

## A benefit concert for the Shangilia Foundation

Written by

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To honor the Black History Month, *Singers in Accord* will perform with the *MacPhail Community Youth Choir* and *Suzuki String Ensemble* under the direction of J.D. Steele in a benefit concert for Shangilia Foundation USA (SFUSA).

Shangilia (the name derives from its Swahili original “Tumshangilieni” meaning “Let Us Rejoice”), is a child rescue and support center and residence, presently located in Nairobi's Kangemi slum. It is the last hope for some of Kenya's neediest children and is unique in its commitment to the performing arts, which is at the core of its child rehabilitation philosophy and process. At the center, each child's needs and aptitudes are addressed individually and each learns performing arts along with classic schooling. It is also home to the *Shangilia Youth Choir of Kenya*, founded and directed by J.D. Steele.

“The ‘Shangilia model’ has become the subject of study by academics and other child-support institutions throughout East Africa. The SFUSA channels contributions from the U.S. to Tumshangilieni and provides advisory and emotional support to the incredible work done by the center's staffs who attend to Kenya's future every day of the year,” said SFUSA spokesperson.

“*Ignite the Spirit—Realize the Dream*” will be performed at 7:30 p.m. on Saturday, February 12, 2011, at the O’Shaughnessy on the campus of St. Catherine University (2004 Randolph Ave, St. Paul, MN 55116).

Empowering messages of peace, hope, and love will fill the O’Shaughnessy through stirring arrangements of African and American music by J.D. Steele. The performance will include a moving medley of spirituals, and the energetic African *Masai Jumping Dance*.

Ticket proceeds and donations gathered at the concert will help SFUSA’s effort to build a new

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rescue center for orphaned children living in the slums of Nairobi, Kenya.

Tickets for the event can be ordered online at [SingersInAccord.org](http://SingersInAccord.org) or via phone at 612.597.5483—\$15/Student; \$25/General Admission; \$50/Reserved Seating.