



2016 All-National Honor Ensembles – Mixed Choir- Conductor



Anton Armstrong, Conductor

Anton Armstrong, Tosdal Professor of Music at St. Olaf College, became the fourth conductor of the St. Olaf Choir in 1990 after ten years in Grand Rapids, Michigan, where he had served on the faculty of Calvin College and led the Calvin College Alumni Choir, the Grand Rapids Symphony Chorus and the St. Cecilia Youth Chorale. He is a graduate of St. Olaf College and earned advanced degrees at the

University of Illinois and Michigan State University. He is editor of a multicultural choral series for Earthsongs Publications and co-editor (with John Ferguson) of the revised St. Olaf Choral Series for Augsburg Fortress Publishers. In June 1998, he began his tenure as founding conductor of the Oregon Bach Festival Stangeland Family Youth Choral Academy.

During 2015-16 season, Dr. Armstrong served as the only non-Japanese juror for the 68th Japan Choral Association National Choral Festival. He also served as guest conductor of two of the finest professional choruses in the United States: The Houston Chamber Choir and The Vocal Arts Ensemble of Cincinnati. He was selected as Conductor of the 2016 Indiana All-State Choir and a plenary speaker for the North Central ACDA Conference in Sioux Falls, SD. In the summer of 2016, international lecturing appearances take him to Hamar, Norway where he will serve as Guest Lecturer for the Norwegian Summer Choral School and Guest Conductor/Lecturer at the American Cantat 8 in the Bahamas. In October 2016, he will serve as President of the Choral Jury of the Busan Choral Festival, Busan, and the Republic of Korea. Additionally, he will lead choral festivals at Carnegie Hall, New York; Segerstrom Center for the Arts, Costa Mesa, CA; and St. Ignatius Church, San Francisco.

In January 2006, Baylor University selected Anton Armstrong from a field of 118 distinguished nominees to receive the Robert Foster Cherry Award for Great Teaching. He spent February-June 2007 in residency at Baylor University as a visiting professor. In March 2007 Anton Armstrong was the first recipient of the Distinguished Alumni Award from the American Boychoir School and in October 2009 he received The Distinguished Alumni Award from Michigan State University. In June 2013 Dr. Armstrong received the Saltzman Award from the Oregon Bach Festival. The festival's highest honor, the Saltzman Award is bestowed upon individuals who have provided exceptional levels of leadership to the organization. In the fall of 2014, The St. Olaf Choir and Dr. Armstrong received a Regional Emmy for the PBS television program Christmas in Norway with The St. Olaf Choir.