

**For Immediate Release:**

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**Carolina Voices Celebrates  
THE 60th ANNUAL SINGING CHRISTMAS TREE  
and the Singing Christmas Tree for KIDS  
December 13 & 14, 2014  
Ovens Auditorium – Charlotte, NC**

**CHARLOTTE, NC... (October 10, 2014)** – Carolina Voices, a Charlotte based arts organization which supports and promotes excellence in choral music, is excited to announce that in December it will raise the curtain on its **60<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL SINGING CHRISTMAS TREE**, with performances at Ovens Auditorium on **Saturday, December 13 at 7:30pm** and **Sunday, December 14 at 3pm**. In addition, the popular **Singing Christmas Tree for KIDS** will offer two shows on **Saturday, December 13 at 11am and 3pm**. As the first true *Singing Christmas Tree* production in the country, Carolina Voices is proud to bring this Charlotte tradition to the community each and every holiday season. Tickets are available online through [ticketmaster.com](http://ticketmaster.com) and [carolinatix.org](http://carolinatix.org).

*The Singing Christmas Tree* was first produced in 1954 by Charlotte Choral Society (later renamed Carolina Voices) on the steps of the Harry and Bryant funeral home on Providence Road. With Alice Berman directing, the singers sang outdoors on the steps of the building lined up in the shape of a Tree. The performance was so popular, that the organization moved the production inside to Ovens Auditorium in 1955 and purchased a Tree structure for the singers. Today, the 32' twinkling Tree structure holds 90+ volunteer singers of Carolina Voices' MainStage Choir whose soaring voices will be directed by the organization's Artistic Director, Peter Leo.

"We are excited that this is our Diamond Jubilee year," said Leo. "And because of that, we are bringing back some old friends to celebrate with us including The Grey Seal Puppets, vocalist Caroline Keller, Charlotte Children's Choir and the Eddie Mabry Dancers. And, we are pleased to announce that popular local broadcaster Mike Collins will join us for this special year and serve as our host and emcee for the

production. In addition, the organization's other two choral ensembles, Festival Singers and Impromptu, will perform on the Tree stage this year making it a true Carolina Voices family affair."

Leo said that the overall theme of this production is "traditions" and that audiences can expect to be taken on a rousing trip through past and present holiday customs that reflect the joy of Christmas in the Carolinas. "A fun, multi-media presentation of holiday traditions in Charlotte will offer a glimpse into how we celebrate Christmas in North Carolina accompanied by festive music perfect for the season."

With an 8-piece band and string quartet in the orchestra pit, Mr. Leo will direct the MainStage Choir in holiday classics like *Joy to the World*, *Carol of the Bells*, *Little Drummer Boy*, and *The First Noel* as well as popular holiday tunes, such as *We Need A Little Christmas*, *Polar Express*, *All I Want for Christmas Is You* and much more. In keeping with the 60-year tradition of *The Singing Christmas Tree*, each performance will close with the song, *Silent Night*.

The weekend will also include two performances of the **Singing Christmas Tree for KIDS, Saturday, December 13 at 11am and 3pm**. Now in its fifth year, this one-hour show is a great way to introduce the performing arts to young children. Featuring Carolina Voices' MainStage Choir, the nationally-acclaimed Grey Seal Puppets, kid-friendly holiday music, sing-a-longs, dancing, and of course, a ho-ho-ho-ing jolly old St. Nick, **The Singing Christmas Tree for KIDS** is ideal for children ages 3 to 10. Also performing on the KIDS Tree is the **Carolina Kids' Voices Tree Choir**, comprised of students from Carolina Voices' show choir camp held this past summer.

### **Get a Sneak Peek of the Tree.....**

Carolina Voices is proud to recognize the **20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary** of the organization's **Sneak Peek Preview** performance of *The Singing Christmas Tree*. This performance is traditionally held on the night before opening and is offered free of charge to area social service agencies and their clients. Tickets are distributed to individuals with physical, financial or mental challenges who might never have a chance to see a holiday performance like the Tree. Last year, the house was filled with close to 2400 individuals who provided an enthusiastic and appreciative audience. This year's performance will be held on **Friday, December 12 at 7:30pm**.

Carolina Voices is pleased to have **K104.7, Charlotte Magazine, The Voice & Swallowing Center at Charlotte Eye Ear Nose & Throat Associates** and the **Arts & Science Council** as official sponsors of **The 60th Annual Singing Christmas Tree** and **The Singing Christmas Tree for KIDS**.

**Ticket & Show Information**

**The 60th Annual Singing Christmas Tree**  
Saturday, December 13 – 7:30pm & Sunday, December 14 – 3pm  
*Tickets: \$21-\$35*

**The Singing Christmas Tree for KIDS**  
Saturday, December 13 – 11am & 3pm  
*Tickets: \$10 - \$20*

**All performances are held at:**  
**Ovens Auditorium**  
2700 East Independence Blvd., Charlotte, NC 28205

**To Order Tickets:**  
Carolina Voices: 704.374.1564  
Ticketmaster: 800.845.3000 or online at ticketmaster.com  
CarolinaTix: 704.372.1000 or online at carolinatix.org  
More info: [www.carolinavoices.org](http://www.carolinavoices.org)

For photos and video opportunities, please contact Bev Seitz, 704.374.1564 or  
[bseitz@carolinavoices.org](mailto:bseitz@carolinavoices.org).

*Carolina Voices was founded in 1953 as the Charlotte Choral Society, producers of the first Singing Christmas Tree production in the United States. Governed by a Board of Directors, Carolina Voices is an umbrella organization for three distinct choral groups totaling more than 120 volunteer singers. Membership is by audition, with rehearsals and performances year-round. Carolina Voices is a 501c3 organization and is supported in part, with operating support from the Arts & Science Council and from donations by individuals and area corporations. Carolina Voices is a member of Chorus America.*

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