

four U.S. presidents, and sung for numerous worldwide telecasts and special events. In his remarks during a broadcast marking the completion of sixty years of weekly broadcasts, U.S. President George Bush called the choir “one of America’s greatest treasures.” It has become an American institution.

[See also Mormon Tabernacle Choir Broadcast (“The Spoken Word”).]

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K. NEWELL DAYLEY

MORMON TABERNACLE CHOIR BROADCAST (“THE SPOKEN WORD”)

The Mormon Tabernacle Choir Broadcast is the traditional Sunday broadcast of the MORMON TABERNACLE CHOIR. It originates in the SALT LAKE TABERNACLE and is open to the public. Begun in 1929, this weekly performance has become the longest continuously presented nationwide network broadcast in American radio history.

During World War II, the choir broadcasts were aired extensively over Armed Forces Radio Network in Europe and the Far East. Thereafter, local stations extended the broadcast into the Pacific Islands, Australia, and South America. The choir made its television debut in 1962, and the weekly broadcast was relayed to over eight hundred radio and television stations worldwide.

With the sacred hymns and choral works, backed by the TABERNACLE ORGAN, a brief message, the “Spoken Word,” is given each Sunday. For forty-one years the voice and the message were those of Richard L. Evans, who during that period was called to be a seventy, then a member of the QUORUM OF THE TWELVE APOSTLES. His messages and delivery attempted to capsule—usually in less than two minutes—universal principles related to character, human relationships, and the conduct of life. In the spirit of bridge-building, he aimed at both timely and timeless insights. His undergirding message was that the differences that separate people are not nearly as great as the factors that unite them. Selected Spoken Word mes-



Elder Richard L. Evans, the voice of “Music and the Spoken Word” for forty-one years, reads one of the brief messages that accompany each Sunday’s broadcast by the Mormon Tabernacle Choir, the longest continuous broadcast in radio history (c. 1953).

sages ran in a weekly syndicated newspaper column circulated nationally and were later published in a series of books. Over two thousand such messages were given before his death in 1971.

Through thousands of broadcasts the opening hymn has remained “Gently Raise the Sacred Strain,” and the closing one, “As the Dew from Heaven Distilling,” and the signoff phrase is “May peace be with you, this day and always.”

[See also Mormon Tabernacle Choir; Tabernacle Organ.]

PAUL H. EVANS

MORMON YOUTH SYMPHONY AND CHORUS

The Mormon Youth Symphony and Chorus (often abbreviated MYSC) is an officially sponsored musical organization of the Church. It was organized in 1969 with a primary commission to promote a

“greater understanding between all peoples and cultures.”

The group is composed of young musicians ages 18 to 33 who have participated in school or community orchestras and choruses. These musicians come from various communities in Utah and rehearse two hours each week.

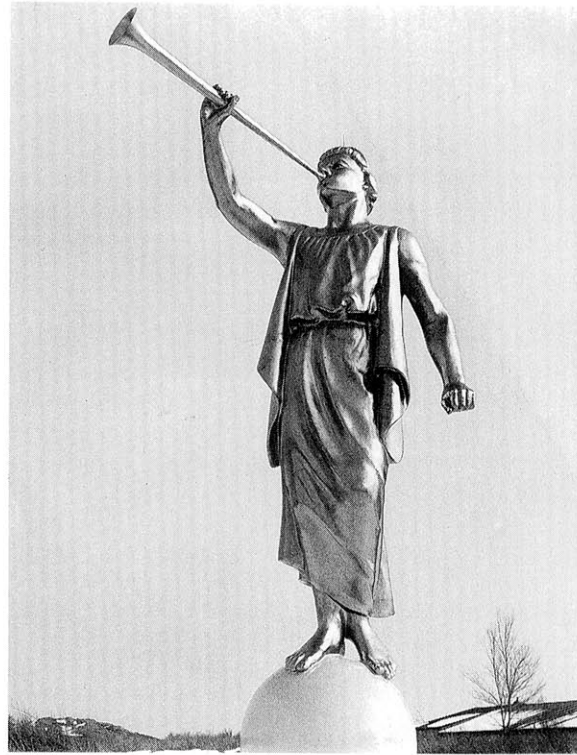
The MYSC performs approximately thirty times each year, including formal concerts in the TABERNACLE, CONFERENCE appearances, FIRE-SIDES, tours, broadcasts, and recordings. The programming was changed to the “Boston Pops” format when Conductor Robert C. Bowden received the baton in 1974. Bowden conducts and also composes and arranges much of the music for the groups. Tours have covered the United States. During the Bicentennial celebration of the Constitution in Washington, D.C., the symphony and chorus performed in the Kennedy Center. Many nationally prominent visiting artists have performed with them.

The Mormon Youth Symphony and Chorus has won fourteen national awards for television specials, including two Emmys, two George Washington Awards from the Freedom Foundation, and the Angel Award from Religion in Media. It has also performed for several national and international groups; such presentations have included a television special for the Norwegian Broadcasting Company as well as specials for American Veterans of World War II, Korea, and Vietnam, and for the National League of American Pen Women. The MYSC has eighteen commercial recordings to its credit.

MERRILL BRADSHAW

MORONI, ANGEL

The angel Moroni is the heavenly messenger who first visited the Prophet Joseph SMITH in 1823. As a mortal named MORONI₂, he had completed the compilation and writing of the Book of Mormon. He ministered to Joseph Smith as a resurrected being, in keeping with his responsibility for the Book of Mormon, inasmuch as “the keys of the record of the stick of Ephraim” had been committed to him by the Lord (D&C 27:5). Pursuant to this responsibility he first appeared to Joseph Smith on the night of September 21–22, 1823 (JS—H 1:29–49; D&C 128:20), and thereafter counseled with him in several reappearances until the book was



The Angel Moroni, by Cyrus Dallin (1891; cast bronze, gilded; 12'), on the Salt Lake Temple in Salt Lake City. Moroni, a Book of Mormon prophet, returned to earth as a resurrected being and prepared Joseph Smith to receive and translate the gold plates. A symbol of the restoration of the gospel through divine messengers, such statues stand on the top of several LDS temples.

published in 1830. During that time, he instructed Joseph Smith, testified to the Three Witnesses of the Book of Mormon, and otherwise assisted in the work of restoring the gospel.

Because of the angel Moroni's role in restoring the everlasting gospel to be preached to all the world (cf. Rev. 14:6–7; D&C 133:31–39), the Church placed a statue depicting him as a herald of the Restoration atop the Salt Lake Temple, and later on the hill CUMORAH near Palmyra, New York, where anciently he had buried the Book of Mormon plates. Copies of the statue have also been placed atop several other LDS temples.

[See also Angel Moroni Statue; Moroni, Visitations of.]

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