



# The Chorister

Volume 3, Issue 7

February 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

#### President

Pete McCallum

#### Vice President

Patrick Dickerson

#### Treasurer

Suzanne Zantop

#### Secretary

Meredith Leroy

\*

### NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Liz Phelan

### Calendar

**Sun. Feb. 19** Chamber Choir—St. James Episcopal, Monkton, 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 2** End of year wrap-up dinner at Bethel, 6:30 p.m.

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

**Thurs. May 11**, Chamber Choir—Brightview Avondell 7:00 p.m.

## Director's Notes

One of the highlights of our 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary year is the commissioning of an original composition dealing with the subject of music and memory by Dr. Daniel McDavitt, head of choral activities at Goucher College. On January 2, 2017 Danny sent the finished score to Wayne and me and the thrill of opening the PDF file was exhilarating and inspiring!!!! I know Wayne felt the same emotions.

"Three Memories" is for SATB choir (divisi), piano and flute. It is in 3 movements:

- I. Music-Ralph Waldo Emerson
- II. My Childhood Home- Abraham Lincoln
- III. The Fountain-William Woodsworth

Quoting Dr. McDavitt, "Three Memories was commissioned by the Deer Creek Chorale (Martha



Artistic Director  
Marty Banghart

Banghart, director) to be premiered in April, 2017 for a concert on the theme of music and memory, specifically drawing attention to Alzheimer's disease and dementia.

"This piece was very personal for me. Much of the inspiration for the music in *Three Memories* comes from observations of my grandmother as she was in the later stages of dementia. She was forgetting all of the small details, like the day of the week, the time of day, the month or season of the year. She often forgot who I was, or others in the family. She'd reach for a butter knife trying to figure out what it was she was supposed to do with it.

"But I also noticed how sounds triggered her memory. The sound of a dog barking next door reminded her of something

I did when I was a toddler. The sound of a bird reminded her of a clock they used to hang in their old house. The sound of music reminded her of my piano recitals, and she could remember the words of old hymns. Yet she did not know what to do with a butter knife."

The Deer Creek Chorale has been a part of two commissions through a consortium sponsored by Chorus America. *Dedication* by John Rutter was premiered at our concert entitled "A John Rutter Christmas" and *Someday is Today* by Andre Thomas premiered at our concert featuring music of peace and hope.

On February 7<sup>th</sup>, Dr. McDavitt will introduce the piece to the choir during rehearsal. I invite anyone to attend and be a part of this significant event. The world premiere will be on April 30, 2017 4 p.m. at Goucher College.

New DCC  
Contact Phone  
410-575-3221

## Board Update

By now, we have participated in the first few exciting rehearsals for the DCC spring 2017 concert season. The music that has been selected by our directors and the commissioned work are outstanding, as well as artistically challenging and rewarding. As an organization, we have a great deal to be proud of, and the preparation for the culminating spring concert at Goucher College will make all of us more accomplished musicians.

Additionally, it is occasionally beneficial to review the variety of avenues we have as DCC

choristers to engage in continued artistic growth. There are several other opportunities available that will enhance everyone's vocal proficiency. First, I find that the more attuned I am in each rehearsal, my appreciation and understanding for each specific musical selection increases. This supports the adage that "the more effort you put into an endeavor, the more you gain from it."

Second, the Learning Files are a very positive tool for reinforcing and supplementing what



Board President  
Pete McCallum

we learn during rehearsal. While always well-organized and helpful, they are even more so this semester, given the complexity of the music we are fortunate enough to have the opportunity to perform.

I also have discovered that attending various performances to listen to other groups assists me in the learning process. Specifically, in our DCC spring calendar there are three great learning opportunities that occur

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## Spotlight On... Bass Jeff Koerber



Jeff Koerber

Bass and Board member **Jeff Koerber** has been a mainstay in the DCC since its

inception ten years ago. His interest in music began in elementary school and flourished in high school under Marty's enthusiastic guidance, culminating in an unforgettable trip to Wales. As an adult Jeff has been part of the Harford Choral Society, the Bay Country

Gentleman, and St. Mary's (Pylesville) Choir. This past summer, he sang the "Messiah" from Too Hot to Handel with Linda Hall's choir at the Meyerhof.

Jeff's favorite DCC music piece was The Bluegrass Mass—a unique, new genre for him. He enjoyed working with Monroe Crossing both on stage and in coordinating the WTMD spot. Beyond the DCC Jeff's wide range of musical interests includes everything from Alternative (REM, U2) to classical (Mozart, Bach). He's not crazy about country or blues.

When not singing or making music Jeff manages Student Computing Services at Towson University. His staff of about 35 full and part-timers provides tech support services to students, including a laptop repair service. They also manage three computer labs and keep

the student printing kiosks up and running across campus.

Jeff is the tech coordinator for the DCC. He handles technical issues and seeks to implement new technologies that will help the DCC function more efficiently. Currently, he is implementing a new donor tracking system to facilitate fundraising with the goal of organizational growth while keeping DCC member dues low.

For fun Jeff enjoys singing and dabbling in photography with his wife. He could be described as patient (a must for tech support), analytical (his wife calls him an "Analytical Smurf"), and ADD (his iPhone organizer features are a lifesaver). Special people in his life include his supportive parents, and his wife, Cindy, who he met at a 4<sup>th</sup> of July party when he was 8-years old. They became friends while attending the same high school and colleges, and finally married after grad school.

Jeff and Cindy rescue special needs animals, something they began before being married. Their most memorable rescue was Miley, a dwarf rabbit, who was found outside paralyzed. She had her own wheelchair.

As a vegan, Jeff's favorite foods include all of his wife's homemade cooking, especially mashed potatoes and gravy, and Ben & Jerry's new dairy free ice cream. Jeff's travels have taken him to Wales, LA, Tijuana, Niagara Falls, Virginia), Orlando, Salt Lake City, Yellowstone, and cross-country to Wyoming.

A little know fact about Jeff is that he lived in Shell, Wyoming, population 50 people, when he was young. Located at the base of the Big Horn Mountains, it was beautiful but VERY cold. He attended one of the last non-Amish one-room schoolhouses in the country.

He tells the story about a time that he accidentally took the school bus home, when he was supposed to wait to be picked up. When he arrived he found himself locked out, because his parents were already in the next town on their way to get him. His house was in the middle of nowhere, his nearest neighbors were miles away, and the temperature was well below zero. He was about to take shelter in a shed where he could use a light bulb for warmth, when some local farm hands drove by and rescued him until his parents returned.

The DCC is delighted to have Jeff as one of its own!



### Our Community Outreach Focus!

## Alzheimer's—Maintaining Mental Function...

Several medications are approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration to treat symptoms of Alzheimer's. Donepezil, Rivastigmine, and Galantamine are used to treat mild to moderate Alzheimer's (Donepezil can be used for severe

Alzheimer's as well). Memantine is used to treat moderate to severe Alzheimer's. These drugs work by regulating neurotransmitters, the chemicals that transmit messages between neurons. They may help maintain thinking, memory, and com-

munication skills, and help with certain behavioral problems. However, they don't change the underlying disease process. They are effective for some but not all people, and may help only for a limited time. For more info see: [www.nih.gov/alzheimerspublication](http://www.nih.gov/alzheimerspublication).

## Carnegie Hall—Again!!!

"It gives me great pleasure to invite you to be a guest conductor on our 35th Anniversary Season of concerts in historic Carnegie Hall..." An Invitation to DCC Artistic Director, **Marty Banghart**, from **Peter Tiboris**, General Music Director, Mid-America Productions Inc., NYC. Wow! What an honor! And all DCC choristers are invited to perform at the concert!

Marty will be conducting Dan Forrest's Requiem for the Living at Carnegie Hall on **Monday, March 19<sup>th</sup>, 2018**. This is the same music piece that the DCC will

perform next season with the Handel Choir of Baltimore, so choristers will already know the music!

A tentative schedule of events includes rehearsals on Sat. and Sun., March 17<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup>, a Dress Rehearsal at Carnegie Hall on Monday, March 19<sup>th</sup>, the concert Monday evening, followed by a post-concert sightseeing cruise of New York. Around all of those scheduled events there will be plenty of time for sightseeing, shows, New York restaurants, etc.

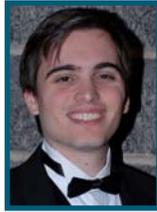


The cost is **\$849** per person which includes all rehearsals and venues, Carnegie Hall access, the concert itself, and a post-concert cruise. The cost could be less depending on fundraising efforts and a DCC contribution. For others who might want to come there is a non-performers rate of \$499 which includes access to all rehearsals, a ticket to the concert, and the post-concert cruise. Each participant is responsible for his/her own transportation and lodging. A **\$50 deposit is due by February 7<sup>th</sup>**. For more info contact Marty. Don't miss it!

# Marketing Matters...

This month's marketing matters comes from Chorus America's "Understanding Audiences: Takeaways from the Intrinsic Impact Audience Project," by Kelsey Menehan (November 3, 2016).

Personal relationships fuel the audiences for choral concerts. Choruses often lament that their audiences are all "friends and family," but the study suggests that these relationships are powerful and a source of strength. Over one-third of audiences of adult choruses, on average, have some sort of relationship with a performer.



Marketing Chair  
Patrick Dickerson

A number of choruses in the study are looking for ways to expand this circle of their audience by empowering singers and board members to invite their family and friends in a more intentional way. Seattle Pro Musica is instituting a discount for members' friends and family for the first time this year. "It's clear from the study how important it is to make that initial ask, to say, 'I'm singing in a concert, will you come?'" says Katie Skovholt, executive director of Seattle Pro Musica. "We want to make it easier for our folks to do that."

Toronto Mendelssohn Choir provides

tools for its choristers and Board members to promote their concerts, like pre-written emails to send out, Facebook posts, and Twitter messages. "But we want them to go beyond sharing information with their social networks," says Anne Longmore, director of marketing.

The Club's own data found that a personal invitation was most important for their much-desired 45-and-under age group. "We plan to share with our folks the research that says, 'Look at how important your invitation is,'" says Longmore, "and help them understand how much they can help the organization they love and sing with."

## DCYC News...

The DCYC welcomed four new members to our group in January, which brings us to 18 singers! The group has a great sound that is growing in confidence and beautiful choral tone each week. We have jumped into our spring repertoire which is bringing new challenges to our singers! We are working on songs in Hungarian, Latin, Swahili, and of course a few in English too.

Our young singers are eager to push themselves to new heights that each piece requires. When I announced that we would be learning a song in Latin next week, many

responded "YESSSS!" Their enthusiasm and excitement is contagious, and it leaves me looking forward to rehearsals week after week.

We are thrilled to be joining the DCC Chamber Choir on February 19th for their concert at St. James Church. We are also looking forward to attending the Maryland Young Voices Festival on April 1st, held at the Cathedral of the Incarnation located at 4 E. University Parkway, Baltimore MD 21218.



DCYC Director  
Julie Culotta

This annual festival will bring together the All Children's Chorus of Annapolis, The Glorystar Children's Chorus (Potomac), the Baltimore Children's Chorus, and the Deer Creek Youth Choir for a full day of combined rehearsals and adjudication by our guest clinician Evan Bruno from the Chicago Children's Chorus. The day concludes with a closing concert featuring each choir individually and the combined festival chorus. This is a free performance you won't want to miss!



## Past Service Projects—Harford Family House!

During the 2012-2013 concert season, the DCC partnered with the Harford Family House, the largest provider of emergency and transitional housing for homeless families with children in Harford County.

The DCC brought holiday cheer to the families in the program – providing gifts for over 80 clients. Each DCC member adopted a child or an adult and gave clothing and other requested items. In addition, a bus load of Harford Family House residents attended the Christmas concert at no cost. In the spring the DCC's collaborative partner, the Fallston High School Choir, put on a spring festival for the children in the program. The event included face painting, crafts, food, games, and music.

Harford Family House strives to end homelessness in Harford County, one family



at a time. The need is great, and over the 25 years of their existence they have helped more than 1400 families.

Harford Family House has approximately 28 housing units throughout the county. The organization rents or owns about a dozen homes in the Aberdeen area. A fully furnished one or two bedroom apartment greets the family as they begin their journey towards self-sufficiency.

A typical client family spends roughly a year living in the transitional housing and is expected to work, abstain from drugs or alcohol and, ultimately, be responsible for finding their own place to live. Once stabilized, the family can begin to work on their individual goals which may include: credit repair; increasing marketable job skills;

finishing a GED program; finding employment; and addressing medical and mental health needs, positioning the family for independence and self-sufficiency.

The organization has partnered with *Vehicles for Change* to help clients finance their own car, as getting around the county is very difficult with no vehicle. This program helps the families build good credit and develop financial literacy by working toward owning the car.

The DCC was happy to have had a part in helping this worthy organization!

### Website News

Happy birthday to our new website. We are one year old!

Did you know that minutes of Board meetings are on-line? Look on our website under *Board of Directors*.

## What's The Buzz?



### Birthdays and Celebrations

February is a big birthday month for the DCC. We celebrate nine birthdays! **David Dasch** and **Cris Martin** share their February 2nd birthday. **Taylor Krulock** is next on February 5th, followed by **Pete McCallum** on the 6th, and **Sandy Dickerson** on the 7th. **Rachel Hebert** and **Brook West** both celebrate on February 19th, followed by **Karen Ann Barke** on February 24th and then **Marty Banghart** on February 26th. We hope they all have a wonderful birthday!

We also have a few belated birthdays to acknowledge. **Patty Bollinger** celebrated on October 9th, **Cathy Cox** on October 18th, **Shisa Suskey** on December 25, and **Min Wong's** special day was January 26th.

### Mission Visit

As Moderator of the Presbytery of Balti-

more, **Jack Carlson** will be accompanying a group from the Presbytery on a visit to Cuba in February. Baltimore Presbytery has a mission partnership with one of the Cuban presbyteries. On the trip they will visit Cuban churches, do Bible study, and worship.

### Happy Anniversary!!

**Patrice** and **Dan Hieronymus** were married at Little Church of La Villita in San Antonio, Texas on Feb. 21, 1987. That's 30 years! Congrats to the happy couple!



### A New Business Venture!!

**Jeff Roemer** has started a new business. **Highland Building Evaluations, LLC** is a full service home inspection firm. His inspections include computerized reports, radon testing, and air quality. Wood destroying organism clearances certification is coming soon. He left this industry ten years ago due to

injury, but he's back! So after months retraining and certifications, an old career is re-born.

### Mini-Vacation

Last month **Cyndy Allen** enjoyed a quick visit to Pompano, FL with daughter, Julie, and Julie's three young children, while her son-in-law attended a conference there. Then she spent two days with friends in nearby Del Ray. The mid-70's weather and swaying palms were rejuvenating! She's happy to be back singing with the DCC.

### All-State Concert!

Choristers **Amber McCafferty**, **Michele Hubner**, and **Katie Allen** will be participating in Maryland All-State Concert events February 10th—12th, culminating in a concert on the 12th at 3 p.m. at Morgan University. Tickets are \$10 and the concert is open to the public. Chorister **Sarah Ross** qualified but is unable to attend.



## A Capella Showcase!

The Deer Creek Chorale, in partnership with the Perry Hall High School Chamber Choir, will present the 3rd Annual A Cappella Showcase on Saturday, March 1st at 7:00 p.m. The showcase will be at Perry Hall High School. This year, there are some changes that will result in this being a fantastic event. It's on a Saturday night, it's only \$10, performing groups will be able to raise money by selling tickets, and it will be the biggest yet. There will be up to 15 different a cappella groups on the program, including our two headliners—*The Chromatics* and *Lustre Quartet*.

*The Chromatics* ([thechromatics.com/](http://thechromatics.com/)) is a contemporary a cappella group from

Greenbelt, MD. They've been performing for over 20 years, have made 6 CDs (with another soon), have appeared on TV, have performed at prestigious venues like the Kennedy Center, and have received many awards both locally and nationally.

*Lustre Quartet* ([lustrequartet.com/](http://lustrequartet.com/)) recently won 3rd place in the Sweet Adeline's International Quartet Championship. They have also been 1st place winners of the Mid-Atlantic Harmony Sweepstakes and 2nd in San Francisco at the national level.

With these two fantastic headliner groups, it should be easy to reach our goal to "fill the house" this year, further establish-



ing this as a major a cappella music event in the Baltimore region! It's going to be exciting!

Clearly, to make this successful, we need lots of help promoting the event. Please invite all of your friends and family to attend. Admission is only \$10. In addition, we are going to need volunteers. Julia Foster, Banghart scholar and planning committee member, will be collecting names of volunteers from the DCC and our friends. We need about 24 people to help with ticket sales, ushering, escorting performers, etc. on March 11th. Please consider how you can support this important DCC event, and contact Julia at [jefrulesfield@gmail.com](mailto:jefrulesfield@gmail.com).

## Board Update (Con't)

(Continued from page 1)

before our spring concert. Our magnificent Chamber Choir will be performing on Sunday, February 19th at St. James Episcopal Church in Monkton. Besides supporting our chorister colleagues who work so diligently to share their talents, this allows us to "step back" and actually hear what excellence sounds like. While enjoying our Chamber Choir I find that I learn more about the need to listen to one other while performing, and I appreciate the commitment it takes to achieve greatness.

The Deer Creek Youth Choir (DCYC) will be participating in The Maryland Young Voices Festival on April 1st. These young choristers are wonderful, and our presence at the festival will demonstrate our commitment to this aspect of the DCC. Two of our grandchildren attended the DCYC mini-concert at Music Land in early December and loved it. I plan to take them to the youth festival and hope that events such as this will further instill a love of music in them.

Finally, our A Cappella Showcase will be held on Saturday, March 11th, at Perry Hall High School. I have thoroughly enjoyed the

previous two festivals, and have benefitted immensely from listening to and observing a variety of high-quality groups. This year's showcase promises to be the best yet, so please plan to attend either as an audience member or a volunteer.

As busy people, we can't attend everything, but we can make strategic choices from among the marvelous opportunities available. We are tremendously fortunate to have an artistic staff that is so accomplished and visionary—truly, we receive an incredible return on our investment. The more we are involved, the more we grow.