

**IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **World Voice Day 2014**

### **2 Community Events – April 10 & April 26**

*The Voice & Swallowing Center at Charlotte Eye Ear Nose & Throat Associates and Carolina Voices partner to observe this international celebration each year*

**CHARLOTTE, NC... (February 26, 2014)** – World Voice Day is a global celebration of the voice started in 2002 and recognized each year by voice health professionals and people around the world who are passionate about the voice. This year’s World Voice Day theme, **Educate Your Voice**, is meant to raise awareness about the significance of the human voice, its importance to almost everything we do and by maintaining and practicing good vocal health, we can put our best voice forward whenever communicating with others.

In Charlotte, **The Voice & Swallowing Center at Charlotte Eye Ear Nose & Throat Associates (CEENTA)** and **Carolina Voices**, a 59-year-old Charlotte choral arts organization, will join together for the fourth year to observe **World Voice Day 2014** with **two exciting community events**. These events are **free and open to the public**.

“We look forward to celebrating World Voice Day every year because it gives us a chance to educate our community about the importance of our voices and ability to communicate on a daily basis,” said Dr. Terri Gerlach, director of the Voice & Swallowing Center at CEENTA. “This year, we are excited to announce that there will be two World Voice Day events for the community to attend. Our first event will be held on **Thursday, April 10**, in conjunction with **Central Piedmont Community College’s Sensoria Festival** and will feature a day of presentations and screenings. Talking about the importance of healthy voices at Sensoria is perfect since this festival celebrates the arts and incorporates the many ways in which our ‘voice’ is important in theater, opera, and many other productions.”

Gerlach said that their World Voice Day celebrations will continue with an event on **Saturday, April 26, at Myers Park Baptist Church** and will incorporate presentations about keeping the voice healthy as well as performances by Carolina Voices and friends. “This is the fourth year that we have collaborated with

Carolina Voices in presenting World Voice Day and we are excited about the educational and entertaining program that we've created for the community. We want to emphasize that in addition to vocal performances, our voices allow us to connect with others in our everyday lives as we interact with family, friends and colleagues. Many professions depend on a healthy voice such as teaching and public speaking among a few, but we should not overlook simply being able to talk to friends and family. The more we can spread the word about how to keep our voice healthy and address any problems early and appropriately, the better."

Donna Hill, director of the Festival Singers, said, "The information shared and opportunity to interact with the staff from CEENTA as well as others, who attend, is an excellent way for our community of teachers, singers, voice professionals and others to receive valuable information and support about how to take care of their voices. By making these events free and open to the public, we hope that individuals from all types of professions and avocations will find time to attend and take advantage of this excellent learning opportunity."

### **World Voice Day at CPCC's Sensoria**

On **Thursday, April 10**, CEENTA in conjunction with **Central Piedmont Community College's Sensoria – a celebration of the arts** will present **World Voice Day** events featuring physician-led presentations about good vocal health targeted toward students, singers, actors and voice professionals along with individualized comprehensive voice screenings. All sessions will take place **9:30am-2:45pm** in **Tate Hall at the Overcash Building on the Central CPCC campus in Charlotte**. A concert will be presented during the lunch hour in the Overcash lobby featuring student and faculty performers from the music department at CPCC. All sessions are free and open to the community. For more information on the sessions and schedule, please visit, <http://www.ceenta.com/wvd/>, [www.carolinavoices.org/worldvoiceday.asp](http://www.carolinavoices.org/worldvoiceday.asp) or [www.sensoria.cpcc.edu](http://www.sensoria.cpcc.edu) .

### **World Voice Day: Celebrating the Voice**

**World Voice Day: Celebrating the Voice** will be held on **Saturday, April 26, 9:30am-3:30pm** at **Myers Park Baptist Church's Heaton Hall**. This day long celebration of education and entertainment will include CEENTA physician-led presentations targeted specifically toward teachers, singers, voice

professionals and those simply interested in taking better care of their voice. Sessions throughout the day will include a live endoscopy and a question/answer opportunity with the panel of CEENTA physicians. A variety of musical performances will be interspersed throughout the event by some of Charlotte's leading vocalists and ensembles, including Carolina Voices' Festival Singers, directed by Donna Hill; Opera Carolina; The Choir School at St. Peter, directed by Ben Outen, and, singers from Julie Dean Voice Studio. A complimentary lunch will be served to participants. Those who wish to attend the April 26 World Voice Day events are asked to pre-register by going to [www.carolinavoices.org/worldvoiceday.asp](http://www.carolinavoices.org/worldvoiceday.asp). A complete list of events and schedule of sessions is also available there.

**World Voice Day 2014 events are free and open to the community.** For a complete schedule, please visit <http://www.ceenta.com/wvd/>, [www.carolinavoices.org/worldvoiceday.asp](http://www.carolinavoices.org/worldvoiceday.asp) or [www.ceenta.com](http://www.ceenta.com) or, contact Carolina Voices at 704.374.1564.

*Carolina Voices was founded in 1953 as the Charlotte Choral Society, producers of the first Singing Christmas Tree production in the United States. The organization changed its name to Carolina Voices in 2000 to better reflect the diverse community it serves. 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 throughout the season. Through Carolina Voices, Charlotte audiences are presented affordable, quality choral music in a variety of styles, from a cappella to jazz, as well as educational and outreach programs that are accessible to the entire community. 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.*