**MasterVoices** (formerly The Collegiate Chorale) was founded in 1941 by the legendary American choral conductor Robert Shaw, and is currently under the artistic direction of Ted Sperling. For 78 years, the organization has presented varied programming, with emphasis in three areas: choral masterpieces, operas in concert, and musical theater. Choral classics performed by MasterVoices have included Bach’s *St. Matthew Passion* and *St. John Passion*, Brahms’ Requiem, Britten’s *War Requiem*, Fauré’s Requiem, Handel’s *Messiah*, Haydn’s *The Creation*, Mozart’s Requiem, Orff’s *Carmina Burana*, and Verdi’s Requiem. The company has presented several important premieres, including the U.S. premieres of Dvorak’s *Dmitri* and Handel’s *Jupiter in Argos*, and the NY premieres of Respighi’s *La Fiamma*, Glass’s *The Juniper Tree*, and Gordon’s *The Grapes of Wrath.* Other rarely heard operas presented in concert have included Bellini’s *Beatrice di Tenda*, Tchaikovsky’s *Maid of Orleans*, Rossini’s *Moïse et Pharaon*, and Joplin’s *Treemonisha*.Throughout its history, MasterVoices has specialized in presenting rarely heard works of musical theater and standard works with a fresh approach, including Bernstein’s *A White House Cantata*,Gilbert and Sullivan’s *The Mikado* and *The Pirates of Penzance*, Purcell’s *Dido and Aeneas*, and Weill’s *The Firebrand of Florence*, *Knickerbocker Holiday*,and the world premiere of a concert version of *The Road of Promise*.

MasterVoices has performed in prominent NYC concert halls, including Carnegie Hall, New York City Center, and Geffen Hall, under the batons of many esteemed conductors, including Serge Koussevitzky, Arturo Toscanini, Leonard Bernstein, James Levine, Lorin Maazel, Zubin Mehta, Riccardo Muti, and Alan Gilbert. The company has also attracted many world-class soloists, including Bryn Terfel, René Pape, Stephanie Blythe, Deborah Voigt, Eric Owens, Thomas Hampson, Kelli O’Hara, Paulo Szot and Victoria Clark. Because of its reputation of excellence, MasterVoices has been hired to perform with many top orchestras over the years, including the NBC Symphony, The New York Philharmonic and The Israel Philharmonic, and has been invited to appear abroad, in Israel and at the Verbier and Salzburg festivals.

MasterVoices considers education and outreach to be important aspects of its work. Its Side-by-Side program offers gifted high school students the opportunity to rehearse and perform with guidance from singing members and professional artists in New York and abroad. Additionally, MasterVoices gives complimentary tickets to hundreds of high school students and seniors from New York each season, and invites young soloists to perform at top venues as a part of the Faith Geier Artist Initiative. In June 2016, MasterVoices launched “Bridges: Connecting Communities Through Music”, a new outreach program that provides people in a New York community the opportunity to come together to make music with MasterVoices, regardless of their abilities or backgrounds.

In August 2015, the organization transitioned from The Collegiate Chorale to MasterVoices, a name that better represents the current mission of the company as a performing arts organization that celebrates storytelling through the masterful voices of its chorus and world-class soloists, and the creative voices of composers, librettists, designers and directors. For more information, visit [mastervoices.org](http://www.mastervoices.org/). Connect with MasterVoices on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/MasterVoicesNY), [Twitter](https://twitter.com/MasterVoicesNY) and [Instagram](https://instagram.com/mastervoicesny/) (@mastervoicesny).