

SALT LAKE VOCAL ARTISTS CAPTURE FIVE FIRST PRIZES AT COMPETITION IN ITALY

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The Salt Lake Vocal Artists and Brady Allred have done it again. After winning the four categories they entered in last year's *Abesbatza Lehiaketa International Choral Competition* in Tolosa, Spain, they once again took home several first prize wins at an international competition. This time it was at the *Fondazione Guido d'Arezzo International Choral Competition* in Arezzo, Italy.

Allred and the SLVA took top honors in the Romantic, Contemporary, Mixed Choir and Vocal Ensemble categories, and they also won a special prize for best performance and interpretation of the compulsory piece. In addition to the awards they also walked away from the competition with \$10,000.

The SLVA was the only American choir accepted to participate in the competition. Also taking part in the competition were ensembles from Japan, Estonia, Indonesia, Germany, Latvia, Ukraine, Italy and Colombia.

Prior to the competition, the SLVA was featured in the *Concordia Vocis Festival* on Sardinia. The group gave four concerts in three cities – Cagliari, Alghero and Tortoli – and collaborated with the choir El León de Oro from Spain.

The SLVA was formed in 2010 as the touring group of the Salt Lake Choral Artists. Besides their performances in Spain and Italy, the ensemble also took part in the International Federation for Choral Music's *9th World Symposium* in Puerto Madryn, Argentina, last August.

Because of their international presence, the choir has received numerous invitations to perform in France, Wales, Taiwan, Korea and the Philippines.

The SLVA has recently released an album, "Live from Spain," with music from its tour to the Iberian peninsula. And later this month, the choir will release a disc with Christmas music by Dan Forrest titled "Never a Brighter Star."

For information on how to audition for the choir, visit the website at www.saltlakevocalartists.org.