



The World Renowned RUST COLLEGE A`Cappella Choir



The World Famous Rust College A`Cappella Choir, one of America's most renowned choirs, features a broad repertoire of classical, semi-classical, spirituals, opera, contemporary and traditional gospel.

The choir has captured the attention of prestigious audiences worldwide. Some of their noteworthy performances include:

- The 1982 and 1983 World's Fair
- Two European trips as Ambassadors of Friendship
- Annual tours throughout the Midwest and South
- Appearances as guest on several regional radio and television programs
- First place in the 13th Annual American Negro Spiritual Festival, Cincinnati Music Hall
- 2003 Governor's Award recipient- Mississippi Arts Commission

The A' Cappella Choir was formally organized in 1936 by the late Natalie Doxey, who charmed audiences with her intimate arrangements of Negro spirituals and classical renditions.

In the late 1930's and 1940's, choir members often traveled in station wagons and cars with student drivers, and in many instances, Rust College students were their own directors. Because funds were limited, and because of the then-Jim Crow Laws, choir members were forced to reside in the homes of alumni and friends.

Miss Doxey and her choir were used as ambassadors for the College, and represented the school at various functions throughout the Mid-Western United States and the South. The choir has continued to carry on many of the traditions from eras past.

Zebedee Jones, a former member of the A' Cappella Choir under the directorship of Lassaye Holmes, assumed his present position as Assistant Professor of Music at Rust College in August of 1990. Presently he directs the Rust College A'Cappella Choir, Male Quintet and Female Sextet. Other responsibilities include teaching Choral Conducting, Music History, Music Theory, and Applied Voice.

Mr. Jones' journey in the field of music began Rust; subsequently he received his Bachelor and Master of Arts Degrees in Music from California State University. His principal teachers were Winified Chestek and Judith Nesleny. He has done further study in Music at Miles College, and the University of Mississippi. He has directed Choral Music at Coahoma Community College (Clarksdale, MS), Miles College (Birmingham, AL) and has served as Minister of Music and Choral Conductor for numerous churches and national conventions. He is a member of Phi Mu Fraternity and has been the recipient of numerous awards, scholarships, fellowships and national honors.

The very essence of the choir is attributed to the character and musical ability of the directors and singers. Those directors who have given their souls, minds and lives for the preservation of this icon of the 20th century include the following:

- Miss Natalie Doxey (founder) 1928-1968 (Deceased)
- Mrs. Lassaye Van Buren Holmes (Deceased)
- Dr. Barbara S. Ricks
- Dr. Eddie Jones
- Mr. Vernon Robinson
- Mrs. Armastine Rush Gipson
- Mr. Zebedee Reynolds Jones 1990-Present

The purpose of the choir has been to serve as a public relations entity to help spread the good news regarding the college. No other organization on campus has brought more prestige and contributed more to the welfare of the college. With its years of accomplishments, it is no doubt that the A' Cappella Choir is vested in the hearts of hundreds of thousands.