

# Cincinnati singers win medals in China

By Janelle Gelfand • [jgelfand@enquirer.com](mailto:jgelfand@enquirer.com) • July 26, 2010

SingCinnati, a choir directed by Catherine Roma, won two silver medals during the awards ceremony held today at the 2010 World Choir Games in Shaoxing, China. In addition, two gold medals went to the Voices of Unity Choir, directed by Marshall White, of Fort Wayne, Ind.

SingCinnati won medals in the Gospel and Spiritual as well as the Popular Choral Music categories. The choir competed in those events on Saturday and Sunday. Voices of Unity was declared the champion in the Gospel and Spiritual category, with the highest point total.

The Fort Wayne singers were part of the local group that traveled to Shaoxing to compete in the games. Both choruses participated in the closing ceremony.

"The choir shared many hours of rehearsal and performance and grew together in shared passion for choral music. We are thrilled to have received two silver medals for our choir, our city, and our country," SingCinnati member Kim Durr, 53, of Mariemont, e-mailed from her Blackberry immediately after Roma led the chorus in the closing ceremony of the World Choir Games.

"We were proud to sing 'America the Beautiful' as the World Choir Games flag passed from Shaoxing to Cincinnati and our mayors rang the peace bell together."

Mayor Mark Mallory was in attendance for performances by the Cincinnati chorus. At the closing ceremony, a multimedia American music showcase produced by Cincinnati-based Moening Presentation group, Mallory received a flag to bring back to Cincinnati to be displayed



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Cincinnati Mayor Mark Mallory (from left), Gunter Titsch, president of Interkultur and the World Choir Games, and Qian Jianmin, mayor of Shaoxing, China, at the close of the sixth World Choir Games 2010 in Shaoxing, China.

## *SingCinnati members*

Catherine Roma, 62, Northside, director and conductor

John Wesley Wright, 44, Salisbury, Md., soloist

Alex Thio, 40, Harrison, accompanist

Katie Bonk, 21, Jamestown

Kelly Cobb, 35, Kennedy Heights

Kim Durr, 53, Mariemont

Sara Garrett, 20, Fayetteville

David Gordon-Johnson, 17, Clifton

Bennyce E. Hamilton, 48, North College Hill

Keith Hamrick, 21, Riverside

during the 2012 World Choir Games.

Cincinnati is preparing for more than 200,000 spectators and 20,000 participants when the event comes to the region in July 2012.

The Awards Ceremony, held at the Textile City Convention and Exhibition Center, was jam-packed with choirs from all over the world, Alex Thio, 40, of Harrison, SingCincinnati member and accompanist, said via e-mail.

The crowds "went wild," he said.

"The evening saw us finally realizing all the hard work we've invested in learning the repertoire and choreography for the 'big show,' 'The American Dream,'" he said.

In a hotel press conference, Mallory told more than 100 journalists of TV, radio and print that he will be proud to host the 2012 games, the first time ever in a U.S. city.

The World Choir Games, presented by Interkultur, is the largest international choral competition in the world. This year, more than 480 choirs from more than 80 nations participated in the games.

Kanniks Kannikeswaran, 48, Mason

Vidita Kanniks, 15, Mason

Maria Ioannis Kitsini, 27, Northside

Sarah Luken, 36, Glendale

Steve Milloy, 44, Bond Hill

Charmaine Moore, 35, Walnut Hills

Linda O'Neal, 55, College Hill

Joshua O'Neal, 19, College Hill

Jo Ellen Pellman, 14, Montfort Heights

Diana Porter, 63, College Hill

Lois Shegog, 58, Cincinnati

Dorothy Smith, 64, Northside

Quatez Scott, 21, Xenia

Austin Stiles, 22, Johnstown

Bo Wachendorf, 41, West End

Trina L. Walton, 35, Mount Healthy

Leonard Webb, 57, College Hill