

# Sterling High School Concert Choir

Sterling High School in Camden County, with a student population of about 1,000, supports a strong vocal music program under the direction of George R. Mackes with the Concert Choir currently numbering more than 80 students, freshmen through senior years. The Sterling choirs perform a variety of vocal music, including music from the Medieval, Renaissance, Baroque, Classical, Romantic and Modern repertoire, as well as from pop culture, musical theater, grand opera and operetta. The school performance groups include the Concert Choir, a show choir, (The Silvertones), men's and women's choruses, a barbershop quartet and an annual all-school Broadway musical.

The groups have performed such challenging works as Beethoven's *9<sup>th</sup> Symphony* (Chestnut Hill Symphony), *Cavalleria Rusticana* (Rittenhouse Opera), *A Night at the Opera* (Rittenhouse Opera), *Carmina Burana* (in house production with ballet and orchestra), *The Chichester Psalms* (in house production with ballet and percussion), *The Polvetsian Dances* (in house with orchestra and ballet), *The Mikado* (annual spring musical with orchestra) and *Pirates of Penzance* (annual spring musical with orchestra)

Director Mackes received his bachelor's degree in Music Education from West Chester State and then studied opera at The Academy of Vocal Arts and the Philadelphia College of Performing Arts. He performed with the Opera Company of Philadelphia for more than 20 years. He has appeared with James Morris, Robert Merrill, Joan Sutherland, Loren Maazel, Luciano Pavarotti and Leonard Bernstein.