago a cappella, the virtuoso professional vocal group now in its 23rd season, which he continues to lead as artistic director. His most recent WFMT production is “A Chanukah Celebration with Chicago a cappella,” which aired nationally in December 2015. Jonathan serves as the high-holiday synagogue cantor at Congregation Rodfei Zedek and sings at Church of the Holy Nativity (Episcopal) in Clarendon Hills; he also serves as lead choral arranger for Musicnotes.com. His choral works have been sung at St. Patrick’s Cathedral in New York City, the Lincoln Memorial and the Pentagon. A passionate communicator, Jonathan always aims to combine musical excellence with fun. He says, “Encore is a wonderful way for people to use and even find their voices. In addition to having the joy of working with lifelong choral musicians, we are also joyful at witnessing the process when adventurous souls decide to jump in and sing with us in Encore either after a long break or for the very first time. The Encore community gives all older adults the opportunity to have a high-quality musical experience.”

Calendar Editors, Please Note:

[Category: Performing Arts / Music / Classical Music]

Arlington Heights Encore Chorale

15-week fall session, co-sponsored by Arlington Heights Senior Center

Rehearsals begin: 9/14/16, 2:00-3:30pm, Arlington Heights Senior Center, 1801 W. Central Rd.

\$175 registration includes sheet music, practice CD, professional direction, and final performance

Advance registration is recommended at www.encoreillinois.com. Phone registration at 630-441-5157.

Free Community Performance: 12/7/16, 3:30pm, Arlington Heights Senior Center, 1801 W. Central Rd.

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