



The Chorister

Volume 3, Issue 2

September 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.

Fri. Oct. 14 Youth Choir Welcome Night—Bethel 6:30-8:00 p.m.

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

Sat. Oct. 29 Infirm & Inspire—Silo Hill 5-8 p.m.

Youth Choir Retreat—Bethel 9 a.m.-noon.

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

Director's Notes

Here we are already in September! Where did the summer go? There is so much to look forward to in the upcoming season! In addition to our weekly rehearsals with the usual great literature and direction (thanks to Marty!), and impeccable accompaniment (thanks to Shisa!), we have other great happenings that would each make this a special year by themselves! Here are just a few...

The inaugural year for the Deer Creek Youth Choir will be the beginning of what will become a great tradition in our area. Always a part of Marty's "vision" for the Deer Creek Chorale, it is exciting to provide this wonderful opportunity for young singers. We are fortunate to have an accomplished children's choir director available and willing to join our DCC family. The Youth Choir is sure to become a well-received part of our concerts and the total DCC program.

"Inform and Inspire" in October is going to be a special



Assistant Director
Wayne Perry

treat. This past year we initiated a relationship with the renowned Carolyn Black-Sotir, inviting her as a soloist in our spring concert. This year it looks more like a partnership as she will be hosting this year's "Inform and Inspire," in addition to being, along with a long-time collaborator, our soloist for "Alzheimer's Stories" next April. Watch for more details as these events approach.

Our annual a cappella festival will take on a new look and format as it becomes an a cappella "showcase." The plan is to provide a broader variety of styles of a cappella music by adding collegiate groups (think of the movie, "Pitch Perfect"), and more contemporary groups to the choral and barbershop styles we've always had. This event will again be in partnership with John Pusateri and his choral program at Perry Hall High School in March.

The culminating concert of the season, this next year in April,

will be in partnership with the Goucher College Department of Music. Their director and accomplished composer, Daniel McDavitt, is composing an anniversary work to celebrate our 10th year. In addition to the performance of that work and others that will feature DCC and the ensembles of Goucher College, we will combine with their choirs and orchestra to perform the choral work "Alzheimer's Stories" under the baton of perhaps our favorite guest conductor, Bruce Rogers!

If you are already jumping out of your skin with excitement about this season, then you are normal! Along with what I've described here, add a beautiful December concert program, Chamber Choir concerts, inspiring guest clinicians, and more, and you've got a celebratory season that will be hard to beat. Share all of this with family and friends in order to have more singers join us, and to fill the house for our concerts. This will be a Deer Creek season to remember!

Board Update

Recently, Carol and I took a trip to see my sister, Michelle, in Shelton Washington, about one hour from Seattle. Michelle and her husband, George, own a 30-acre farm where they raise livestock, vegetables, and flowering plants that they sell at various venues. On Saturdays they set up a stand at the Farmer's Market on Harstine Island which until 1994 was only reachable by ferry. Harstine Island is relatively small and has a population of

550 individuals, several of whom trace their family ancestry to its founding in the early 1800's. Carol and I assisted Michelle at her stand and met many wonderful people who relish the beauty and history of the island.

It was in this bucolic place that I experienced a totally unexpected excursion that relates directly to the impact



Board President
Pete McCallum

and significance of the Deer Creek Chorale's 10th anniversary season. One of the individuals we met was a retired technology executive named Gary who is a 5th generation island resident and serves as the community association president and historian. Gary kindly took us on a tour of the local Grange Hall which was constructed by hand in 1914.

(Continued on page 3)

Spotlight On... Board President Pete McCallum



Dr. Pete McCallum

Board president **Pete McCallum** has been a mainstay in the DCC tenor section for the past five years. His love of music stretches back to his high school days as part of the Maryland All-State High School Chorus. Other past musical adventures include singing with St. Pauls' Episcopal Choir in Washington D.C. and with Collegium Musicum at Frostburg State University.

In addition to his participation in the DCC, he currently takes guitar lessons and sings with the Praise Team at Highland Presbyterian Church.

It is a challenge for Pete to identify favorite pieces from the DCC's very eclectic collection, but two pieces that stand out for him are the "Blue Grass Mass" and "O My Love's Like a Red, Red Rose." Beyond the DCC, classical and classic rock top his list of favored genres. Favorite artists run the gamut from Pavarotti, Andrea Bocelli, and Segovia to Greg Allman, the Beatles, Eagles, Led

Zeppelin, and Celtic Women.

Pete retired from a 41-year career in public education in July, 2011. His first nine years were as a teacher and building-level administrator in the Harford County Public Schools while his last 32 years were in the Cecil County Public Schools. During that time he served 14 years as an elementary supervisor, three years as Director of Elementary Education, and 15 years as Executive Director of Instruction.

Today Pete is very involved in the community. He serves as a volunteer and docent in the East Conservatory at Longwood Gardens. He's a member of the Highland Presbyterian Church Session, a new member of the Harford County Cultural Arts Board, and is part-time adjunct instructor and administrative intern supervisor for McDaniel College.

Strengths for Pete include "seeing the big picture," organizational planning, and communicating. Those who know him would tell you he is a gregar-

ious, caring, "people person." His travels have taken him to Europe, Northeastern Mexico, the Caribbean area, all over the United States, and to Eastern Canada. His favorite foods include peanut butter, turkey, anything Italian, all sorts of vegetables, scrapple, and a fine red wine.

Special people in Pete's life include his wife of 45 years, **Carol**; their children **Ryan, Kristin, and Greg**; and their grandchildren **Lindsay, Ian, Renee, Grace, and Lauren**. For fun he enjoys going on impromptu excursions with Carol, spending quality time with his family, attending Ravens games, watching "The Big Bang Theory" or "Everybody Loves Raymond," and reading historical non-fiction. He collects Lionel post-war O-gauge trains, U.S. commemorative stamps, and is an avid gardener who specializes in raising many varieties of garlic as a hobby!

The DCC is privileged to have Pete as a leader and vocalist in our organization!

Alzheimer's—What Really Happens?



Our Community Outreach Focus!

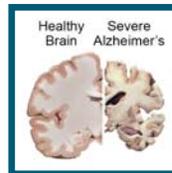
Alzheimer's disease is an irreversible, progressive brain disorder that slowly destroys memory and thinking skills, and eventually the ability to carry out the simplest tasks.

Alzheimer's disease is named after Dr. Alois Alzheimer. In 1906, Dr. Alzheimer noticed changes in the brain tissue of a woman who had died of an unusual mental illness. Her symptoms included memory loss, language problems, and unpredictable behavior. After she died, he examined her brain and found many abnormal clumps (plaques) and tangled bundles of fibers (tau tangles).

Today, researchers identify two

distinctive features of Alzheimer's:

- Plaques and tangles in the brain as found by Dr. Alzheimer.
- The loss of connections between neuron cells in the brain. (These neurons transmit messages between different parts of the brain, and from the brain to muscles and organs in the body.)
- Abnormal deposits of proteins form amyloid plaques and tau



tangles throughout the brain.

- Once-healthy neurons stop functioning, lose connections with other neurons, and die.
- The damage begins in the hippocampus, the part of the brain essential in forming memories.
- As more neurons die, additional parts of the brain are affected, and they begin to shrink.
- By the final stage of Alzheimer's, damage is widespread, and brain tissue has shrunk significantly.

For more information see www.nia.nih.gov/alzheimers/

A Capella Showcase Help Wanted!

Wayne is now recruiting choristers to serve on a committee to help make this enhanced anniversary event truly memorable! There is something for everyone—organizers, mail and phone help,

sound techs, set up, ushers, ticket help, escorts, stage crew, more...

If you can help, please contact Wayne at Assistdirector@deercreek-chorale.org. Veteran chorister wisdom

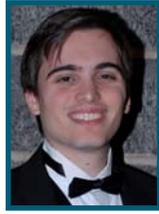
is needed, and this is a GREAT way for NEW choristers and their families to get involved!



Re-Register Now!

Marketing Matters—About Concert Flyers...

Welcome back, everyone! It's our 10th anniversary season, and we could not be more excited to spread the word about the Deer Creek Chorale. The Marketing Committee mailed out a fantastic season calendar (thank you, Tuxedo Cat Design) and has a whole new brand ready to go.



Marketing Chair
Patrick Dickerson

One of our marketing efforts relies on our members for a little help. For each concert, our committee designs a flyer to distribute throughout the community. As the concert comes closer, you may see me standing up at rehearsal and explaining when flyers will become available. Here

are a few things to know about how we distribute:

- Flyers usually go out three weeks before a concert.
- We make a list of places to post them far in advance, at least a month before the 3-week deadline, so if you can post or know somewhere that is not on our list, let us know as soon as possible!
- Before printing, we like to know how many flyers we will need. About seven weeks before a concert, I will address the choir at rehearsal to find out the number of flyers each person would like to have,

and I will update our list. Have your number ready that night so we can order just what we need—nothing should go to waste.

- We involve the choir because our singers love what they do. Why not invite as many people as possible to enjoy and experience the music we make?

As we share our music with the community, larger audiences also mean more people who can hear about our chosen charities and causes. When you post a flier, you are the front line of the DCC's double mission—singing and service, and we cannot thank you enough!

DCYC News...

In this day and age of *The Voice* and other vocal competition TV shows, many parents think that their young children need to take private voice lessons in order to be successful. Young instrumentalists are encouraged by their music teachers to study their instrument privately from a very young age. However, training the singing voice is not on the same timetable as studying an instrument! The child's voice lives inside a young body, still growing and changing. Respected voice teachers most often recommend waiting until a child is past puberty before taking private vocal lessons, to give the body and voice time to mature.

A quality choral program such as the Deer Creek Youth Choir is the very best

place for children to learn to sing, while learning musicianship skills as well (note reading, rhythm skills, etc.). DCYC will teach healthy singing habits of posture, breath, resonance, and vocal freedom using age appropriate music in a group environment with other children who love to sing. This achieves a result far greater than an individual child's voice can on its own, and creates a nurturing social environment as well. Additionally, an educational choral program like DCYC fosters musical literacy (reading music), as well as vocal independence as our young singers learn to sing in multiple harmony parts. DCYC will perform high quality music, drawing on diverse music from around the

globe and from many different eras, to keep young voices flexible and healthy and expand our singers' musical awareness.



DCYC Director
Julie Culotta

DCYC Tuition covers over 65 hours of instruction & performance opportunities over the course of the year. This makes the cost approximately \$5 per hour. Private vocal instruction can cost anywhere from \$50-60 per hour, and thousands of dollars over the course of a year. The next time you hear someone mention that they are looking for voice lessons for their elementary or middle school child, encourage them to consider auditioning for the DCYC!

Board Update (Con't)

(Continued from page 1)

Since then this hall has served with distinction as a hub for most of the island community events. It is the same size as the Bethel Presbyterian Church Fellowship Hall and has a stage with all of the most modern equipment for the numerous plays and musical performances that occur there. The walls are adorned with warmly-colored maple paneling, vintage movie theater seats encircle the periphery, scads of historical posters and pictures occupy the walls, and a well-appointed kitchen is joined to the main hall where local chefs prepare community celebratory meals for all of the major holidays. Following my tour of this breath-taking facility I told Gary that Harstine Islanders have

every reason to be immensely proud of the hall, the community heritage it preserves, and how it represents looking forward into the future.

Later that morning while socializing at the market I suddenly realized the strong connection between the past and future essence of the Harstine Island Grange Hall and the Deer Creek Chorale, most especially our celebratory 10th anniversary season. The Grange Hall has continued to grow and thrive for two major reasons. First, it has "stayed true to the course" of its founding mission. Second, while adhering to that mission it also has adapted to the ever-changing needs of the community it serves.

The Deer Creek Chorale is like that, as well, since our sights stay firmly focused on the mission of "sing locally, serve globally." While maintaining this mission, our organization is also flexible, nimble, and dedicated to continuous improvement. One example of these attributes is the newly-formed DCC Youth Choir which will add immeasurably to the strategic efforts that are being made to help ensure organizational sustainability. As we take time to celebrate the numerous accomplishments made by the DCC during our 10th anniversary season, may we also continue to look forward to a distinguished, highly-prosperous future. It is my hope that 100 years from now, the DCC president will proudly take a visitor on a tour of our organization's impressive achievements.

What's The Buzz?



Birthdays and Celebrations

We have four birthdays to celebrate in September. **Autumn Dennis** begins the month with a celebration on **September 8th**. **Lexi Morris** and **Matthew Lewis** share **September 13th** as their special day, and **Wayne Perry** closes the month with his celebration on **September 28th**. We wish all a very happy birthday! (If Liz doesn't have your birthday yet,

please send it along to her—month and day only!)

Welcome New Members!

This month we are delighted to welcome several more new members into our chorale. **Fran Shaffer** joins our soprano section, **Margy Hopkins** and **Jennifer Howard** are new altos, and **Donald McGonigle** is our newest bass. Welcome aboard!



A Young Poet!

Soprano **Katie Allen** entered a poetry contest through her school this past spring, and her poem, "Fallen Leaves," was selected to be published in The America Library of Poetry Book. Since fewer than 20% of those poems submitted to the contest are chosen for the Poetry Book, this was quite a coup! She will know how she places in the contest by the end of September. We wish her luck!



What Are Past Charity Partners Doing Now?

As part of our 10th anniversary year celebration we're revisiting some of our past partnerships and projects to see how those groups are faring now.

During the 2013-2014 concert season, the DCC partnered with the Mpala Foundation and Research Centre in Kenya and raised \$12,000.00 for the George Small Educational Fund.

The Mpala Wildlife Foundation and Research Center is comprised of 200km² of land in the shadow of Mt. Kenya, and is home to nearly 7,000 elephants, the world's 4th largest African wild dog population, and the globally endangered Grevy's zebra. The organization is committed to using research to benefit the surrounding communities, the nation of Kenya, and global conservation. Mpala incorporates cattle ranching, wildlife, and research all in one. The Mpala Research Centre receives hundreds



Ambassador Robert Godec, teachers and students at the Great Grevy's Zebra Rally in January

of students, educators, and scientists from around the world each year.

George Small took ownership of the property in 1969 and focused conserving the habitats of Mpala and providing healthy livelihoods for

Mpala's employees and families. In 1989 he created the Mpala Wildlife Foundation and the Mpala Research Trust to fund the activities necessary to achieve his vision. One of the activities supported by the trust is a primary school for employee's children.

Marty came to know about the foundation through her friend Jeff Gonya who was a Mpala trustee and their lawyer. The DCC decided to support the trust and organized a benefit concert in March of 2014. The event featured the world renowned Mt. San Antonio College Chamber Singers from

Walnut, CA under the direction of Bruce Rogers, singing with the DCC. The concert was a huge success, and following the performance sponsors and choir organizers were invited to a post-concert dinner reception at the home of Jeff and Ann Gonya. The event was a great success!

Today Mpala continues to thrive as a living laboratory. Recently they celebrated Wild Lion and Elephant Day by taking 91 children from across Kenya on Safari in the Samburu National Reserve. Several of their elementary schools participate in the Northern Kenya Conservation Clubs. In May Mpala Research Centre participated in NA-COSTI's 5th Annual National Science Week where they showcased the research and work of Mpala to over 200 visitors at a booth in the Kenyan International Convention Center. And the list goes on... Learn more about this flourishing organization that the DCC supported at www.mpla.org.

DCC & Shades of Blue—A Double Musical Life!

Our **Steve Scheinberg** has been leading a double musical life! In the DCC we know him as the wonderful soloist in our bass section. He has also sung with the Baltimore Choral Arts Society, the Baltimore Opera Company, and other stage and concert performances including as a Carnegie Hall soloist in our performance there last January.

However he has been a professional sax player for the fabulous 18 piece jazz/swing band, **Shades of Blue**, for the past 15 years. And they didn't know he could sing until two weeks ago! However, that changed at their very successful August 20th concert at Naylor Vineyards in Stewartstown PA.

Shades of Blue has professional singers who regularly sing with the band, and Steve has shone as sax player and section leader.

The group always closes the night with an instrumental version of "God Bless America"—no vocal. But because Steve's 1st alto sax part is doubled by the 2nd alto sax player, he would sometimes sing the song to himself (and the players next to him) for fun.

This time, the conductor heard him and passed him a vocal mic. After the show the conductor told Steve that from now on he

wants Steve to come out front and sing it for real. So now they know that Steve can sing!



Steve Scheinberg (center) & Co.

Steve has had an unusual musical journey. He was in the instrumental program through high school, then didn't sing at all until 1975. But he took to it quickly and was doing paid jobs in only two years. He got so busy that he didn't play the sax at all for 20 years! He got back on the sax in the 1990's, and THAT really took off, so much that he got away from singing almost completely for about 13 years before joining DCC. So now he is finally trying to do both!