

Bruce Vantine's
**CORNERSTONE
CHORALE AND BRASS**

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“Until I heard the voice, I’d never done a crazy thing in my life.”

- Ray Kinsella (Kevin Costner), in “Field of Dreams”

It was in the spring of 1986 when I first began thinking of creating a paid professional ensemble that would present innovative programs of music and narration designed to encourage people to live their faith at a higher level of commitment – especially in reaching out to those in need.

Many supporters have helped us over the years, and I am immensely grateful. Today I would especially like to thank Richard and Mary Ann Shaw who provided the necessary resources to create *The Cornerstone Chorale & Brass*. We continue to need prayers and tangible gifts from *all* of our supporters as we plan for our next tour, carrying God’s message of *compassion, love and grace*.

Bruce Vantine, *September 2015*

**Richard Shaw, *The Cornerstone Chorale & Brass* Board president,
co-founder and supporter, recalls the beginning:**

“In the fall of 1987, my wife Mary Ann and I received a phone call from Bruce inviting us to have dinner with he and his wife Cindy at a small restaurant in the Central West End in St. Louis. The reason for the invitation was for us to share in a remarkable vision Bruce had about a new direction for his life. He had a very successful career as director of choral music at the University of Missouri-St. Louis, but he had received a very strong calling to something new.

Bruce wanted to create a professional touring choir with piano and brass instrumental accompaniment that would travel by bus each fall to an area of the country for four weeks. The group would give inspirational performances at concert venues usually sponsored by a church or group of churches -- often with ticket proceeds benefiting charities important to the sponsoring church(es).

With absolutely no personal financial guarantee and a requirement for a lot of travel to book concerts, Bruce was willing to leave his university job to begin his new journey and mission. None of it would have been possible without the complete support of Cindy and Bruce’s undying faith.

Mary Ann and I were brought in because Bruce knew of our involvement and our belief in the arts and their indispensable role in all our lives. He knew that we were able and willing to provide needed financial support.

Thus began the remarkable journey of *The Cornerstone Chorale & Brass*.

Every year has required a large amount of work and planning. Each year a truly outstanding group of professional singers and instrumentalists has been successfully recruited from around the country. Each year Bruce has designed a truly inspirational program of music and narration, much of which he composed or arranged.

At first it was a great challenge to find sponsoring organizations, but now, with a 17-tour track record, new bookings and invitations to return are frequent.

There has never been a year that was not challenging financially, but even in the worst of times, there has always been the balancing elements of inspiration and a strong sense of doing the right thing. It is hard to imagine or describe the financial uncertainties the Vantines have experienced. However, Bruce and Cindy have never wavered in their resolve as they have lived the vision. As a result, countless people have benefited.

To date, *Cornerstone* has presented 442 performances across the U.S. and Canada, including both *Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts* and *Carnegie Hall* – sponsored by the renowned *Riverside Church in the City of New York*. The programs effectively raise awareness, nurture empathy for the poor and disenfranchised, encourage faith in action and often raise significant funds for charity.

It has been our joy to witness and participate in Bruce’s vision and to know how strong his belief and commitment continue to be. His vision speaks to a better world. Our world needs more than ever for that vision to continue and to thrive.”

“A TOP-NOTCH ENSEMBLE...A MESSAGE OF GREAT IMPORTANCE.” - *Lincoln Center, NYC*

“A UNIQUE FORM...THE AUDIENCE LOVED IT!” - *Carnegie Hall, NYC*

**“A TRULY GIFTED ENSEMBLE...A PLEASURE TO HEAR...SPIRITUAL, UPLIFTING...
DON’T MISS THEM!”** - *Santa Fe, NM*

“INCREDIBLY MOVING. EXQUISITELY PRESENTED!” - *Palm Springs CA*