



International VoicesHouston

About International Voices Houston

Mission Statement

The Mission of International Voices Houston is to create global harmony by celebrating and giving voice to human difference

Motto

Global harmony in a divided world

Vision Statement

International Voices Houston is a multicultural group of singers who inspire, educate, and bring joy to our audiences through world music. We perform international choral works in their unique styles and languages. We celebrate our cultural diversity as part of the greater Houston community through our collaborative environment of camaraderie, learning, and growth.

We sing because we love music, but we sing with International Voices Houston to form diverse friendships, nourish ourselves, have fun, and enrich our lives in Houston. International Voices Houston enhances our quality of life, regardless of our musical background, and its non-tangible spirit is one of "home."

Artistically, we strive to expand our musical repertoire, continually developing concerts that are thought-provoking and viscerally engaging for our ever-broadening audiences.

Through our programs, International Voices Houston aims to further the principles set forth in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. In addition, we seek to broaden our presence in the community through increased partnerships with area civic and arts groups, youth organizations, choirs and artists.

History

International Voices Houston is an SATB community choir led by Artistic Director Mark Vogel. The choir ranges from 80 to 100+ singers who come from nearly 30 countries and speak 20-plus languages.

Established by Michèle Lhopiteau in September 1999 as the United Nations Association International Choir, the organization grew out of her earlier Houston group, *Chœur International de l'Alliance Française* (1993 – 1995). From 2003 to 2012, under Dr. Phillip Kloeckner, the choir produced a number of commissioned works and notable performances, including the North American premiere of Melchor Tapia's *St. Luke Passion*, the Houston premiere of César Franck's *Seven Last Words*, the southwest premiere of Kanniks Kannikeswaran's *Shanti*, an oratorio that fuses traditional Indian music with Western styles, and the first Houston performance in twenty-five years of Ernest Bloch's *Sacred Service*, with Grammy Award-winning bass-baritone Mark S. Doss in the role of the cantor. The choir opened the program at Houston's Hobby Center in April 2010 when former United Nations Secretary General Kofi Annan made his first US public appearance since leaving office. In 2013, Houston Mayor Annise D. Parker described the choir as “a fitting ambassador of international growth and friendship for the City of Houston.”

In 2014, the choir incorporated and became International Voices Houston, an independent Texas arts organization. We consist of amateur singers as well as those embarking on professional careers. Above all, International Voices Houston is a community that enriches our lives with new friends from around the world. International Voices Houston is a tax exempt, 501(c)(3) educational organization.

Organization Staff

Mark Vogel: Artistic Director, International Voices Houston

Since arriving in Houston in 2014, Mark Vogel has quickly established himself in this city's vibrant musical culture as a performer, conductor, and educator. In addition to his position as Artistic Director of International Voices Houston, he is also Music Director at Congregation Beth Israel, and Music Director at First Unitarian Universalist Church of Houston in the Museum District. In the Spring of 2016, he also held the position of Interim Artistic Director of the Woodlands Chorale.

Mark's passion for performing is equaled only by his love of music education. He has held teaching positions at Lone Star College, as well as the Kinkaid School and St. Pius X High School. He is also known for his creative piano performance-lectures, given at such venues as San Jacinto College and the UT Health and Science Center.

Mark moved to Houston from Washington, D.C., where for nine years he was an active music director and pianist, performing at such venues as the Kennedy Center, Strathmore Concert Hall, National Cathedral, Wolf Trap Performing Arts Center, and the Library of Congress. He has performed with ensembles including Washington Master Chorale, the Fairfax Chamber Ensemble, Washington Men's Camerata, Aurora Opera, the Washington Ballet Orchestra, the Army Chorus, Woodley Ensemble, Vienna Choral Society, and more.

His extensive musical training includes a Master's degree in piano performance from Manhattan School of Music studying with Ruth Laredo, and a Bachelor's degree in piano performance from the University of Iowa studying with Rene Lecuona.

Paul Butt: Accompanist, International Voices Houston

Paul was born in Alaska, grew up in Oregon, and now lives in Houston. He began studying music seriously when he was awarded lessons from the American Guild of Organists in High School.

Paul attended Lewis and Clark College in Portland, Oregon, and graduated with a degree in piano performance. He moved to Houston to attend Rice University and graduated with a Master's degree in organ performance.

Paul has played for choirs on tour in Ireland, France, Austria, and most enjoyed playing for choral events at St. Patrick's, Dublin, and Notre Dame and La Madeleine, Paris. He has been a musician for Lutheran, Methodist, Christian Science, Presbyterian, Church of Christ, Disciples of Christ, and Episcopal churches.

Paul is presently organist at First Methodist Houston. He has been accompanying International Voices Houston since 2007.

Social Media

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/voiceshouston/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/internationalvoiceshouston>

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/c/InternationalVoicesHouston>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/voiceshouston>

LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/international-voices-houston>

Corporate Sponsors

International Voices Houston's programming is made possible with support from the City of Houston and Houston Arts Alliance.