



Mental Health Association in Louisiana

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International Film Maker and Choral Director to begin rehearsals of Hurricane Choir in Hammond

Martin Meader, Australian co-writer and co-executive producer of the Fox film *Paradise Road*, (which starred Glenn Close, and Academy Award winners Frances Macdormand and Cate Blanchett) has set in motion plans to begin rehearsals for a 1,000 voice choir called the Hurricane Choir.

After watching television reports in Australia on the devastation caused by Hurricane Katrina, Meader felt called to develop some method to use his gift of choral direction as a healing tool for the people of South Louisiana. The Hurricane Choir is the result. He is certain that both the performers and concert goers of Hurricane Choir concerts will benefit from the uplifting music his choir will produce.

With the support of sponsors such as The Mental Health Association in Louisiana, The Center for Natural Healing, The Abraham Group and others, along with a team of international artists, the project will have broad appeal as survivors tell their stories through song. As choral director of the Hurricane Choir, Meader brings lively interaction to each rehearsal by making sure it is high energy and fun. It is hoped the June concert will be aired live via network stations around the globe!

A film documentary of the complete choir experience is being produced for international distribution and Meader hopes to schedule a national concert tour, to include Carnegie Hall and the Lincoln Center in New York City, for select members of the choir.

It is envisioned that the selected choir members will travel abroad and appear in festivals and performances worldwide to raise funds to rebuild. The funds raised through the sales of CD's, DVD's and other items will be donated to continue rebuilding the communities of Louisiana through beneficiary Volunteers of America

The kick-off rehearsal for the Hammond Choir will take place on Thursday March 30th from 4p-6p at St Albert's Church (address) and will continue every Thursday until April 30th.

Performances will take place at the State Capitol in Baton Rouge on Thursday, May 4 and Sunday, May 21. The River Center performance will be Saturday June 3.

For more information on the Hurricane Choir, visit www.hurricanechoir.com or call 225-810-3815.