

~WISHART BELL~

Wishart Bell begins his fifteenth season as founding Artistic Director of Vesper Chorale Inc. of South Bend, IN. In that capacity he conducts Vesper Chorale, Vesper Chamber Orchestra, and the Children's Choir of Michiana. Under the auspices of Vesper Chorale, he has developed unique, award winning educational and performance programs. He also directs *Cantus Cathedralis*, a polyphonic choir based at St. Matthew Cathedral of South Bend, and is Director of Music Ministries at First United Methodist Church. He additionally teaches voice at Bethel College.

Vesper Chamber Orchestra began in 1998 to join Vesper Chorale in the performance of masterworks for chamber chorus and orchestra. In these programs, now known as the Basically Baroque Concert Series, the choir and orchestra collaborate with college music departments in the study and performance of oratorio from the 17th and 20<sup>th</sup> Centuries. Dr. Bell prepares and distributes to the musicians, documents that explore histories of composers and repertoire, as well details of performance practice. A set of such notes relating to Mozart's *Requiem* was published in the *Journal of the Conductor's Guild*. Additionally, Vesper Chorale and the Children's Choir of Michiana anchored the Dowagiac Union Schools Choral Festival, in November of 2006. For his educational work, Dr. Bell was appointment to a Senior Artist Residency at the Banff Centre for the Arts (Canada) in June of 2004. Under his leadership, the Children's Choir of Michiana launches its second and third choral ensembles this season. He is active as a choral clinician with adult and children's choirs.

His pursuit of intellectual and artistic accuracy in the performance of historic and contemporary repertoire has also involved church music programs. Orchestral players have joined the choir at First United Methodist Church on such projects as Mozart's *Coronation Mass*, Haydn's *Little Organ Mass*, and Poulenc's *Organ Concerto*. Further, in the fall of 2004 Dr. Bell formed *Cantus Cathedralis* (Cathedral Singers), a liturgical vocal ensemble that studies liturgical music ranging from medieval chant to the 20<sup>th</sup> Century, focusing on repertoire of the 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> Centuries. In October of 2006 he traveled with the ensemble to Belmont Abbey College (North Carolina), where they presented a clinic and concert. He has additionally published articles in *Creator Magazine*, *The American Organist*, and *Worship Arts* magazine. Additional artistic awards include the Cliff Dwellers Arts Foundation Award, the Leo Heim Memorial Award, and Elnora Stickley Foundation grants.

Wishart Bell is a graduate of Trinity College and the American Conservatory of Music, with the advanced degrees Master of Music in piano, and Doctor of Musical Arts in conducting. With emphasis in both choral and orchestral conducting, he has studied with Charles Heffernun, Harold Decker, Tsung Yeh, and Harold Farberman, and has attended classes with Kenneth Kiesler, Helmuth Rilling and Robert Shaw. He has also taken advanced study in vocal pedagogy, with Richard Miller, at the Oberlin Conservatory of Music.