# **Joyfully Together**

#### **Santino Fontana**

Santino Fontana is one of Broadway's brightest stars and most versatile leading men. In 2019, Santino won the Tony Award, Drama Desk, and Outer Critics Circle Awards for his virtuosic performance as Michael Dorsey/Dorothy Michaels in *Tootsie*. He is widely known for lending his voice to the villainous Prince Hans in Disney's Academy Award-winning animated feature *Frozen*. He was also seen in Universal Studio's *Sisters*, opposite Tina Fey and Amy Poehler. His independent film work includes the romantic comedy *Off the Menu*, psychological thriller *Impossible Monsters*, and comedy *Papercop*, for which he won a Best Actor Award at the Williamsburg International Independent Film Festival. He will soon appear in the feature *Lost & Found in Cleveland* opposite Martin Sheen and Dennis Haysbert, as well as *Stalking The Bogeyman* and the Tribeca comedy *Billy & Brenda and the Pothos Plant*.

On television, Santino was seen on the critically acclaimed *The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel*. He also starred on CW's comedy *Crazy Ex-Girlfriend* as fan favorite Greg and NBC's drama series *Shades of Blue*, opposite Jennifer Lopez and Ray Liotta, simultaneously. Other television credits include *Fosse/Verdon*, *Mozart in the Jungle*, *The Good Wife*, *Nurse Jackie*, and *Royal Pains*, as well as the popular web series, *Submissions Only*.

Highly regarded for his work onstage, he's received the Tony, two Drama Desks, an Outer Critics Circle, a Lortel, an Obie, and the Clarence Derwent Award for his work in both plays and musicals. *The New York Times* wrote, "Santino Fontana [is] one of the most promising actors to emerge in the New York theater." *New York Magazine* heralded him as an "indispensable stage star." Santino received a Tony nomination for Best Leading Actor in a Musical for his portrayal of Prince Topher in *Cinderella*. Other Broadway credits include *Hello, Dolly!* opposite Bernadette Peters, *Act One* opposite Tony Shalhoub, *The Importance of Being Earnest* (Clarence Derwent Award), *A View from the Bridge, Brighton Beach Memoirs* (Drama Desk Award), *Billy Elliot*, and *Sunday in the Park with George*. Off-Broadway, Santino was acclaimed for his performance in Stephen Karam's *Sons of the Prophet*. He also starred as John Adams in *1776* and Elliot Rosewater in *God Bless You, Mr. Rosewater*, both for New York City Center Encores!

As an interpreter of the American Songbook, he won the renowned Lionel Hampton Jazz Festival when he was 18 and has sung with orchestras across the country including the New York Philharmonic, NY Pops, National Symphony Orchestra, Houston Symphony, San Diego Symphony, Mormon Tabernacle Choir and at Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center, the Kennedy Center, and Birdland.

A critically acclaimed narrator of audiobooks, he was the original voice of Joe in Caroline Kepnes's cult hit *You* and all its sequels. He received the Audie award for Stephen King's *The Institute* and was chosen to read Suzanne Collin's *Hunger Games* prequel, *The Ballad of Songbirds and Snakes*. He is a favorite narrator with dozens of titles to his name including works by Tom Perrotta, Cara Bastone, Frederik Backman, Stephen Crane, Jennifer Weiner, Alice Hoffman, and Naomi Alderman.

### **Alexandria Harmonizers**

Recently recognized by *BroadwayWorld* as offering "some of the best choral singing" in the DC area, the <u>Alexandria Harmonizers</u> specialize in one of *a cappella's* most challenging forms; four-part close

harmony. Founded in 1948 and led by artistic director Joe Cerutti since 2007, the chorus is made up of over 100 volunteer singers ranging in age from their teens to their 80s. The Harmonizers have won 19 international medals, including four championship gold medals, and received the 2018 Greater Washington DC Area Choral Excellence Ovation Award for Best *a Cappella*.

The Harmonizers perform throughout the year, in concert, contest, and in collaboration with other performers. They have sung at Carnegie Hall, the Kennedy Center, Wolf Trap, the White House, and the Supreme Court, in addition to regularly producing shows at Schlesinger Concert Hall and Arts Center in Alexandria. Recent collaborations with the Music Center at Strathmore include the 2016 DC area premiere of Andrew Lippa's I Am Anne Hutchinson/I Am Harvey Milk, starring Lippa and Kristin Chenoweth, and the 2018 world premiere of Jeremy Schonfeld's Iron and Coal – Survivor and Son.

The Harmonizers also have performed internationally, most recently in August 2019 when they toured the United Kingdom and performed at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival—the largest arts festival in the world. In 2014 the chorus traveled to Normandy, France to participate in ceremonies commemorating the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the D-Day landings, singing at the Normandy beaches and cemeteries, in Sainte-Mère-Église, and in the Chartres Cathedral. In 2012 they toured China, performing at the Forbidden City Concert Hall and the Great Wall.

## <u>Japanese Choral Society of Washington</u>

The <u>Japanese Choral Society of Washington</u> has been performing in Washington DC's unique cultural scene under music director Kimiko Shimada since 2001. Shimada's dynamic performance and teaching skill elevated a group of ordinary music lovers into a harmonious group of singers. The group's repertoire includes traditional and contemporary Japanese songs, classic choral pieces, and American folk music.

#### **National Children's Chorus**

The Grammy Award-winning National Children's Chorus (NCC), under the leadership of Artistic Director Luke McEndarfer and Associate Artistic Director Dr. Pamela Blackstone, has quickly become one of the world's leading children's choirs. Among the most exciting and fastest-growing music institutions for youth in the nation, the chorus provides its unparalleled training to more than 1,000 students, comprising 32 choirs based in the chapter cities of Los Angeles, New York, Washington, DC, San Francisco, Austin, Dallas, Boston and Chicago. The NCC's groundbreaking 2023-2024 season, entitled Thrive, focuses on the impact of the chorus' artistry, featuring an array of stunning repertoire that demonstrates the organization's firm commitment to new music, world culture, and extraordinary collaborations.

Performing locally and abroad, the National Children's Chorus is one of few youth arts organizations in America to have its concert series presented at professional music halls, working with some of the finest conductors, composers and orchestras.

Recent venues include Royce Hall, Walt Disney Concert Hall, Cathedral of Our Lady of the Angels, and the Hollywood Bowl in Los Angeles; the Kennedy Center in Washington, DC; as well as Carnegie Hall and Lincoln Center in New York, sharing the stage and studio with the Los Angeles Philharmonic, London

Symphony Orchestra, Los Angeles Master Chorale, American Youth Symphony, VOCES8, and New York City Master Chorale, among others.

## **The Washington Chorus**

<u>The Washington Chorus</u> (TWC), now in its 62<sup>nd</sup> season, is one of the foremost symphonic choruses in the nation. Noted for the superb artistry of its performances and recordings of the entire range of the choral repertoire, TWC is widely recognized as a cultural leader in the nation's capital.

A three-time nominated and two-time Grammy Award winner, the 160-voice Washington Chorus presents an annual series at The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, regularly performs at the invitation of the National Symphony Orchestra, and appears at the Music Center at Strathmore in Maryland, and Wolf Trap National Park for the Performing Arts in Virginia.

TWC was the first major Washington area chorus to be founded independent of a church or college. In 1961 Hugh Hayward, a medical doctor and classically trained musician, founded the Oratorio Society of Montgomery County, which became known as the Oratorio Society of Washington, and is now celebrated under the name of The Washington Chorus. In 1971, Robert Shafer succeeded Hayward as music director, leading the chorus for more than three decades with great distinction, including two Grammy Awards. From 2008–2017 Julian Wachner led the organization with education and innovation at the forefront of his programs. Christopher Bell brought unparalleled attention to precision and clarity to the ensemble with his trademark flair during his tenure as Artistic Director from 2017 to 2020. The Chorus' fifth Artistic Director Eugene Rogers is widely regarded as one of the most acclaimed next-generation conductors and musical thought leaders today working at the intersection of classical music and social change.

TWC's commitment to the greater Washington community is evidenced by its Connections Programs, including the Side-by-Side high school program and the DC Honor Chorus in partnership with DC Public Schools.

Chorus America, the national association for choruses, has honored The Washington Chorus with the Margaret Hillis Award for Choral Excellence and the ASCAP Alice Parker Award, which recognizes a chorus programming significant, recently-composed music that expands the mission of the chorus and challenges audiences in new ways. Other awards include the 2000 Grammy Award for Best Choral Performance for the live-performance recording of Benjamin Britten's *War Requiem* and a 1996 Grammy Award for John Corigliano's *Of Rage and Remembrance* with the National Symphony Orchestra under the baton of Leonard Slatkin.

TWC has appeared at the invitation of leading orchestras including the National Symphony Orchestra and the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra. TWC is proud to have sung with the NSO in more than 300 performances, under the direction of many of the world's greatest conductors, including Gianandrea Noseda, Christoph Eschenbach, Leonard Slatkin, Mstislav Rostropovich, Rafael Frühbeck de Burgos, Seiji Ozawa, Sir Neville Marriner, Kent Nagano, Marin Alsop, Gustavo Dudamel, Sir Andrew Davis, and many others.

TWC has sung for numerous prestigious events throughout its history— inaugurations, papal visits, with the Rolling Stones during their 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary tour, and at the White House in 2013 and 2014 for the President and First Lady.