



# The Chorister

Volume 3, Issue 6

January 1, 2017

## 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!

### ARTISTIC STAFF

#### Director

Martha Banghart

#### Assistant Director

Wayne Perry

\*

### BOARD OFFICERS

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Pete McCallum

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Patrick Dickerson

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### NEWSLETTER

#### EDITOR

Liz Phelan

### Calendar

**Sun. Feb. 19** Chamber Choir—St. James Episcopal, Mankton, 3:00 pm

**Sat. Mar. 11** A Capella Showcase—Perry Hall HS, 7:00 p.m.

**Sun. Apr. 30** Music & Memory Spring Concert, Goucher, 4:00 p.m.

**Tues. May 7** End of year wrap-up dinner at Bethel, 6:30 p.m.

**Tues. May 9** DCYC Concert—Bethel Presbyterian, 3:00 p.m.

## Director's Notes

What a memorable 10th anniversary season so far and much yet to come in the New Year! The concert, Behold New Joy, was a huge success with a packed house meeting the DCYC for the first time.



Artistic Director  
Marty Banghart

The kids took the stage in their formal attire and sang four pieces including a setting of a Robert Frost poem; a haunting Hebrew piece with a message of love, hope and peace; a familiar French carol; and a gospel selection. The youth were awarded with a rousing standing ovation and many smiles and congratulatory hugs. What a gift to the Deer Creek family these young people and their families are!

Bravo to all involved in the concert and to all our donors and faithful friends and family for their continued enthusiastic support.

Now onto 2017! Rehearsals begin January 10<sup>th</sup> for our spring Music and Memory concert. New singers are encouraged to apply online, but can register at the first or second rehearsal. Professional learning tracks will

be provided for home study to augment the rehearsal process.

What a line-up of repertoire, guest clinicians, and of course, our world famous guest conductor! Here is the program:

### 2:30-3:30—Discussion Event

A panel discussion concerning the affects music and singing have on memory, and more specifically on Alzheimer's. Special guests will include the composer Robert Cohen, as well as other professionals in the field including a psychology professor at Goucher. More information will be shared by committee chair **Steph Davis**.

### 4:00—Concert

- \* *If Music Be the Food of Love* (combined choirs)
- \* *Songs of Yesteryear* (DCC)
- \* *Sing to Me, Shenandoah, Come Closer* (DCYC)
- \* *Dances of Life* (combined choirs)

### Intermission

- \* Premiere of commissioned piece: DCC
- \* *Alzheimer's Stories* (combined choirs, orchestra, and guest soloists conducted by Maestro Bruce Rogers)

This collaboration has been two years in the making. The cast of characters is impressive and the music both challenging and transformative. Opportunities like this are to be celebrated and embraced, so spread the word NOW about the culminating concert on April 30. I look forward to warming the winter months with the breath of song and friendship! Happy New Year!

## Board Update

The members of the Deer Creek Chorale Board of Directors wish all of you a happy new year as we enter 2017!

As we segue into the second half of this momentous 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary season, it is appropriate to reflect upon our extremely successful winter concert at St. Matthew's Lutheran Church on December 4<sup>th</sup>. First, the appearance of our women was spectacular as they debuted their new concert attire. The committee that worked so diligently to coalesce all of our women's input, implement the purchase of the final selection, and gather everyone for the fittings, deserves major kudos.

The inaugural performance of the Deer Creek Youth Choir was magnificent and inspirational. Our youngest choristers achieved an impressive degree of musical accomplishment and memorized their entire repertoire within just five weeks of rehearsal time. This is an amazing feat and is a credit to the devotion of our youth and the hard work of their director and accompanist. Congratulations to **Julie** and **Amanda!**



Board President  
Pete McCallum

Once again, the hospitality of Saint Matthew's was impeccable and the acoustics in the sanctuary were phenomenal. From the spontaneous standing ovation that the audience awarded us, it was evident that the presentation of our choral selections was greatly appreciated.

Finally, our musical staff deserves the highest recognition for the outstanding concert preparation that occurred during the fall and for the expert guidance that

(Continued on page 3)

## Spotlight On... Soprano Anita Koller



Anita Koller

Soprano **Anita Koller** of Aberdeen is in her fifth year singing with the DCC, and she brings a wealth of experience to her performance. She studied under Beverly Diaz, and previous experiences include singing with the Baltimore Choral Arts Society, the Berkshire Choral Institute, the Harford Choral Society, and the Cecil County Choral Society. In addition, she has been singing with the Grace United Methodist Church Sanctuary Choir and Carillons Bell Choir in Aberdeen since 1981.

Some of Anita's favorite DCC music selections include *Carmina Burana*; Mo-

zart's *Coronation Mass*, *Ave Verum Corpus*; *Alleluia*; *Faure In Paradisum*; Lauridsen's *Lux Aeterna*; Rutter's *Magnificat*; and classic Christmas carols. Beyond the DCC she enjoys classical sacred and secular pre-20th century music, as well as music by John Rutter, Andrew Lloyd Webber, Jean Sibelius, Samuel Barber, and Aaron Copland. She also likes Celtic tribal music with lots of drums and bagpipes.

When not making music Anita worked for 40 years at Aberdeen Proving Grounds. Today she spends time reading, traveling with her dogs, doing needlework, and gardening. She loves attending Celtic music festivals

and Renaissance Fairs. And she excels at shopping! Her biggest dislike is speaking in public.

Special people in Anita's life include her brother, her children, her grandchildren, and her new great-grandson, Waylon. Food favorites? Filet mignon, cream of crab soup, and fresh corn on the cob! Her travels have taken her to Colorado, Florida, New England, Scotland, and the Caribbean. What might surprise you about Anita? You would probably never guess that she played the glockenspiel in her elementary school band!

The DCC is delighted to count Anita among our singing family!

## Three Phases of Alzheimer's...

Scientists continue to unravel the complex brain changes involved in the onset and progression of Alzheimer's disease; however, externally Alzheimer's is generally diagnosed by its symptoms. Memory problems are typically one of the first signs of cognitive impairment related to Alzheimer's disease, but there are other symptoms as well. The progression of the disease is generally divided into the following three phases:

### Mild Alzheimer's Disease

As Alzheimer's disease progresses, people experience greater memory loss and other cognitive difficulties. Problems can include wander-

ing and getting lost, trouble handling money and paying bills, repeating questions, taking longer to complete normal daily tasks, and personality and behavior changes. People are often diagnosed in this stage.

### Moderate Alzheimer's Disease

In this stage, damage occurs in areas of the brain that control language, reasoning, sensory processing, and conscious thought. Memory loss and confusion grow worse, and people begin to have problems recognizing family and friends. They may be unable to learn new things, carry out multistep tasks such as getting dressed, or cope with

new situations. In addition, people at this stage may have hallucinations, delusions, and paranoia and may behave impulsively.

### Severe Alzheimer's Disease

Ultimately, plaques and tangles spread throughout the brain, and brain tissue shrinks significantly. People with severe Alzheimer's cannot communicate and are completely dependent on others for their care. Near the end, the person may be in bed most or all of the time as the body shuts down.

For more information see: [www.nia.nih.gov/alzheimers/publication/alzheimers-disease-fact-sheet](http://www.nia.nih.gov/alzheimers/publication/alzheimers-disease-fact-sheet)



Our Community Outreach Focus!

## A Fabulous Christmas Concert!

The DCC December 4<sup>th</sup> Christmas concert was a huge success! The program was meaningful and varied; choirs, soloists, and instrumentalists were exemplary; the DCYC made its exciting debut; and the venue was the perfect setting to showcase the excellence of the DCC choirs. What a fabulous beginning to the holiday season for the very appreciative audience!

Hats off to directors **Marty Banghart**, **Wayne Perry**, and **Julie Culotta** for the



The DCC sets the tone for the evening

planning and execution of a spectacular program. Special kudos to soloists **Emily Brock**, **Patrick Dickerson**, **Estella Halsey**, **Derrick Jackson**, **Hannah Lurz**, **Lillian Pasquinelli**, **Jason Redmond**, **Lauren and Lindsay Satterfield**, and **Steve Scheinberg**. Our thanks also to accompanists **Shisa Suskey** and **Amanda Bentkowski**, cellist **Aneta Kuznik**, bassist **Brian Folus**, flutist **Rachel Butera**, organist **Donald Wolcott**, and percussionist

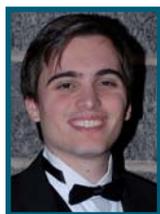
**John Suskey**. And our deep appreciation to all the behind the scenes folks who helped it all come together – **Lexi Morris** for the program, **Pete McCallum** and the Board for logistical support, **Wayne** and crew for the seamless set-up, **Cris Martin** and committee for the women's attire, **Donna Gotsch** for the music organization, and **Suzanne Zantop** and helpers for ticket sales. The collective group gets a huge round of applause!



The DCYC makes its debut!

# Marketing Matters...

It's a new year, and halfway through our 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary season. We have plenty on the horizon with the Music & Memory concert in April, and new opportunities to share about the Deer Creek Chorale in the spring. Our marketing committee is leading the way on how to get us involved in the Alzheimer's stories we plan to sing, with our own personal touches. Here are a few ways to keep you part of our Alzheimer's awareness effort.



Marketing Chair  
Patrick Dickerson

- Do you have songs that trigger your memory? What are they? What memories? We know that music plays a major part in connecting people to their memories while experiencing Alzheimer's, because we know it firsthand from our own lives. Send in your most memorable songs to Lexi Morris at [alexismorris@deercreek-chorale.org](mailto:alexismorris@deercreek-chorale.org), or feel free to share with us during rehearsal.
- Is there someone you wish to honor this season who has been affected by Alzhei-

mer's? It could be a family member with the disease, a caretaker, a helpful friend. If you have a story that you would like to share with the choir, send it in!

- Is someone you know affected by Alzheimer's? Do you know a caretaker who needs a night off? We would like to be able to arrange a small night of music for friends/family/neighbors. Let Patrick know if you are interested [pdickerson@deercreekchorale.org](mailto:pdickerson@deercreekchorale.org), and we will find out what we can arrange for you.

## DCYC News...

The Deer Creek Youth Choir had a fantastic first semester! We were thrilled to join the DCC for our premiere performance at our combined Holiday Concert, Behold New Joy. Families, friends, teachers, and the DCC community were all impressed with our singers, especially their ability to prepare and memorize their program in such a short amount of time.

The DCYC was also thrilled to give a preview performance at Music Land Live in Bel Air on Friday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>. Music

Land's owner, Larry Noto (son of Joe Noto and sister of Amanda Noto Bentkowski—DCYC's accompanist), was grateful for our performance and contribution to their holiday sales event.

We ended our fall season with our DCYC Open House on December 6<sup>th</sup>. Nine young singers in grades two through seven came to check out DCYC. We are hopeful that some of them will join us.



DCYC Director  
Julie Culotta

We are currently accepting singers to join us for our 2017 Spring Season. Interested students should submit an audition request on our website. We are looking forward to new music, new friends, and very exciting performances, including the Maryland Young Voices Festival and the Music and Memory Concert at Goucher! DCYC will resume rehearsals on Tuesday, January 10<sup>th</sup>.



## Past Service Projects—Habitat for Humanity!

During our 2014-2015 season, the DCC partnered with a local agency—Habitat for Humanity, Susquehanna. We helped to build a home for the Deriemaeker family, active members of the Harford County community.



The Deriemaeker's visit rehearsal

Members of the DCC enjoyed the opportunity to meet the family when they attended one of our rehearsals and then again when we hosted them at our "The World Beloved: A

Bluegrass Mass" concert.

The DCC initiated several efforts to benefit the cause. In March of 2015, an Invitational A Cappella Festival was held and partial proceeds went toward the project. In April, DCC members and friends participated in a Build Day, working on-site on the actual construction of the home itself. Our May concert also of-



DCC crew builds frame for a wall

fered an opportunity to raise funds for the cause.

At the conclusion of the season, in addition to our labor on the house, the DCC was delighted to be able to donate \$2500 to Habitat for Humanity on their behalf. The formal presentation occurred on Friday, June 26<sup>th</sup> at the 210 Franklin Street, Bel Air home site.



DCC presents check for \$2500 to H for H

## Board Update (Con't)

(Continued from page 1)

was provided during the performance. Simply and truly stated, **Marty, Wayne,** and **Shisa** are the reason why the Deer Creek Chorale continues to move forward so impressively with every concert.

Our 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary season continues with numerous opportunities for celebrations. On Tuesday, January 10<sup>th</sup> rehearsals

begin again in earnest for our collaborative spring Music and Memory concert with the Goucher College music department on April 30<sup>th</sup>. As the winter and spring progress, please treat yourself to attending the various Chamber Choir concerts that will be performed, and become involved in the presentation of the A Cappella Showcase

at Perry High School on March 11<sup>th</sup>. Finally, our annual membership celebratory dinner meeting will be held on May 2<sup>nd</sup>, and this event will serve as a capstone to this significant 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary season. It is a blessing to be a part of such an outstanding artistic organization and everyone is both encouraged and welcomed to participate in the festivities—enjoy!

# What's The Buzz?



### Birthdays and Celebrations

We have five birthdays to celebrate this month. **Liz Phelan** begins with her January 1<sup>st</sup> birthday. **Patrice Hieronymus** celebrates on January 11<sup>th</sup>, **Kristen Stokes** follows on January 15<sup>th</sup>, then **Laura Overturf** on January 20<sup>th</sup>. Finally we have **Miriam Long** who celebrates on January 24<sup>th</sup>. We wish all a very happy birthday!

### A New Great-Grandson!

Congratulations to **Anita Koller** and her family who celebrated the birth of her great-grandson, **Waylon**, on November 23<sup>rd</sup>. What a wonderful beginning of the holiday season!



### Banghart Scholars Kudos!

The DCC is very proud of the accomplishments of our Banghart Scholars. **Sarah Ross, Michele Hubner, Amber McCafferty** and **Katie Allen** made both All-County and All-State Honor Choirs. How lucky we are to have them!

### Published!

**Tracy Banghart** has recently received a two-book deal with Little Brown, the largest publisher of young adult books in the country. The first book, **Iron Flowers** will come out in hardback in the spring of 2018 in ten languages. Her other books can be found on Amazon including the Rebel Wing series. What a success!



### Outstanding Attendance!

Congratulations to the following choristers for their stellar attendance during the Fall semester. Wayne and Marty appreciate your dedication and determination!



**Sopranos:** Katie Allen, Kris Foster, and Laura Overturf

**Altos:** Cathy Cox, Lexi Morris, Meredith LeRoy, Miriam Long, Kathy Frawley, Donna Wilson, and Cris Martin

**Tenors:** Joe Close, Sandy Dickerson, Pa-

trice Hieronymus, and Pete McCallum

**Basses:** Don McGonigle, Jeff Roemer, and Steve Scheinberg

Next semester, Marty asks that everyone make Tuesday nights a priority! There will be lots of music and special guests, and she doesn't want folks to miss.

### Planning a Milestone Birthday!

On February 2<sup>nd</sup>, **David Dasch** will celebrate his 80th Birthday with a big party at Martins Valley Mansion on the 5<sup>th</sup>. He is the oldest member of Deer Creek (he thinks), and has just been invited by Marty to sing in the Chamber Choir. He continues to serve St. Mary of the Assumption in Govans as their Minister of Music. Congratulations on such a milestone!



### Piano For Sale

**Taylor Harris** is selling a Currier piano for \$300 or best offer. It needs tuning, but is still very nice solid wood. She can be contacted by email at [tkrlock0626@gmail.com](mailto:tkrlock0626@gmail.com)

## Serving Others—Missionary Work!

Board VP **Patrick Dickerson** will be in Honduras from January 29<sup>th</sup> to February 5<sup>th</sup> building a school with his church. They are helping an organization called Love Without Boundaries—a local group from Honduras founded by a Honduran missionary, Luis Sarto, who used to do mission work throughout Central America until he retired several years ago to be with his family.

As Mr. Sarto spent more time at home, he noticed that the local children would come in droves to ask for food and hear the Gospel. The parents then followed. He now has a whole community in his town sharing a church together. Patrick's church group will build a building that will double as a primary school and a



Love Without Boundaries Education Program

Sunday school. He is excited to be immersed in Spanish again, and will likely be interpreting for the other members of his group. He invites prayers for safe travels and to make meaningful relationships while they are there. This certainly exemplifies the DCC value of service.

## “Alzheimer’s Stories” by Robert Cohen

Our service focus for the 2016-2017 anniversary year has been Alzheimer's disease awareness, culminating in the performance of Robert Cohen's "Alzheimer's Stories" at our spring concert. The piece is particularly appropriate because of its genesis.



Composer Robert Cohen

The work was written as a commissioned piece from the Susquehanna Valley Chorale based on recollections of chorus members and friends with relatives who had had the disease. Chorus members

were asked to post stories on a blog, and from approximately 90 submissions, 18 were chosen by librettist Herschel Garfein to form the basis for the text.

It was premiered by the Chorale on October 9, 2009 at the Weis Center for the Performing Arts conducted by Dr. William Payn. It was also recorded for broadcast by PBS television station WVIA and subsequently performed throughout the U.S.

and Europe.

The work is in three movements: "The Numbers" - a historical and clinical examination of the disease; "The Stories" - a compilation of the stories posted on the blog; and "For the Caregivers" - advice for those who care for those with the disease.

The DCC is honored to be able to perform the Mid-Atlantic debut of this remarkable work!

### New Year's Trivia

- \* Julius Caesar established January 1<sup>st</sup> as the first day of the year when he created the Julian calendar.
- \* The Babylonians were the first to establish New Year's resolutions around 2000 BC. The most common one was to return borrowed farm equipment.
- \* The first New Year's Eve ball dropped in Times Square in 1907.