



The Chorister

Volume 3, Issue 1

August 1, 2016

Singing Locally, Giving Globally!

- Intergenerational singing community of all ability and experience levels
- Excellence in choral artistry
- Noted guest conductors, clinicians, soloists, & instrumentalists
- Eclectic array of music including choral standards, commissioned pieces, and major contemporary works interspersed with folksongs, jazz, world music, and sacred selections
- Substantive Community Service

Check Us Out On YouTube!

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Martha Banghart

Assistant Director

Wayne Perry

*

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NEWSLETTER

EDITOR

Liz Phelan

Calendar

Tues. Sept. 20 Rehearsals begin for 2016-17 season—Bethel Presbyterian 7-9:00 p.m.

Tues. Oct. 18 Rehearsals begin for Youth Choir—Bethel 5-6:30 p.m.

Sat. Oct. 29 Inform and Inspire—Silo Hill 5-8:00 p.m.

Sun. Nov. 20 Chamber Choir—Bethel Presbyterian 3:00 p.m.

Sun. Dec. 4 Christmas concert "Behold New Joy" at St. Matthew's Lutheran Church 4:00 p.m.

Director's Notes

Welcome to the 10th Anniversary Season of the Deer Creek Chorale, and what a celebration we have planned for this milestone year!

When I reminisce about the music performed, community projects accomplished, and friends made since 2007 I swell up with pride. And to imagine what the next 10 years might look like!!! Your hard working Board of Directors have been busy all summer long to insure that this season will be a fitting tribute to what makes the DCC such a dynamic and electrifying organization.

I welcome three new members to our artistic team. **Julie Culotta** will be spearheading our new youth program with **Amanda Noto Bentkowski** at the piano (spread the word - auditions are underway). Veteran pianist **Lori Geckle** will sup-



Artistic Director
Marty Banghart

port the DCC Chamber Choir as they tackle a diverse and demanding repertoire. Your loyal team of **Wayne, Shisa**, and I will greet you on September 20th as we delve into an array of challenging and thought-provoking music.

Our Christmas concert on December 4th will include the Pergolesi *Magnificat* with strings, Shawn Kirchner's *Behold New Joy*, an arrangement of ancient carols with guest organist and Conrad Susa's *A Christmas Garland* with organ and brass. To top off the concert will be the debut of our very own Deer Creek Chorale Youth Choir (DCYC). What an exciting program indeed!

January 10th, 2017 the choir will return for an intense rehearsal schedule of music highlighting music and memory with the Mid-Atlantic premiere of

Board Update

Welcome to the Deer Creek Chorale's 2016-2017 10th anniversary concert season. It is hard to believe that approximately 10 years ago our organization was in its fledgling conceptual stage, and the first nine seasons seem to have gone by "in a blink of an eye."

Conceived by our outstanding musical director, **Marty Banghart**, the Deer Creek Chorale has grown exponentially in stature since its first few concert seasons. As a parent of young adults who attended North Harford High School my wife and I attended numerous annual musi-

cal reviews that were directed by Marty, and we always were tremendously impressed by her students' musical prowess. Consistently, major cornerstones of her productions were high expectations for artistic merit and an unequivocal commitment for promoting student community service. In fact, she was fiercely passionate about both aspects, so it is no coincidence that they form the backbone of the Deer Creek Chorale's mission.

Numerous like-minded individuals have been members of



Board President
Pete McCallum

Robert Cohen's *Alzheimer's Stories* with musicians from Goucher and Peabody and guest conductor **Bruce Rogers**. To further commemorate our milestone year, we have commissioned **Dr. Daniel McDavitt** to compose a piece with music and memory as its theme. To round out our special offerings and help make us the best we can be, **Dr. Terry Eberhardt** will be our guest clinician. And to add to the wow factor, the choir will have a new look thanks to the Herculean efforts of Cris Martin.

To be your artistic director continues to bring me great joy and opportunities to learn and lead wonderful people with a common love for singing. I look forward to seeing everyone at Jarrettsville Creamery on September 20th to set us up for a rollicking rehearsal and commencement of our 10th anniversary musical party!!!!

the Deer Creek Chorale during the first nine concert seasons and have contributed so much to our organization's success. As we move forward in achieving our dual mission, the Board is firmly dedicated to continue engaging in strategic endeavors that ensure long-term organizational sustainability. Throughout this 10th anniversary season you will hear much about the Board's leadership efforts in this area.

(Continued on page 3)

Spotlight On... Youth Choir Director Julie Culotta



Julie Culotta

Our new children's choir director, **Julie Culotta**, began her love of music at a very young age. The child of two West Pointers – a band member and a WP Elementary School music teacher, she spent her toddler years on the Hudson at many a West Point concert. As part of a musical family she played piano and clarinet, and grew up singing in the Frederick Children's Chorus and in her church once the family moved back to Maryland.

After getting her music degree at UMD, Julie worked with the All Children's Chorus of Annapolis from 2006-2014, and served as Artistic and Executive Director of the organization beginning in 2010. She traveled with her children's choir to Carnegie Hall, Paris, New Orleans, Disney World, and more. She also taught choral music at North Harford Middle School until she moved to Atlanta to pursue her Masters of Music degree.

(Read her full bio on the website.)

Julie loves to sing all kinds of music. She had the opportunity to perform in many concerts with the National Symphony during her time at UMD including Bach's *St. Matthew Passion* and *Mass in B Minor*. She also premiered a new work by Jake Runestad *Come to the Woods* when performing at the 2016 Southern ACDA Conference. Julie really enjoys a broad array of choral music from Renaissance to Contemporary, and also loves Broadway musicals (current favorites are *Hamilton* and *Waitress*), as well as contemporary Christian music (e.g. Kari Jobe and Matt Maher).

Beyond her music life Julie is wife to husband **Dave** (Calvert Hall alum, also music teacher before switching careers to finance), mother to 4^{1/2} year-old **Ade-lynn** and almost 3 year-old **Cooper**, and baby Culotta #3 will be arriving in mid-September! She is also close to her two sisters who are nearby and her younger brother who is a Navy pilot.

In addition to starting the new Deer Creek Youth Choir (DCYC) Julie and Dave are thrilled to be returning to the music ministry at St. Margaret Catholic Church in Bel Air, where they used to serve with Jeff Winfield and co-direct the High School Contemporary Worship group at St. Mary Magdalen Mission.

For fun Julie loves to bake! She loves making cakes, cookies, cupcakes, cake pops, pies - you name it! Favorite foods include chicken salad and cupcakes. She is also a savvy shopper. Those who know her might say that she is dedicated, caring, outgoing, and very busy!

And you might be surprised to know that she has travelled to India twice, for a month each time, to work with Mother Teresa's Missionaries of Charity.

The DCC is delighted to welcome Julie into our DCC family, and look forward to hearing our new youth choir!

Community Outreach



Our Community Outreach Focus!

For the 2016-2017 10th Anniversary year, the DCC has chosen to promote Alzheimer awareness as a disease and a serious health care issue in society today.

Alzheimer's is the most common form of dementia, a general term for memory loss and other intellectual abilities serious enough to interfere with daily life. Alzheimer's disease accounts for 60 to 80 percent of dementia cases. It is not a normal part

of aging, although the greatest known risk factor is increasing age, and the majority of people with Alzheimer's are 65 and older.

But Alzheimer's is not just a disease of old age. Up to five percent of people with the disease have early onset Alzheimer's, which often appears when someone is in their 40's or 50's.

Living with and caring for loved ones with Alzheimer's can be devas-

tating and heart-breaking. It is hoped that through greater awareness the disease can be better understood and managed.

The DCC has an exciting year of program to promote Alzheimer awareness as **Marty** alluded to in her notes. The May concert and related weekend activities should be fabulous, so be sure to mark your calendar now!

What Are They Doing Now?

An important part of the mission of the DCC is service and outreach to the wider community both locally and globally. Each year the organization has chosen a particular charity or project to support, and we have done some amazing things over the past ten years!

Our outreach activities have included:

- Haiti's Earthquake Relief Fund
- Construction of an international school in Pakistan

- Jackie McCosh Concert Fund
- Betty Banghart Scholarship Fund
- Johns Hopkins Camp Sunrise
- Project C.U.R.E.
- Harford Family House
- George Small Outreach Educational Fund in Kenya
- Habitat for Humanity—Susquehanna
- Harford County Center for the Visual and Performing Arts

As part of our 10th anniversary year celebration we'd like to revisit some of our past partnerships and projects and see how those groups are faring now. Each month we'll look at a different one. Look for them in upcoming issues!

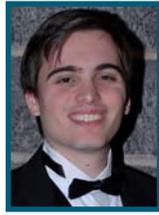
Register Now!

Dues—\$110
Music—\$37
Register & Pay On-line!

Women choristers should see **Cris Martin** to arrange for your performance dresses.

Marketing Matters...

Our 10th anniversary season is just a month away! In the meantime, our Marketing Team has been working hard to get word about the DCC out to you, to our supporters, and to our community. What are we doing to prepare in the off-season? Take a look here at some highlights.



Marketing Chair
Patrick Dickerson

Print Projects: We have a new 10th anniversary logo, newly-designed folders, and new DCC stationery for all correspondence and promotions. Thanks to **Emily at Tuxedo Cat Design** for providing our new designs. **Dan Davis** has been coordinating all the printing of all the materials to insure the best quality. For this anniversary year we are also creating a new

promotional tri-fold brochure showcasing the DCC anniversary calendar and the exciting activities planned for this year. Thanks to **Lexi Morris** and **Emily** for spearheading this effort. **Liz Phelan** has been updating materials for our new 10th anniversary Member and Marketing Folders that all choristers will receive in September, highlighting our DCC organization. Look there for leadership contact information, protocols and policies, as well as our Calendar of Events among other things. Our publications look is getting better and better!

Community Outreach: Lexi has been organizing community press and local marketing contacts for targeting advertising in the coming year. Liz is updating the website for our 2016-2017 anniversary season.

I have been putting together an easy-to-use DCC PowerPoint presentation that will be available for **anyone** to use this season. The call is still out there for presentation opportunities. Please let us know if there are any clubs, church groups, or events where you feel you can spread the word about who we are and what we do. And if you have a suggestion of a place to present, but feel unable to make the presentation yourself, let us know that as well. Remember, DCC choristers make the best ambassadors for our organization and are our greatest marketing asset!

Thanks to all the Marketing Team members who have been working so hard to share the good news about our outstanding DCC organization!

DCYC News...

With the incredible support of the Deer Creek Chorale, I am thrilled to announce the formation of the Deer Creek Youth Choir (DCYC). I feel privileged to direct this new venture, and am happy to be accompanied by HCPS music teacher **Amanda Noto Bentkowski**. This youth choral ensemble will serve singers from across Harford and Baltimore Counties and Southern Pennsylvania.

In our inaugural season, the DCYC will be auditioning singers entering grades 4, 5 & 6. The auditions are VERY friendly and welcoming, and more of a vocal placement and skills check to gauge singers experience

and ability.

The DCYC is looking forward to performing alongside the DCC in their December holiday concert, as well as spring performances at St. James Church and the Music and Memory concert at Goucher. The DCYC will conclude their first season with a special concert at Bethel Church in May.

We have been actively recruiting through the music teachers at area elementary and middle schools; however, during

these summer months, WE NEED YOUR HELP! Please help spread the word about this fantastic new opportunity for students in your neighborhood, church, and community who LOVE to sing and would benefit from being a part of the DCYC. Auditions will be held on **Saturday, August 27th** and **Tuesday, September 6th** at Bethel Church. Interested singers can request an audition time by visiting the *Sing with Us - Youth Choir* page on the DCC website. DCYC Rehearsals will begin in October 2016 and go through May 2017.



DCYC Director
Julie Culotta

What is a Vocal Warm-up? Why Bother?

As we begin a new season, it is important to get off to a good start. A vocal warm-up consists of a few fun, systematic exercises that get your physical voice, mind, and ear all on the same page. An effective warm-up also helps you get comfortable throughout your full range before you sing the extreme notes in a song.



Why not just sing? Singing a song isn't a warm-up. A warm-up consists of three parts with different goals:

Warming Up—increases temperature and blood flow in larynx, breathing system, and articulators (lips, tongue, teeth) while checking for reasonable posture.

Making Sounds—Humming and lip trills so you can physically feel the resonance in the face, head, throat, and chest.

Diction Exercises—To get the articulators, brain, and ear on the same page.

The DCC has warm-ups at the start of each rehearsal. Be sure to be early enough to participate!

For more info go to vocalcoach.com.

Board Update (Con't)

(Continued from page 1)

Most important, however, is being sure to take the time to joyfully celebrate the significant accomplishment of our 10th anniversary.

As a fellow chorister, I am looking forward to this year-long celebration and to innumerable future concert seasons.

Please enjoy the rest of your summer and just remember that our first rehearsal is "just around the corner" on Tuesday, September 20th. See you then!

What's The Buzz?



Birthdays and Celebrations

We have five birthdays to celebrate in August, and four are shared! **Dan Davis** and **Frances LeBlanc** begin the month with celebrations on

August 3rd. **Katie Allen's** festivities are on **August 14th**. Then **Jean Sack** and **Jennifer Hayes** share **August 21st** as their special day. We wish all a very happy birthday!

Welcome New Members!

As we begin our 10th Anniversary season we are delighted to welcome ten new members into our chorale. **Katie Allen, Kris Foster, Amber McCafferty, and Kristen Stokes** join our soprano section. **Autumn Dennis, Julie Foster, Lauren Satterfield, Lindsay Satterfield, and Jocce Sevilla** are new altos. And **Patrice Hieronymous** joins our tenors. Welcome aboard!

Happy 50th Anniversary!

Dave and Jean Sack celebrated their 50th anniversary with a coast to coast drive, visiting sentimental sites and dear friends along the way. What a wonderful way to celebrate such a major milestone!



Yellowstone

the Summer Right!

Wayne Perry's family spent a week in May vacationing on the Outer Banks, North Carolina. Wayne and Karen hosted four of their five children in a big house right on the beach—10 adults, 10 grandchildren, and their dog. The beach house was available from a friend as a "thank you" for some renovation work Wayne did for him. It's nice to have beach friends!

A New Venture!

Congratulations to Board member **Dan Davis** who started a new job in July as an executive for the Direct Marketing Divisions of Quad Graphics, the second largest printer in the world and a Fortune 500 company. He is responsible for Direct Mail Sales in a territory from New York City to Washington, DC on the East Coast. He will also wear a Marketing Manager hat for his division. There are six printing plants dedicated to his group.



Quad Graphics is one of the world's most innovative high tech companies, and just to be considered for employment by them is an honor. Even though he'll now be very busy with his new responsibilities, Dan

still plans to be involved with the DCC and hopes to bring lots of new high-tech ideas to our organization. We wish him good luck in his new venture!

DCC Members Shine with the BSO!

Kudos to DCC members **Meredith Leroy, Jennifer Hayes, Jeff Koerber, Blair Miller** and **Christine Master** who joined **Linda Hall** and City College Choir members to perform the "Hallelujah Chorus" from *Too Hot to Handel* with the BSO at their June 9th and 10th concerts. The performances were a great success, and our choristers have been invited back to sing the finale at the Gala concert that will kick off the celebration of the BSO's 100th anniversary year on September 12th. What an exciting opportunity!

Service to Others—A Gift from the Heart!

New member **Katie Allen** donated eight inches of her hair to Pantene this July to be used to make free wigs for cancer patients. She chose Pantene because they do not charge people for the wigs, unlike Locks of Love. Katie certainly exemplifies the DCC commitment of service to others!



Katie's new look

Anniversary Guest Clinician—Terry Eberhardt!

The DCC is delighted to announce Terry Eberhardt as guest clinician for our 10th anniversary season!

Mr. Eberhardt received his Bachelors of Music from the Peabody Conservatory of Music and his Master's Degree in Opera Performance at The University of Maryland Opera Studio.

He currently serves as the Instructional Facilitator for Music in Howard County Public Schools and as the President of the Maryland Choral Educators Association. In his role as facilitator Mr. Eberhardt oversees 220 music educators and is responsi-



Terry Eberhardt

ble for music curriculum for students from pre-K through grade twelve.

He has been on the voice faculty at Towson University, Trinity College, and is currently at Red Bridge Studios in historic Savage Mills Maryland.

He is a native of Maryland and has performed in numerous oratorios as both baritone and bass soloist. He is well known to Baltimore and Washington, D.C. audiences with performances as a principal artist in many local opera productions.

Mr. Eberhardt is the proud recipient of The Maryland State Teachers Award, The Maryland Distinguished Scholarship in tal-

ent and education, and The Peabody Scholarship in talent. In 2008 Mr. Eberhardt was named the "Howard County Teacher of the Year" for his commitment to music excellence in the classroom. Mr. Eberhardt was featured as a "Choral Director of Note" in the January 2011 edition of the Choral Director Magazine. In 2015 Mr. Eberhardt was named Grammy Music Educator of the Year semi-finalist. You can find his full biography on our website. What a wonderful opportunity for DCC choristers!

A Capella Showcase Help Wanted!

Wayne is now recruiting choristers to serve on a committee to help make this enhanced anniversary event truly memorable!

If you can help, please contact Wayne. And this is a GREAT way for NEW choristers to get involved!

The Shoal Sisters—Live and in Person!



On July 30 on Lake Temagami in Canada, Director **Marty Banghart** and pianist **Theresa McDermott** gave a benefit

concert for the Temagami Community Foundation. Billed as the **Shoal Sisters**, the duo did a program of varied selections from Gershwin's "Summertime" to "Over the Rainbow." This venue was where the DCC Cham-

ber Choir performed 3 summers ago.