



The Chorister

Volume 3, Issue 8

March 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!

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Martha Banghart

Assistant Director

Wayne Perry

*

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Calendar

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

Sun Apr. 2 Chamber Choir at Chestnut Grove Presbyterian, 7 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.

Assistant Director's Notes

We've done some great work preparing **Mack Wilberg's** "Dances to Life."

Indeed, the music is challenging, but our responsibility, as the re-creators of this art, is marrying the music with the text. Our friend, **Dr. Danny McDavitt** of Goucher College, knows Dr. Wilberg (Mack) and was a part of the premier of these three pieces. As Marty and I met with him in preparation for our upcoming concert together, he was able to share with us some of the background on the Dances.

These works are the result of a commission Mack Wilberg received from the American Choral Director's Association. His approach was a bit unusual in that he wanted to work with his frequent lyricist, **David Warner**, but he had some very specific lyrics in mind as he composed

this music that "...reflects the seasons of life." Mack would send bits of music and lyric to David, then David would work on filling them in, and this process went on until gradually the final products emerged.



Assistant Director
Wayne Perry

One would expect the three *Dances* to follow the chronology of life: birth and childhood, through adulthood, to the waning years; and they do to a certain point, but each season has elements that are universal. "Wonder" ends with the idea that "...life's old dance will never end - you're young, you're old, you're young again. So turn and leap and spin and bend and wonder!" At what stage of life should we not heed that call?

The middle dance, "Here I Stand," speaks of living life to its fullest, yet declares, "...so flows the dance of life we always

knew." I wonder why the music is set in a minor tonality. Might that suggest that yes, life is to be enjoyed, but that joy we seek comes after great effort and determination?

The title of "If Clarions Sound" suggests the end of life when we are "called home," yet the music is in a major key, and the culminating thought is, "And with one voice in song implore, 'Come dance to life forever more!'"

The seasons of life seem not to be the focus. If they were, perhaps it would be called *Dances of Life* rather than *Dances to Life*. The same message is found in a song with a curiously similar title from *Fiddler on the Roof*. "How much more can we be joyful, when there's really something to be joyful for?" These are lyrics from L'chaim, or in other words, To Life.

Board Update

For the past five years the Deer Creek Chorale Board of Directors has been taking several deliberate and well-defined steps to ensure the long-term sustainability of our organization. Specifically, these efforts have occurred in two major areas: artistic initiatives and organizational structure. Both are extremely important and must function seamlessly in a symbiotic relationship for the Deer Creek Chorale to continue to grow and flourish.

Under our artistic director's superb visionary leadership, numerous outstanding collaborations with other musical organi-

zations have resulted in superlative performances. Two relatively recent examples include performing *Carmina Burana* with the Susquehanna Symphony Orchestra and *The Bluegrass Mass* in conjunction with Monroe Crossing.

Marty has "raised the bar" by exposing our choristers to a wide variety of guest clinicians and internationally-noteworthy guest conductors, seeking a plethora of performance venues, and providing us with a degree of musical training that inspires excellence. In addition, the selections we perform



Board President
Pete McCallum

continue to become more complex, exciting, and rigorous. Over time, the DCC has gained prominence through the nature of our performances and the exceptional quality of the annual philanthropic initiatives we pursue. This season's formation of the Deer Creek Youth Choir under **Julie Culotta's** direction further demonstrates the importance of achieving an artistic vision.

As important, but perhaps less noticeable than our artistic leadership and prowess, is the

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Spotlight On... Soprano Jean Sack

Soprano **Jean Sack** has been a core member of the DCC since 2007. Earlier musical experiences included high school, college, and church choirs. For a time she was a member of the Dhaka Chorale Society in Bangladesh which performed international and classical pieces, staged musicals, and used concerts to raise funds for flood relief and social well-



Jean Sack

fare. While there she made wonderful friendships. After returning to the United States Jean briefly sang with the Harford Choral Society, then joined Hopkins Choral Group in the 1990s.

Some of her favorite DCC music includes most of John Rutter's pieces, particularly *Mass for the Children*; *Mozart's Requiem*; Bach; *Faure's Requiem*; Handel; Morten Lauridsen's *Lux Aeterna*; and the American folk songs from Hogan and Randall Thompson. Beyond the DCC she enjoys folk, classical, jazz, a cappella groups such as the Cambridge Singers, and church hymns with good harmony. She also enjoys Indian classical music,

dance, and culture, as well as folk tunes from places she's lived.

When not singing or making music Jean can be found as a Public Health Informationist for Johns Hopkins University serving as a reference librarian with expertise in maternal and reproductive health, international development, population data, document searching, and writing/editing workshops.

For the past six years, Jean has been involved with the Mennonite Central Committee setting up new libraries in Africa (DCC members helped collect books), and she has taught research skills in medical schools overseas.

In her spare time Jean likes to volunteer for the Fells Point fair trade store, Ten Thousand Villages. She also volunteers for the BSO's Decorator's Showcase each spring, at the Fallston Library "Friends Book Sale" twice yearly, and runs "Peace and Reconciliation" workshops at her church.

Special people in Jean's life include

husband **David** (also a DCC member), daughter **Rebecca**, son **Paul**, and four lively grandkids who live nearby, as well as her faith community, and long-time friend **Louise Ballard**. She loves to garden and preserves or cans much of what she grows. She likes to cook, entertain international visitors, read, and is a bird-watcher and photographer. She has BSO tickets, attends theater, is a book club member, a social activist, and has been known to play tennis, backpack, canoe, and fish, as well.

Jean's travels have taken her to Alaska, Canada, USA states, Costa Rica, Venezuela, most of Europe, African countries where she has volunteered, and most of the Indian Subcontinent. She likes to visit friends in Bangladesh and Europe; return to her roots in the Pacific Northwest; and experience new cultures in places such as Kenya, South Africa, Rwanda, or Burundi, Africa. And this summer she and David drove cross-country for a 50th anniversary road trip!

The DCC is delighted to have Jean as one of our singing family!



Our Community Outreach Focus!

Alzheimer's—How Can You Help Yourself?

Research suggests that a host of factors beyond genetics may play a role in the course of Alzheimer's disease. Studies are looking at the relationship between cognitive decline and vascular conditions such as heart disease, stroke, and high blood pres-

sure, as well as metabolic conditions such as diabetes and obesity. Ongoing research will help to understand whether and how reducing risk factors for these conditions may also reduce the risk of Alzheimer's, and clinical trials are on-going.

A nutritious diet, physical activity, social engagement, and mentally stimulating pursuits have all been associated with helping people stay healthy as they age. These factors might also help reduce the risk of cognitive decline and Alzheimer's disease.

A Cappella Showcase on the Horizon!

You've been hearing about it, and it's going to be here before you know it! The Deer Creek Chorale, in partnership with the Perry Hall High School Chamber Choir, will present the 3rd Annual A Cappella Showcase at Perry Hall High School on **Saturday, March 11th, 2017** at **7:00 p.m.** There are 13 groups committed to perform representing three genres of a cappella music: Choral, Barbershop, and Contemporary/Collegiate. In addition to our two outstanding headliner groups *The Chromatics* and *Lustre Quartet* are the following:

Act 1 - Choral

Deer Creek Chorale Chamber Singers

Perry Hall High School Chamber Choir
Fallston High School Advanced Chorus

Act 2 - Barbershop

Tradition (a collegiate male quartet)
Upper Chesapeake Chorus (Sweet Adelines)
Knock Out Quartet (Pending)

Act 3 - Contemporary/Collegiate

Vocal Obsession (National and international a cappella jazz quintet)
DaCapo (Collegiate style group from Patterson Mill High School)
Royal Timbres (Sextet from Aberdeen High School)
Purrfect Pitch (Coed group from Towson University)

UMBC Stiletos (UMBC Female vocalists)

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. **WE NEED VOLUNTEERS!** Julia Foster, a Banghart scholar, alto in DCC, and member of the planning committee, will be collecting names of volunteers from DCC and our friends. We need about 24 people to help with ticket sales, ushering, escorting performers, and other tasks on March 11th. Please consider what you can do to support this important DCC event, and contact Julia at jefrulesthefield@gmail.com.

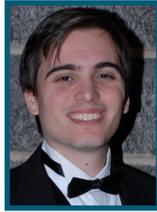


Marketing Matters... Survey—Please Respond!

This month I have two questions for all of you, our members and readers. Why would you go to our concerts? And just as important, why do you think others come to our concerts?

Choruses around the country have found multiple reasons, and we want to know which of these reasons is most applicable to us. Take a look:

1. **Family/friends in the choir.** This may be reason number 1 for most of our audience members. With a choir of nearly 80 people, we have a wide net



Marketing Chair
Patrick Dickerson

to cast for personal connections. Sure, not everyone and their mother can make it, but we all have at least one person who will come and see the fruits of our Tuesday night labor. Now to the more important question: If you were not in the choir, would your family and friends still come?

2. **Music and programming.** Part of our mission is to provide choral excellence to the community. If you asked your usual concertgoers, is this a reason they would come?

3. **The season's cause.** This year's cause is Alzheimer's Awareness. Two years ago

we helped build a house for Habitat for Humanity, Susquehanna. The cause is the unique second part of our mission, as it mobilizes our members and audiences to do something to help their community. My question to you: Does this truly bring in audiences?

Please take the time to send answers or family and friends' answers to me at pdickerson@deercreekchorale.org. We always want to improve the audience experience and find out our strengths and weaknesses. Feel free to find me in rehearsal to share as well. **We want to hear from everyone!** (I am looking for nearly 80 emails!)

DCYC News...

The DCYC was honored to join the DCC Chamber Choir for their concert at St. James Church in Monkton on February 19th. While it is still early in our spring season, we were thrilled to have an opportunity to try out some of our new repertoire and welcome some of our new singers to the group with an early performance. Performances help us to soar to new musical heights as we push ourselves to improve and evaluate our strengths and areas for improvement.

Next up for DCYC is a very special event on **Saturday, April 1st**. For over 10 years, The Maryland Young Voices Festival has brought together the top youth and children's choir programs from across our state for a day of sharing and music mak-

ing. This year's festival will include the **Glo-**
rystar Children's Chorus from Poto-
mac Maryland, the **All Children's**
Chorus of Annapolis, the **Baltimore**
Children's Choir, and the **Deer Creek**
Youth Choir. The festival includes
individual adjudication and perfor-
mances by each choir, as well as a
combined festival choir under the
direction of a guest clinician. This
year's clinician is **Mr. Evan Bruno** from the
renowned Chicago Children's Choir.

The day concludes with a free concert at 7p.m. featuring all of the individual choirs as well as the combined festival choir. **The festival will be held at The Cathedral of**

the Incarnation (4 E. University Parkway, Baltimore MD 21218) very near Johns Hopkins University. This is a fantastic event and a concert you will not want to miss! Mark your calendars and join us as we bring together young voices from across our state.



DCYC Director
Julie Culotta

We will soon begin recruiting and scheduling auditions with singers interested in joining the DCYC in the Fall of 2017. It's never too early to starting thinking of children who you think would benefit from participating in a special program like the DCYC. We greatly appreciate all of your support and your recommendations!



Past Service Projects—Banghart Scholars!

The **Betty Banghart Scholarship Fund** was established eight years ago to support the development of musical talent in young people, by facilitating their participation in the Deer Creek Chorale. It is open to students 15-22 years of age and pays for part or all of the cost of singing with the organization. It was named to honor of **Betty Banghart**, Marty's mother-in law who herself was an educator and had a strong interest in the mission of the DCC.



2016 Banghart
Scholars

The scholarship funds are made possible through the efforts of Marty's husband, **Ray** (Betty's son), who videotapes DCC performances and creates DVD's for sale. He donates his time and materials, and 100% of the DVD funds go into the scholarship program.

Since its inception there have been more than 30 Banghart Scholars, and many of the past recipients are now music professionals themselves - teachers, music business managers, music therapists, and performers.

Many of the former scholars have kept in touch with Marty and have graduated from prestigious colleges, and many have earned graduate degrees. Past Banghart Scholars **Lindsay** and **Lauren Satterfield** are back singing with the DCC today, and are now both music teachers here in Maryland.

This year the Banghart Scholarships were extended to include to young choristers in the newly established **Deer Creek Youth Choir**, offering many more young people this excellent musical opportunity!



Corned beef and cabbage is a modern St. Patrick's Day staple. Cabbage was common in Ireland, but corned beef is new. Irish immigrants in New York substituted corned beef for Irish bacon. Their Jewish neighbors introduced this affordable alternative.

The first St. Patrick's Day Parade occurred in New York on March 17, 1762, and it was actually a military parade for Irish soldiers in the English army, to honor their heritage. Today it is the oldest and largest parade in the U.S.



What's The Buzz?



Birthdays and Celebrations

We have three birthdays to celebrate this month. **Lee Wolford's** special day is on **March 3rd**. **Logan Bair** follows on **March 6th**, and **Janet Ayres** celebrates on **March 17th**, St. Patrick's Day. We hope they all have a wonderful birthday!

Happy 50th Anniversary!



Jack and Louise Ballard will celebrate their 50th Wedding Anniversary on **Saturday, March 18th**. They were married at Western Maryland College (now McDaniel) in Westminster. Over the many years since then they have lived in Annapolis MD, San Antonio TX, DeRidder LA, Baltimore MD, Washington DC, Richmond VA, Chicago IL, and Hong Kong. They are finally settled in Fallston MD, they hope! They are blessed to have two special sons, a special daughter-in-law, granddaughter, grand dog, and many friends. Congratulations to the happy couple!



Welcome New Members!

The DCC has many new members singing with us for the Spring Concert Season. We welcome newcomers **Patty Ballinger, Elizabeth Curley, and Patricia Weyant**, as well as returning member **Cindy Allen** to our Soprano sections. New Altos include **Caitlin Swords Bowden, Zina Compton, Cathy Cox, Cassidy McGinty, Sue Thompson, and Kim West**. **Christopher Richards** has joined our Tenor section, and newcomer **Joel Bullis** and returning member **Dan Davis** are

singing with our Bass section. Welcome aboard! We're glad you are with us! (New members are reminded to return your Spotlight On... bio forms to Liz if you haven't already done so.)

Miriam's Gardens in the News



DCC member **Miriam Long** is excited! **Miriam's Gunpowder Gardens** is going to be featured in the March-April edition of the local free magazine *Harford's Heart!* Miriam is quite honored to have them do this, and is looking forward to having more visitors as a result. The gardens will be opening for this year on **Saturday, April 22nd**, and will be giving tours at 9 a.m., 11 a.m., and 1 p.m. She hopes to see a lot of members visiting this season!

Manor Tavern Jazz Brunch



Those who have heard DCC member **Steve Scheinberg's** trio will be glad to know that they are scheduled to perform at the Manor Tavern in Monkton on **Sunday, March 12th from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.** For those who haven't yet had a chance to hear them, this jazz brunch is a perfect opportunity for a great experience. What a lovely way to spend a Sunday afternoon!

National ACDA Conference



Marty will be attending the National ACDA conference in Minneapolis from March 8th-11th. Featured at the conference will be **Bruce Roger's** two choirs and **Z Randall**

Stoope's Oklahoma State Chamber Choir. Also **Danny McDavitt** will be there so he and Marty can talk details about the April 30th concert. Also she will meet **Timothy Sexton** who will be the other guest conductor at Carnegie Hall in 2018. His choirs will perform Lauridsen's *Lux Aeterna*. It should be quite a program! We're looking forward to hearing all about the conference!

A New Chamber Concert on the Calendar



The Chamber Choir has added another concert to its schedule. They will be performing on **Sunday, April 2nd, 4:00 p.m.** at **Chestnut Grove Presbyterian Church** (3701 Sweet Air Road, Phoenix 21131). There is no cost, but a free will offering would be welcome. See **Wendy Scheinberg** for more details. Don't miss this opportunity for another lovely musical event!

What is She Doing Now?

Former DCC member, **Colleen McGonigle**, daughter of current members **Don and Beth McGonigle**, is giving her senior voice recital **Friday, March 3rd at 7:30 p.m.** at Bucknell University in the Rooke Recital Hall of the Weis Music Building. The recital is free, and a reception will follow. Congratulations, Colleen!

Maryland All-State Middle School Concert

Eighth grader **Katie Allen** will be attending the Maryland Middle School All-States weekend from **March 3-5th**. Her Concert will be at Perry Hall High School at **4 p.m.** on the 5th. The public is welcome!

Concert at St. James on a Warm Winter's Day!

On February 19, the **DCC Chamber Choir** and the **Deer Creek Youth Choir** presented a lovely concert to an appreciative audience at Monkton's historic St. James Episcopal Church.



The diverse program included a mix of

a cappella works and accompanied pieces by the adult choir, with the DCYC offering three of its own pieces, accompanied by **Amanda Bentkowski**. Two particularly well-received pieces included three quotes of Mark Twain by Andrea Ramsey, performed wittily by the youth, and the adult choir's rendition of Gjeilo's "Ubi Caritas" featuring

beautiful interludes by accompanist **Lori Geckle**. (Listen on our website.) After a lively version of "Snow," both groups came together for the final piece, "Share the Joy." Afterward, the committee at St. James treated everyone to a reception in their fellowship hall. Kudos to **Marty**, and DCYC Director **Julie Cullotta** for such a successful program!

Board Update (Con't)

(Continued from page 1)

Board governance structure that provides the foundational underpinnings for the Deer Creek Chorale. While it is the artistic vision that moves us forward in musical quality, it is the responsibility of the Board to ensure that everything possible is done to bring that vision into reality.

As part of the Board's efforts to support organizational sustainability, a planned periodical review of the Deer Creek Chorale's bylaws is currently occurring. This is being done to strengthen an already strong and solid organizational structure that will continue to promote our dual mission of "sing locally, give globally." Once this bylaws

review is completed a summary of key revisions will be shared with you. Continuous improvement and organizational sustainability are two critically-important goals that are inextricably intertwined. Our artistic staff's and Board's proactive, visionary leadership keep the Deer Creek Chorale moving forward.