



Public Television for western New England

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Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Top Area Singing Groups to Perform in WGBY's Live Choral Awards

LIVE Broadcast Begins at 7pm with "Red Carpet" Coverage on Sunday, April 26

Springfield, MA | April 14, 2015 – This year, eight regional choral groups have been chosen to perform in the *Together in Song Regional Choral Awards*, to be broadcast live from the WGBY studios in Springfield on Sunday, April 26 from 7-9pm.

The finalists were chosen from the 24 different groups – representing hundreds of singers of all ages – that appeared in the fifth season of WGBY's *Together in Song*. A panel of judges scored each group's performance to determine the best in each of the 5 categories. Viewers also had the opportunity to vote to determine 2 additional overall winners to appear in the live choral awards program. This year there are a total of 3 overall vote getters determined solely by our viewers because of a tie in voting.

The 8 groups that will appear in the *Together in Song Regional Choral Awards* are:

Elementary/Middle School: Children's Chorus of Springfield
High School: Hall High Choraliers
College: The Smith College Smithereens
Adult: Non-Classical: The Connotations
Adult: Classical: St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Choir
Voters' Favorite: Mt. Greylock Regional High School Choir
Voters' Favorite: Spectrum A Cappella
Voters' Favorite: The Kurn Hattin Homes for Children Select Choir

Joining series host Kevin Rhodes, Conductor/Director of the Springfield Symphony Orchestra, as co-hosts for the special live awards broadcast will be Russell Peotter, General Manager of WGBY, and "red carpet presenter, Carolee McGrath correspondent on WGBY's *Connecting Point Series*.

Judges for the Live Regional Choral Awards include: Composer and pianist, Clifton "Jerry" Noble, Jr., Music Director of The Hartford Chorale, Richard Coffey, and founder of The Proficient Musician (now part of Jane Hanson Productions) Jane Hanson. The judge's scores, along with votes tallied live from the viewers, will determine this year's top performer! That group will receive the prize of a 30-minute special, produced by WGBY-TV and airing on the public television station.

As in past seasons, the live broadcast concludes with a special performance that includes members from the season's 24 choral groups. The show will be spectacular showcase of our region's best choral talent! In addition to being broadcast live on WGBY, the show will also be streamed live over the internet. Viewers are encouraged to visit the *Together in Song* website at www.wgby.org/togetherinsong where the

entire season can be viewed online. Performances are all being streamed on YouTube allowing them to easily be shared and enjoyed by viewers around the world.

Support for *Together in Song* is provided in part by MassMutual.

About WGBY

WGBY (wgby.org), a community-supported public broadcasting organization, connects the people of western New England to events, ideas and each other through national PBS programming and locally produced series and specials. With four digital television channels, video on demand, podcasting and streaming video, WGBY is one of the region's most accessible community institutions, providing lifelong learning opportunities for all.

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