From the rural depths of Northeast, NC rises one of the most electrifying and upcoming choral groups of today’s colleges and universities. Student based, the Elizabeth City State University Concert Choir, through it’s myriad of voices, serves as ambassadors for recruitment and promotion.

The goals for this group are: Innovative thinking, productive leadership and empowered performances. Thus, the 2013-2014 academic year bodes to be one of great cantor for the Elizabeth City State University Concert Choir as it mesmerizes audiences with harmonic precision and passionate interpretations of standard choral literature and the literature of today’s contemporary composers. We are a premier group that breaks new ground by seeking performance opportunities of diverse proportions.

With music being the most ancient of the arts, the students of the ECSU Concert Choir have become knowledgeable of its delicacy, power and luxury as they strive to become well-rounded and self-motivated leaders for the development of society through the arts.

We ask that you support us to build sustaining national and international relationships for our university as we continue to promote an atmosphere that represents beauty through precise execution. Please make a gift today online (www.ecsu.edu/give) and help spread the word. Follow us on Facebook at ECSUConorchoir, twitter at @ECSUC2, and the university calendar for upcoming events at a place near you.

It’s electric! For without you, there could be no us. Please help us continue to deliver our music to the people of northeast North Carolina and beyond; continue to support the vision and students of the University Choir.

Sincerely,

Dr. Walter R. Swan
Director of Choral Activities
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2012-2013 PERFORMANCES

FALL 2012
- Candlelighting Ceremony, ECSU
- The Lively Cabaret, ECSU
- The American and International Education Assembly, ECSU
- Annual Christmas Concert, ECSU
- Fall Commencement, ECSU

SPRING 2013
- Choral Festival Detroit, Michigan
- Songs of Dreams with Rodrick Dixon and Alfreda Burke, ECSU
- Black History Month Program, ECSU
- Historic Commission 200th Birthday of Harriet Jacobs - Edenton, NC
- Recruitment—Washington, DC, and Maryland
- Norfolk State HBCU Choral Festival - Norfolk, VA
- Junior ROTC Banquet - Windsor, NC
- Living Legends Awards Ceremony, Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Inc., ECSU
- Founder’s Day Program, ECSU
- Memorial M.B. Church, Sunday Service - Elizabeth City, NC
- First Baptist Church East End - Newport News, VA (Hampton Peninsula Chapter)
- Spring Commencement, ECSU
As a junior and the current president of the ECSU Concert Choir, I have obtained more knowledge than the average undergrad student in four years of their major course of study. Most people think Concert Choir is specifically for people who sing and major in music; but this choir is much more than that. Dr. Swan does his best to incorporate every aspect of life into his curriculum. We learn things such as how to be an effective leader, boost our critical thinking skills, and enhance our business and marketing skills. Concert Choir has taught me more than just singing and performing. It has taught me how to be a better individual and a positive influence to society wherever I may go in life.

- Chameshia Coplon
President, University Choir

Motown is known as the place that produced a sound that changed the world. Diana Ross & the Supremes, Smokey Robinson & the Miracles, Stevie Wonder, The Temptations, The Four Tops, Marvin Gaye, Michael Jackson & The Jackson 5, The Marvelettes, Martha Reeves and the Vandellas, Gladys Knight & the Pips, Lionel Richie & the Commodores, Teena Marie... their music brought together a racially divided country and segregated society, touching people throughout the country of all ages and races. It was an honor to stand in the place where the world’s greatest artists had made records. We were able to sing in the actual recording studio and hear the acoustics (and how hectic it could be in one small room filled with musicians.) That was an opportunity that I will never forget.

- Pearlie Turner

As a freshman at Elizabeth City State University, who is very active in the music department, as well as other activities on campus, my first year here has been pretty hectic. I’ve had to juggle studying, practicing, choir rehearsals, tours, and being a part of Pep Squad. Doing all of these activities and more was no joke. Plus, I’m an out-of-state student coming in from Baltimore MD, who is not used to being in the middle of nowhere in country life. How did I manage to get through all of this? I managed my time well, and listened to Dr. Swan’s advice and words of wisdom. In order to be the best that you can be, you have to believe in yourself and put your best foot forward. Being in choir is very demanding, but if you keep your mind right and stay focused, you can get through the rigorous work. Look at me: I have a 3.44 GPA. I stay on top of my work, and I’m even conducting the choir. If I can do it, you can too.

- Chikiera Cephas

As a freshman from Suitland, MD, coming to Elizabeth City, NC, has been a change in a special way. I’ve learned the importance of always presenting the choir and myself in the best way possible. Being under the direction of Dr. Swan has been a positive change in my life. This campus is a different setting from what I’m used to, but I think any student that attends ECSU will enjoy the many different things this HBCU has to offer.

- Tiffany Bryant
As an upper classman of ECSU Concert Choir, I have learned so much, from life lessons to vocal lessons. I can honestly say that being under the direction of Dr. Walter Swan has helped me become a better musician, student, and man. At first I didn’t understand why he stayed on me all the time, but now I know he was just trying to help me become someone greater than I was when I first came to Elizabeth City State University. I am forever grateful for this opportunity to be apart of such a hard working choir and the tutelage of Dr. Walter Swan.

- Sequan Tutt

Choir has helped me in a major way. I have become part of a very hard working, dedicated organization here at ECSU. It has allowed me to travel and experience other parts of the country that I might have never known. I have grown to love and appreciate the importance of music and the impact it has on the world. Music of all genres have molded and shaped the world to what it is today. From a non-music major standpoint, the ECSU Concert Choir is a force to be reckoned with and one of the best organizations here on the campus of ECSU.

- Titus Lee

As a freshman, through the University Concert Choir, I was able to attend 105 Voices of History this year. This new experience helped me develop characteristics that I was able to bring back to my choir. This most important lesson I learned was that in order to be a sufficient leader, you have to be a prolific follower.

- Darius Middleton
October 4 - 6, 2012, The ECSU Lyceum Series and University Players at Elizabeth City State University presented “The Lively Cabaret,” a music theatre production. The show featured songs from musicals spanning the 1920s through 2004, including selections from *The Color Purple, The Wiz, Hairspray, Rent, Smokey Joe’s Café, Ragtime*, and other award-winning productions. Derek Graham, former choir president, was the sound designer as well as the playwright for the majority of the speaking pieces in the show. This was an opportunity for music majors to display their gifts and offer the ECSU community a glimpse into the diverse and exciting world of theater arts.

February 2, 2013, the Lyceum Series presented *Songs of a Dream* by the ECSU Concert Choir with soprano Alfreda Burke and tenor Rodrick Dixon. The cabaret show, written by Burke and Dixon, tells of the passion for music and for each other through music. The program commenced with the Elizabeth City State University Concert Choir’s renditions of moving spirituals to begin Black History Month. Literature by African American composers was performed to evoke stirring memories of the strength, pain, and triumphs of those who paved the way for today’s aspiring musicians.
Darius: I learned that excuses for situations go hand-in-hand with your actions, and in order to prevent bad situations from happening, you must watch everything you do.

SeQuan: I have learned that I will never know my true greatness if I never try to do something I’ve never done before.

Matthew: I have learned that music is not just about making a catchy tune, but it’s about making a smooth melodic connection with your mind, body, and soul.

Brian: Being an international transfer student, I have learned the correct training under Dr. Walter Swan and how to travel to represent ECSU.

Chameshia: What I learned by being apart of the ECSU Concert Choir is the importance of proper prioritizing.

Myriah: I’ve learned how to be a true leader and help others along the way.

Pearlie: I was able to understand that once you learn the gifts that are stored in you, it can help take you to the next level.

Tiffany: I have learned how to be more professional when visiting different places and also how to take more pride in the way I present myself with the choir.

Amoni: I learned to truly love and understand music.

Chikiera: I learned that once you become a part of an organization, you become one person who goes through everything together.

Capri: I learned how to understand life better and how to see and deal with issues as a collective group.

Juanita: I learned how to work with others through times of need.

Marvin: I learned that time waits for no one. If one desires to excel, he must put forth practice and commitment.

Titus: I learned how to recognize what sheet music looks and sounds like once it is practiced over and over again.

Jerome: I’ve learned that it takes hard work and dedication to not only help others but also help yourself.

Antonio: I’ve learned how to better function in high-pressure situations and the power that lies inside individual students when unified as one group with one purpose.

Denicia: I learned how to strengthen my leadership skills.

Chela: I learned how to sing different styles of music and how to know the differences between singing a classical song from a spiritual.

Iesha: I learned how to use the whole body when singing, and the different techniques to sing properly.

Tayelor: I learned that in order to have success, not just as a music major but in life, you must have concentration.