“True Concord Voices & Orchestra has created something truly spectacular…”—*Arizona Daily Star.*

Tucson’s only Grammy-nominated ensemble, True Concord Voices and Orchestra, thrills audiences in live performance and over international radio waves. True Concord’s innovative programming fuses the best professional voices and instrumentalists from across the country.

True Concord is committed to creating experiences through celebrated masterworks and music of some of today’s best composers that move, enrich and inspire—all in small concert halls and acoustically excellent churches.

Known for adventurous collaborations, True Concord creates ambitious and unique partnerships with some of the best performance ensembles in southern Arizona. Past collaborative partners have included Arizona Early Music Society, Artifact Dance Project, Tucson Arizona Boys Chorus, Tucson Symphony Orchestra, UA Dance, Arizona Choir and The University of Arizona Poetry Center. In addition to notable partnerships, True Concord works with nationally and internationally-known soloists of the highest caliber, including Richard Paul Fink, Kelley O’Connor, Jubilant Sykes and Corinne Winters.

True Concord’s expanding repertoire includes Bach’s *St. John Passion*and *Mass* *in B-Minor*, Mozart’s *Requiem* and *Mass in C-Minor*, Brahms’s *Ein deutsches Requiem*, and Haydn’s *The Creation*. Committed to premiering new works by America’s leading and emerging composers, it has commissioned Paul Crabtree, Stephen Paulus, Gerald Near and Ola Gjeilo, and has regularly premiered new works by promising emerging composers.

In 2015, True Concord made its debut in New York City at Lincoln Center’s Alice Tully Hall. The performance, held on September 11, was a commemoration of the 10th anniversary of the 9/11 attacks. The repertoire was a performance of Mozart’s *Requiem* and Stephen Paulus’s *Prayers and Remembrances,* found on the Far in the Heavens recording.

Far in the Heavens was recorded in May 2013 at Catalina Foothills High School in Tucson with GRAMMY®-award winning producer Peter Rutenberg of Los Angeles. Composer Stephen Paulus visited Tucson for a week of recording sessions, culminating in a world premiere recording of all the works on the album. A concert was performed in conjunction with the release of its CD, Far in the Heavens: Choral Music of Stephen Paulus, on the Reference Recordings label. Reference Recordings is based in San Francisco, with multiple GRAMMY® awards and a catalog that includes Seattle Symphony, Pittsburgh Symphony, Royal Philharmonic Orchestra and Kronos Quartet.

All of the works included in Far in the Heavens were written within the last 10 years, and two were True Concord commissions: *The Incomprehensible* (2009) and *Prayers and Remembrances*, the 35-minute oratorio for choir and orchestra commissioned by True Concord for the 10th anniversary. The work received its premiere at a special concert on September 11, 2011, at the University of Arizona’s Centennial Hall in a joint performance with the Tucson Symphony Orchestra. Both commissions and the album were underwritten by Tucson philanthropist Dorothy Dyer Vanek.

True Concord’s New York City residency and musical activities were made possible by a $40,000 NEA grant and a significant gift from Dorothy Dyer Vanek. True Concord also received many other generous contributions from supporters.

True Concord’s board chair at the time, Pat Bjorhovde, called it “a tremendous opportunity. (Music Director and Founder Eric Holtan) and our musicians always strive to bring the highest quality of classical music to the region with a unique blend of choral and instrumental programming. The NEA grant, support from Dorothy Dyer Vanek, and the commitment of Reference Recordings, will now allow us to showcase this wonderful ensemble, which started here in Tucson, to New York and the world. And it pays a fitting tribute to a great composer and friend we lost all too soon.” Tragically, Stephen Paulus suffered a major stroke just six weeks after recording the album. He never recovered, and passed away in October 2014 after being in a coma for more than a year.

That important partnership led to the 2017 creation of the Stephen Paulus Emerging Composers Competition. American composers age 18-40 compete to win a cash prize and attend the premiere performances of their work by the True Concord Voices and Orchestra.

The True Concord experience is not only about highly polished, professional performances. It’s about family and the synergy between audience and performers that keeps loyal subscribers coming back year after year. Now in its 15th season, many audience members have been with True Concord since its beginning. A lot has changed since then, but audiences and fans continue to count on a commitment to excellence and thought-provoking creativity—all with a few surprises thrown in.