

# Mp3 Octarium - Essentials



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Choral music never had it so good. Octarium is Latin for eight as one and the name defines our mission: eight singers, one choral voice. 17 MP3 Songs in this album (55:58) ! Related styles: CLASSICAL: Choral Music, CLASSICAL: Vocal Music People who are interested in Anonymous 4 Chanticleer should consider this download. Details: Octarium is pleased to announce the release of its new album, Essentials, a collection of a-cappella music all lovers of the choral art should know. Designed for students who are learning to love the art as well as former students who want to be reminded how beautiful choral music can be, Essentials will kindle, or re-kindle, your love affair with the choral voice. The vocal octet Octarium, based in Kansas City, has gained a national reputation for performances suffused with what composer Morton Lauridsen called, stunning artistry combined with an absolutely beautiful blending of voices. Composer Stephen Hatfield raves, Octariums ability to change the nuance of their tone and timbre without disrupting the flow of the music enables them to pack their performances with riches without ever over-reaching for their effects. At each presentation, Octarium offers the polished choral sonority and embodiment of the philosophy, Eight Singers, One Voice for which the ensemble has become well-known and respected. The Riverfront Times writes that the eight members of Octarium go beyond raising their voices together in song; their voices warp and weave together, coalescing as a single instrument of tremendous power and depth. Octarium wields this might gracefully, never overpowering, opting instead to revel in the pliancy of the human voice. Octariums sixth season opens in October, with concert presentations tied to the release of its new CD, Essentials. In December, the group will offer its annual holiday concert, described last year by the Kansas City Star as an artistic watershed sung with breathless unity, polish and meticulously crafted balance. The season will close in April, as Octarium presents a program featuring music of modern composers from the Americas, including repertoire by Lauridsen,

Whitacre, Hatfield, Paulus, Larsen, Stucky, Mullholland, Corgliano and Piazzola. This concert will also feature the world premiere of the winning submission from the inaugural Octarium Composition Competition. In addition to a Kansas City-area subscription concert series, Octarium offers two touring programs, Saints and Angels and Should Have Been Choral. Saints and Angels is a presentation of sacred choral music lauding and magnifying saints and angels, includes the music of Victoria, Vaughan Williams, Durufle, Britten, Byrd and Schubert. Should Have Been Choral is a collection of a cappella arrangements of secular songs originally composed as orchestral symphonies, operatic overtures, music from Broadway shows and pop songs. Beginning in 2006, Octarium expanded its audience by releasing a series of finely-crafted recordings. Produced by Octarium's own label, Octarium has released three CDs; the self-titled debut release in 2006, *Hodie* in 2007 and the upcoming *Essentials* (October 2008). Digital distribution through online purveyors such as iTunes has allowed Octarium to reach a new generation of choral music lovers; the developing choral singer. Its latest release, *Essentials*, was developed with this next generation in mind. A collection of a cappella music all lovers of the choral art should know, *Essentials* is designed for students who are learning to love the art as well as former students who want to be reminded how beautiful choral music can be. As the recordings demonstrate, education is the center of Octarium's mission. Octarium has developed several engaging strategies to light the fire of love and appreciation of choral music in young people with an engaging outreach program, including concert presentations, master classes, workshops and lecture demonstrations for students from elementary school to college. Octarium was founded in 2003 by Krista Lang Blackwood, the current artistic director. As the director of choirs at a large Kansas City church, Blackwood hired eight section leaders to support her choral program in 2001. As the program developed, the section leaders formed an octet to provide music at special liturgies. As the octet rehearsed and performed together, a remarkable thing began to happen: musical synergy. The singers began to read each other's minds; taking unplanned breaths together, phrasing identically and beautifully without discussing it first and creating impromptu choral dynamics in rehearsal and performance. This kind of artistry inspired Blackwood to expand beyond the walls of the church. Since its first season, Octarium has expanded its scope but never changed its mission: Octarium is Latin for Eight as One, and the name defines our mission: Eight Singers, One Choral Voice. Octarium is committed to fostering and promoting the development and appreciation of the art of choral music through innovative and engaging programming, seeking to inspire, enlighten and educate.

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