



Internationally Renowned Mormon Youth Chorus and Symphony, and the World-famous Tabernacle Organ

#### Robert C. Bowden



Robert C. Bowden was appointed as conductor and musical director of the Mormon Youth Chorus and Symphony in 1974. This appointment followed years of

training and experience. He received a bachelor's and a master's degree in music from Brigham Young University and then continued his studies in Boston as a student, faculty member, and conductor at the New England Conservatory of Music, where he received a second master's degree in conducting. He was the conductor of the Nashua, New Hampshire, symphony and later served on occasion as guest conductor and arranger with the late Maestro Arthur Fiedler, famed conductor of the Boston Pops Symphony Orchestra.

Under the direction of Robert C. Bowden, the Mormon Youth Chorus and Symphony participated in the Festival of the States for the Celebration of the Constitution Bicentennial in 1987. The group traveled to Washington, D.C., and to Philadelphia and New York—performing at the National Cathedral, the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts,

the Liberty Bell Pavilion, Madison Square Garden Felt Forum, and St. Patrick's Cathedral.

The famous Mormon Tabernacle is the oldest building on Temple Square. Construction was begun in 1863 and completed in 1867, two years before the railroad joined East to West in Northern Utah.

The Tabernacle seats approximately 6500. General conferences of the Church are held within its walls, as are other religious and cultural gatherings. Great artists of the world have performed here and leading lecturers have spoken, including outstanding clergymen of many faiths and nearly every president of the United States since the turn of the century.

The Tabernacle is the home of the Mormon Youth Chorus and Symphony, which is comprised of approximately 400 members. This exceptional group of musicians has gained international recognition through its television specials, radio programs, commercial recordings, and concert tours. The television special "Christmas World" earned for the group an Emmy Award in 1980 for "Best Entertainment Program" in the western regional division. The chorus and symphony present several performances a year as well as weekly mini-concerts in the Tabernacle. Their many recordings are widely available.

# H I S T O R I C T E M P L E S Q U A R E

SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH



THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS

Mormon Youth Chorus and Symphony  
Linda S. Margetts, Temple Square Organist  
August 6, 1995

---

"The Last Words of David"  
by Randall Thompson

"When I Survey the Wondrous Cross"  
by Gilbert M. Martin  
based on tune by Lowell Mason

"Bless This House"  
by May H. Brahe

"Amazing Grace"  
arranged by R. C. Bowden

"The Lord's Prayer"  
by Albert Hay Malotte

"Meditation"<sup>1</sup>  
from Thaïs  
by Jules Massenet

"Sanctus and Benedictus"<sup>2</sup>  
by Charles Gounod

---

<sup>1</sup> Violin: Marilyn Felt Anderson and Francine Felt Potter

<sup>2</sup> Tenor: Larry Whipple

## "The Fragile Gift of Life"

by Paul N. Clayton

August 6, 1995

---

How fragile is this gift we call life! Glance through the obituary page of any newspaper and see for yourself. You will find those who lived but a few moments, a few months, a few years, or a few decades. But in this world, even in the moment when one is born, there is one who will someday come to the threshold of that event we call death—when God, the Father of us all, calls that spirit home. It is inevitable.

How easy it is for us to take life for granted! There are those who have had an experience when life hung, as it were, by a thread. Some merely wipe their brow with the back of their hand and go on without a second thought. For others, such an experience is profoundly life-changing. No one knows how long each life will last. Some will die in an instant, others may have time to prepare for death. But is there any one of us who knows he or she has time to harbor a grudge, to hate others, to plan a revenge? If you knew this were your last hour of life, is there someone of whom you would desperately wish to ask forgiveness? Is there someone you would want to be sure to tell one last time, "I love you?"

An American prophet named Amulek spoke of this when he declared, "Behold, this life is the time for men to prepare to meet God; yea, behold the day of this life is the day for men to perform their labors. . . .

Therefore, I beseech of you that ye do not procrastinate the day of your repentance until the end; for after this day of life, . . . then cometh the night of darkness wherein there can be no labor performed." (Alma 34:32-33.)

If you were to ask a group of people their feelings about death, most would probably respond that they feel some fear and trepidation about the prospects. There may be some who would state that they can stand unafraid. But all can take comfort in the declaration of the apostle Paul who said, "For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive." (1 Cor. 15:22.) When someone dies, those of us who are left behind mourn the loss of our association and companionship with the deceased, but those who pass beyond the veil of death continue in a wondrous new life!

We must ever learn from the past and plan for the future, yet always remember to make each day count, starting today, and live in the present. It is called the present because it is a gift from God. As our individual sojourn in mortality comes to its close, may we each declare as did the apostle Paul, "I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day." (2 Tim. 4:7-8.)