

More Praise for *Choral Charisma*

“I was delighted to find very fine practical ideas about helping singers get to a place of openness and expressiveness in their singing. Your book introduced a series of tools and exercises that were very helpful in cultivating personal engagement and expression.”

—Joshua Habermann
Artistic Director of the Desert Chorale, Santa Fe, New Mexico

“*Choral Charisma* is a wonderful book that every choir director should read, about creating a culture that works and singing songs with meaning.”

—Tom Metzger
RealTime (2005 barbershop quartet world champions) Coach
Founder of *Choir Genius*

“*Choral Charisma* is an absolutely essential book to have, read, and incorporate into what you do as a choral conductor. This book has been missing from the choral conducting profession’s library for far too long a time. Here it is!”

—Leon Thurman
Founder of Leon Thurman Voice Center & The VoiceCare Network
Principal author and co-editor of *Bodymind & Voice: Foundations of Voice Education*

“I’ve been singing for 60 years, and I have always had so many feelings I’ve wanted to include in my singing. These techniques have made that possible for the first time.”

—Peggy Williams
Singer, participant in a *Choral Charisma* workshop

“Created for educators but easily approachable for students, Tom Carter’s book delves into the meat and potatoes of music: expression. In the 170 pages of this book, Carter covers everything from tone and technique, text analyses, and strategies for establishing personal connections to music. His writing is easy to read because of its personable yet professional tone. This easy, informative read is complimented by great exercises to help encourage expression in dynamics and facial appearance.”

—Benjamin Noyes
Music educator and musician

“In choral music there are many “parrot” choirs. These are choirs which learn all the text, pitch, and rhythms, but do not think about the text as they are singing. It helps a choir to expand upon the meaning of the text. For example: Where did this person come from? What are they wearing? What happened to bring this about? I have found the book *Choral Charisma* . . . to be very helpful.”

—Henry Leck
Founder and former artistic director of the Indianapolis Children’s Choir
Author of *Creating Artistry through Movement* and other books

“All choral conductors should read Tom Carter’s *Choral Charisma: Singing with Expression*. It is filled with ideas that assist in improving the choir’s connection to the music and to the audience.

—Rod Eichenberger
Professor of Choral Studies at Florida State University
Author of the DVDs *What They See Is What You Get* and *Enhancing Musicality Through Movement*

“If [readers] desire a single-author book on specific and unique rehearsal techniques that includes an almost comprehensive treatment of the subject matter; they should consider *Choral Charisma: Singing with Expression*... [Carter’s book is] recommended unequivocally.”

—Stephen Town
Book Reviews Editor, *Choral Journal*, September 2007

“The key to the coaching style is tapping into the singers’ desire to improve things on their own, rather than doing it because the conductor said so. Tom Carter’s book, *Choral Charisma*, is very enlightening about this, especially when it comes to expression. He shares the neurological workings of why it doesn’t work when choirs are trying to be expressive because they’ve been told to be expressive, and why it does work when they are individually motivated to truly be expressive.”

—Kenneth L. Owen
D.M.A., professor at Pierce College

“In *Choral Charisma: Singing with Expression*, Tom Carter presents an approach designed to transform the choral experience for singer, director, and audience member. It becomes about imagination, creativity, and engaging “our humanness while singing.” He challenges our profession to consider a “paradigm shift” for choral performance toward truthful human connection and away from a dominant (and often limiting) focus on “perfect” sound. According to Mr. Carter, “Choral artists can combine truth and beauty, and have more of each as a result.” I believe that it is time to do just that.

This is not a book to be read and placed on a shelf. As Mr. Carter states in his Conclusion: “Use the techniques as you are inspired to do so, choir by choir, day by day, and song by song. The book is meant to be frequently picked up, thumbed through, and perused; a nibble here, a picnic there, and maybe even a feast every once in a while.” I suggest that you dig in!”

—Norbert Rossi
Choral director at Walla Walla High School, Washington,
Writing for the state choral publication, *Unison*, July 2006

“I have just finished your book and I want to tell you that I loved it! Congratulations on writing the text that should marry drama and music in the eyes (and rehearsals) of many choral singers.”

—Jeff Johnson
Associate Professor and Director of Choral Activities at the University of Kentucky
Author of the DVD *Ready, Set, Sing!*

“I read your book last year at the beginning of my school year and incorporated many of your suggestions. My goal last year was student retention (for the past three years, my advanced chorus has always been at twenty). I’m now four days into the new year. My advanced chorus has more than doubled this year at forty-five! I’ve had the most fun these past couple of days working with my advanced group. They’re focused and engaged throughout the class period. This is SO MUCH FUN!!!

As a post script, We’ve now been in school a full week. My beginning chorus, which is 6th grade, is already at forty and everyday I get more students signing up. The 6th grade chorus is the class that I’m having the most fun with right now. They’re quiet and engaged and at the end of class, many of them are sorry that the class has ended. I tell them at the end of class that we have to put the class on pause for 24 hours. I have twelve boys in class as of today :-).”

—John Gann
Director of Vocal Music, Clement Middle School

“Superb book. When Charlene [Archibeque, the group’s clinician] told my choir that you were writing it, I was excited. I was trying to formulate a plan to incorporate our drama teacher into my curriculum to get my students to connect. And lo and behold, here’s your book! The first chapter, which should be required reading of all teachers, is worth the reading alone.”

—Brad Hayashi
Director of Choral Activities at Mount Whitney High School, Visalia, California

“I picked up your book at the ACDA Conference in February. It is very inspiring and encouraging. Your book has made me re-think my teaching.”

—Shawn Reifschneider
Choral Music Teacher at Hillsdale High School, San Mateo, California

“[This is a response to an online choral music forum post about middle school singers looking bored while singing.] Probably anyone who teaches 7th and 8th graders has experienced this! They are just so uncomfortable in their own skins. Get a copy of Tom Carter’s book, *Choral Charisma*, and read, read, read and then try his techniques. . . . I did that several years back and it gave me the tools to make big changes in exactly what you’re talking about. It’s all about getting the singers to own what they are singing about and express it well to their audience.”

—Kathleen Coulter
Lower School Music Director, Canterbury School, Fort Wayne, Indiana

“This is a note of thanks! I received your book and read it from cover to cover. It was EXACTLY what I had been praying for. I laid the “safety and support foundation” at the start of the semester, then presented the “expressive singing initiative.” The choir is already reaping rewards. I realize that I needed a framework, vocabulary and tools, in order to communicate the ideas that I believed to be true about expressive singing. Your book imparted them so well. Thank you for caring enough about artistic expression to write this worthwhile book!”

—Denise Hayes
Artistic Director, Princeton Area Homeschool Choir

“Bought it. Got it. Love it.”

—Chris Guerra
Choral Director at the Loiederman Middle School for the Creative and Performing Arts,
Silver Spring, Maryland