



## Anthony Sears—Youth Choir Conductor

**A**nthony Sears, earned his Bachelor's degree in music education at Southeastern Louisiana University. After teaching for a year outside of Baton Rouge, he traversed north to earn his Master's degree in choral conducting at Westminster Choir College in Princeton, NJ. There, he studied with Dr. Joseph Flummerfelt and sang with the Westminster Choir. He also served as Dr. Flummerfelt's Symphonic Choir student manager. At Westminster, he performed with the Philadelphia Orchestra, New Jersey Symphony, Los Angeles Philharmonic, St. Luke's Orchestra, and the New York Philharmonic (in an ever-so-memorable CD performance of Britten's *War Requiem*.) He has performed under the baton of such noted conductors as Helmuth Rilling, Esa-Pekka Salonen, Wolfgang Sawallisch, and Kurt Masur. After the Westminster Choir residency for the Spoleto Festival in Charleston, South Carolina, he accepted a position at Clearview Middle School in Mullica Hill, NJ. He took the fledgling choir of 80 members to a 380 member award-winning choir in six years. In his last years in South Jersey, Mr. Sears was selected as teacher of the year and as conductor of the NJ Junior High State Honor Choir. In 2003, he returned home to New Orleans and took the choral director position at Eleanor McMain Secondary School. During his first year, the three McMain choirs qualified for the state choral festival. The next year, four choirs qualified. The vocal ensemble was renamed The Joseph Flummerfelt Singers of Eleanor McMain Secondary. They were the only New Orleans public school to be invited to perform at the State LMEA Convention. They were also the first New Orleans public school to perform with Louisiana Philharmonic, the Louisiana Vocal Arts Chorale, and at Carnegie Hall. Unfortunately, Hurricane Katrina ruined all those dreams for those young performers. After realizing that his students were spread from coast to coast, Mr. Sears decided to accept a part-time position as choral director at Phillips Middle School in Chapel Hill, NC. After his first year there, the program grew from 50 to 125. In February 2008, Mr. Sears had the delightful experience of conducting the ACDA Eastern Division Junior High Honor Choir in Hartford, CT. This past November, he conducted the New York Junior High All-State in Pittsford, NY. Currently, Mr. Sears is home in New Orleans, where he is Director of Choral Activities at Isidore Newman School. Here, he plans to rebuild his beloved city, one chorister at a time.