



The Chorister

Volume 3, Issue 9

April 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

YouTube Us!

ARTISTIC STAFF

Director

Martha Banghart

Assistant Director

Wayne Perry

Youth Choir Director

Julia Culotta

*

BOARD OFFICERS

President

Pete McCallum

Vice President

Patrick Dickerson

Treasurer

Suzanne Zantop

Secretary

Meredith Leroy

*

NEWSLETTER

EDITOR

Liz Phelan

Calendar

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.

Director's Notes

On March 8-11th, I had the privilege of attending the National American Choral Director's Conference "A Life of Song" in Minneapolis, Minnesota. As with every conference I have attended, I learned new ideas, heard new music, met old friends and made new ones. This year, there were over 5,000 attendees from all 50 states and 34 countries. The choirs ranged from the Mongolian Children's Choir to the Atlanta Master Chorale with a variety of ensembles in between, including the choirs of our two upcoming guest conductors **Bruce Rogers** and **Z Randall Stroope**. I hung out with **Danny McDavitt** and **Judy DuBose**, close Maryland colleagues, and over dinner, shared what we learned and reacted to the concert presentations. One person cannot possibly cover it all. As it was, the day started at



Artistic Director
Marty Banghart

6 a.m. and finished by 11 p.m. I perused a lot of music in the exhibitor's booths and found many gems.

Some of the highlights were: the premiere of the Brock commission entitled "Homing" by J. A. C. Re-ford; *Carmina Burana* with the Minnesota Orchestra, Boychoir, Chorale, and Dance Theater; the premiere of the movie *Robert Shaw: Man of Many Voices* with legend Alice Parker answering questions; watching **Eric Whitacre** rehearse the Honor High School Choir; sessions given on rehearsal techniques by **Jerry Blackstone** and **Morna Edmundson**, conductor of the world famous Canadian women's choir Elektra; St. Olaf Christmas Festival with the entire college participating (has won multiple Emmy awards); meeting **Shawn Kirchner** (Behold New Joy), **Jake Runestad**, **Dan Forrest** (composer of *Requiem for*

the Living), **Derrick Fox** (last year's Spring clinician), **Carol Barnett** (composer of the *Blue-grass Mass*), **Robert Staheli** who arranged "Songs of Yesteryear" and of course Bruce and Randall. I would be happy to elaborate on any of these experiences and share programs if you are interested.

Now on to our important project "Memory and Music." So much to be excited about and great music to perform! Please continue to get the word out, invite everyone you know, and watch the documentary "Alive Inside" to better understand the scope of our initiative. I am proud of our dual mission and distributed many bookmarks and business cards at the conference. Folks were genuinely impressed with what we do to enrich our community, both locally and globally, and whenever given the opportunity, I couldn't stop singing your praises!

Board Update

During the past three years, the Deer Creek Chorale Board of Directors has been integrally involved in guiding the implementation of our organization's strategic plan. Developed during the outstanding previous leadership of Steph Davis, this visionary plan continues to provide the blueprint that helps promote organizational growth and long-term sustainability. This strategic plan has been instrumental in achieving financial stability and providing our artistic staff with the support to work with choristers on advancing the Deer Creek Chorale's vocal repertoire.

One specific aspect of the strategic plan focuses on eventually moving toward attaining an executive director as a staff position. While the need for this position is some years away, it is important to keep it in our sights as a goal.

What has occurred since 2014 is an intensive study and discussion of the type of staff position that will best meet the current needs of the Deer Creek Chorale. Early in this study a marketing position was proposed; however, there are several Board members with extensive expertise in this area who



Board President
Pete McCallum

have provided invaluable guidance. Eventually, following a structured needs analysis, the Board decided that the position of choir administrator is the "best fit" for our current organizational structure. Subsequently, a proposed job description was developed with critique and input from Board members.

The Board voted at its most recent meeting on March 9, 2017 to move forward with the choir administrator position. This is an important decision in the

(Continued on page 4)

Spotlight On... Alto Pam Matthews



Pam Matthews

Chorister **Pam Matthews** is in her second season as a member of our DCC alto section. Now living in Bel Air MD, she grew up in southwestern West Virginia in a tiny town right by the Appalachian Trail. Her interest in music dates back to her participation in her church's Children's Choir. Since that time she has sung in her high school chorale and adult church choir.

Favorite musical genres for Pam include Indie pop, new wave, pop and rock piano, Baroque, and romantic classical. When not making music she can be found at her job as a software and test engineer at Lockheed Martin.

For fun Pam enjoys spending a day walking through Havre De Grace, Annapolis, or on the Ocean City Boardwalk. She is easygoing, friendly, and witty, and those who know her would tell you that she is optimistic and a

great organizer. Favorite people in her life include her sister, brother, and parents. Pizza, Mexican, and almost anything hot and spicy would count as food favorites for Pam. Dislikes? ...More than four inches of snow in one snowfall!

Pam's travels have taken her to Ecuador, the United Kingdom, Spain, and Germany. Snorkeling and scuba diving in the Caribbean are still on her bucket list. The DCC is delighted to count her as one of our singing family!

Alzheimer's—Quick Facts

Did you know? According to the Alzheimer's Association (alz.org)...

- More than 5 million Americans are living with Alzheimer's.
- Alzheimer's is the 6th leading cause of death in the United States.
- Every 60 seconds someone in the U.S. develops the disease.
- One in three seniors dies with Alzheimer's or another dementia.
- Alzheimer's kills more people than breast cancer and prostate cancer combined.
- Since 2000, deaths from heart disease have decreased by 14%, while deaths from Alzheimer's disease have increased by 89%
- In 2017, Alzheimer's and other dementias will cost the nation \$259 billion.
- Thirty-five percent of caregivers

for people with Alzheimer's or another dementia report that their health has gotten worse due to care responsibilities, compared to 19% of caregivers for older people without Alzheimer's.

More than 15 million Americans provide unpaid care for people with Alzheimer's or other dementias. In 2016 these caregivers provided an estimated 18.2 billion hours of care valued at over \$230 billion.



Our Community Outreach Focus!

Music and Memory Concert Logistics

Our collaborative "Music and Memory" concert is fast approaching! Final preparations are underway. Choristers are encouraged to use Learning Files to iron out any lingering problem spots. The final rehearsal schedule is as follows:

April 27 (Thursday): Rehearsal with Bruce Rogers at **Bethel: 7-9:30 p.m.** (This is in place of our normal Tuesday rehearsal.)

April 28 (Friday): Merrick Hall (in the same building as Kraushaar) at **Goucher: 7-10:00 p.m.** with Bruce, piano, and soloists. 7-9 Chorus only; 9-10 chorus and soloists

April 29 (Saturday): Goucher 10-2:15 (please bring snacks/lunch/water)

10-11:00 Bruce with orchestra (auditorium)

10-11:00 Chorus only pieces with Marty and Danny (Merrick Hall)

11:15-1:15 Choruses, soloists, orchestra with Bruce (auditorium)

1:15-1:45 Choruses "Dances to Life" with percussion

1:45-2:15 Commissioned piece with Danny

2:30-4:00 Youth Choir rehearsal.

April 30 (Sunday): Call time 2 p.m. (auditorium) – in Concert Attire.

2-2:25 Run "Songs of Yesteryear"

2:30-3:15 Forum in Merrick Hall. The panel will include the composer Robert Cohen and specialists in the Alzheimer's field.

3:15-3:50 To be determined by Bruce

4:00 Concert

Singers are advised to wear comfortable shoes and bring water, music, and a sharpened pencil to every rehearsal, and are reminded not to use perfumes or after-shave lotions at either rehearsals or the performance. Choristers should arrive on Concert Day already dressed in concert Attire.

This looks to be a fabulous event!

End-of-Year Dinner..Yum!

The annual end-of-season DCC membership dinner will be held on **Tuesday, May 2nd** from **6:30-8:30 p.m.** in the Bethel Fellowship Hall. The set up will be occurring during the late morning of that same day. Dublin Market will be

donating their fabulous fried chicken again this year, and as usual members bring the side dishes. Sopranos are asked to bring sweets, altos provide appetizers, tenors bring tableware, and basses contribute beverages.

Meredith Leroy and **Pete McCallum** are the contacts for this annual event. Sign-ups will occur during rehearsals at the beginning of April. This year we look forward to having our DCYC members and their parents join us, as well!



Marketing Matters... Tell A Story!

I like a good story, maybe with some action, adventure, or even a little romance. We sing stories in the DCC, my favorite pieces to learn. They give us a new perspective on a time or place. Perhaps they reach into parts of our hearts that we had forgotten, or bring up old memories both good and bad (sounds like this month's concert theme, doesn't it?).

My point is that stories move us in ways few other things can, and combining them



Marketing Chair
Patrick Dickerson

with music magnifies that effect. Believe it or not, we have some stories about the DCC that can be just as powerful. Don't you think they should be shared?

I would like to see heartfelt reviews and testimonies about our choirs online and in our print materials. Aside from our music, these can be the most effective way to bring in new singers, audience members, donors, and supporters. Please, share some with us! You can send them to pdickerson@deer creekchorale.org or talk to me on rehearsal nights. Just to break

the ice, here is a story of my own:

My brother and I learned piano very young. Why? Because our mom encouraged it. She never pushed, but nourished a love of music that now all four of her children share. Imagine being able to share that joy as an adult with my brother once again as we sang together for the first time in years in the Deer Creek Chorale. And what do you know? After another year, our mom joined us in the tenor section! Never underestimate what music can do to make the bonds of friendship and family even stronger.

DCYC News...

The DCYC is looking forward to some exciting performances as we bring our inaugural season to a close. We are honored to be able to join the DCC for the "Music and Memory" concert at Goucher College on April 30th. We will share a set of music that includes a special collaboration with the High School Treble Singers from the Deer Creek Chorale. The combined singers will perform Bob Chilcott's "Remember Me," a beautiful setting of a poignant and sensitive text.

The Deer Creek Youth Choir will hold their Spring Concert, "Sing to Me," on Tues-

day, **May 9th at 7:30 p.m.** at Bethel Presbyterian Church. We hope you can join us for this special performance as we celebrate a wonderful first year for this new ensemble! Tickets will be \$10 for adults and \$5 for students and will be available on the website and at the door.

Now is the time to think of young singers in your community who would benefit and enjoy participating in a choral ensemble like the DCYC. We will be auditioning and welcoming new singers into our organization this summer as we plan for our

2017-2018 season. In a choral ensemble singers learn compassion, empathy, discipline, languages and history, focus, and teamwork, as well as social and performance skills. There are few activities that shape the whole child like choral music. Please spread the word about the important work DCYC is doing in our community, as we help to shape the next generation of musicians and good citizens. Interested singers can request an audition on our website: www.deer creekchorale.org/youth-choir.



DCYC Director
Julie Culotta



Past Service—Jackie McCosh Memorial Fund!

Career educator **Jackie McCosh** was a charter member of the DCC and loved to sing. Prior to joining the choir, she was a shower singer and actually attended Woodstock, which was a topic often asked about by the choristers. She performed *Carmina Burana* in China in 2008, and taught the book *Three Cups of Tea* to the high school choir members in preparation for the "Inscription of Hope" concert by the DCC, which raised \$26,000 to build a girl's school in Pakistan. She was well known and loved by members of the choir and wider community.



Jackie & Marty

Tragically on May 29, 2009 Jackie was hit by a speeding car on a country road. She was flown to Shock Trauma where she

was treated for spinal injuries leaving her a quadriplegic. Our DCC Director, **Marty**, became her caregiver on Mondays, and the Chamber Choir sang for her on many occasions.

Because of Jackie's handicap, she and husband Andy needed a specially equipped van, and that is when the choir jumped in. One of the features of the DCC 2009 Christmas concert was a silent auction organized by **Kris Foster** (who has recently returned to the choir) and **Mimi Hatch** who ran the online auction. It was a huge undertaking, and through monumental community support over \$24,000 was raised, and a pre-owned van was purchased.

Jackie returned to the choir for a couple

rehearsals, but had difficulty managing the music and breathing BUT she gave her all! In 2010, she was the guest speaker for the DCC's first "Inform and Inspire" event, relaying the importance of the choir in her life. A clip from this speech can be viewed on YouTube—*The Deer Creek Chorale: A Giving Organization*. That was the last time anyone would see her. She died two weeks later of double pneumonia.

The Chamber Choir sang for her memorial service, and the Memorial Orchestra Fund was set up to honor her. Over the years, many folks have made gifts in her name, which has allowed the DCC to hire magnificent instrumentalists to accompany masterworks performed in Jackie's memory.

April Fool's Lore

There's a folk tale which links the Fool's Day to a town called Gotham, Nottinghamshire. It was traditional in 13th century England for any road that the King placed his foot upon to become public property. When the people of Gotham heard that King John planned to travel through their town, they didn't want him to come as they didn't want to lose their main road. The King upon hearing this sent his soldiers, but when they arrived they just found a town full of lunatics. The people were acting out foolish activities like drowning fish or attempting to cage birds in roofless cages. It was all an act, but the King fell for it. The town was seen as too foolish. April Fool's Day was supposed to mark their victory.

What's The Buzz?



Birthdays and Celebrations

We have 12 birthdays to celebrate this month! Three members, **Thea Elisabeth Curley**, **Stephanie Davis**, and **Sarah Ford** start the month with **April 1st** celebrations. **Lynn Moore's** birthday is **April 5th**, **Jeff Koeber** celebrates on **April 14th**, followed by **Julia Scheinberg** on the **17th**, and **Donna Wilson** on the **19th**. Then **Beth McGonigle** and **McKenzie Moylan** share **April 22nd** birthdays. **Kim West's** special day is **April 23rd**, then **Jeffrey Roemer** on **April 24th**, and finally **Sue Thompson** on **April 30th**. We hope that all have a truly wonderful day!

Welcome New Member

We have another new member to welcome into our group. **Bill Minor** joins our Bass section. Welcome aboard!



Science Conference Kudos!

Chorister **Jennifer Howard** was selected as the only elementary teacher to represent Harford County at the National Science Teachers Association (NSTA) conference this



year in California. The **March 30th – April 2nd** event will be held at the **L.A. Convention Center** the Los Angeles Convention Center with the theme *Sun, Surf, and Science*. Congratulations, Jennifer!

Spaghetti Dinner

Luigi is back by popular demand, together with his expert Pasta Chefs! Our rehearsal host, Bethel Presbyterian Church, is hosting a Spaghetti Dinner on **Saturday, April 8th**, serving from **5:00 p.m. until 7:30 p.m.** in their Fellowship Hall. The menu includes spaghetti and meatballs, bread, salad, desserts and will be served in a festive atmosphere with karaoke entertainment including Bethel Youth and invited artists. Donations are **Adults: \$7, Children under 12 \$5**. Proceeds will support the Bethel Youth Ministry. Reservations are encouraged but not required, and take-out dinners will be available. Contact **Melissa Dick** in the church office at 410-692-5282



to reserve a time. Yum!!!

Right around the Corner!

The **April 2nd** Chamber Choir concert at Chestnut Grove Presbyterian Church is part of a series of community concerts the church is sponsoring in celebration of their 175th anniversary. There is no charge and no tickets are necessary. Future concerts include a steel drum band and a very skilled handbell ensemble. More information may be found on their website: chestnutgrovechurch.net/events.



A Busy Month!

Chorister **Amber McCafferty** has a busy month ahead. She will be vacationing in Florida with her family from **April 8th to the 16th**. The warm sunny beach beckons!



Then on **April 19th and 20th** she has solo vocal and solo piano performances with her school's jazz band during her school community concert. Good luck!

A Cappella Showcase Wrap-up

This year's A Cappella Showcase held at Perry Hall High School on **March 11th** was the most successful in its three year history! Thirteen groups were on stage representing three genres of a cappella music: choral, barbershop, and contemporary/collegiate, and performed to a very appreciative house of approximately 200 people. The headliner groups, The Chromatics and Lustre Quartet were phenomenal, but all participants performed well and contributed to a truly special evening!

One of the remarkable things about this year's event was the realization by audience members and performers that there were so many a cappella groups in the re-

gion. Wayne was actually able to identify more than 60 in the Baltimore area, which was a feat since there is no directory or resource available that identifies them all, although the collegiate groups are listed with the International Championship of Collegiate A Cappella (the "ICCA's" referred to in the movie, *Pitch Perfect*).

In addition to the wonderful evening of music, attendees of the event were made aware of the DCC's upcoming "Music and Memory" concert at Goucher on **April 29th**, as well as our Alzheimer's awareness outreach via items that were included with each program from the Alzheimer's Associ-



ation and Cure Alzheimer's Fund.

Many thanks go to **Wayne Perry** and to everyone who helped make this event so successful: the Planning Committee, the Marketing Committee, all of the 25 volunteers who assisted at the Showcase, and everyone who sold tickets. We are evaluating the event as we wrap-up the bookkeeping, gather all of the numbers, and send out thank you notes and congratulations to everyone involved. A report will be submitted to our Board at a future meeting, and a determination will be made about future plans. Kudos to everyone involved for making this a great 10th anniversary event!

Board Update (Con't)

(Continued from page 1)

life of the Deer Creek Chorale that will enable the Board to continue the implementation of the strategic plan for attaining long-term organizational sustainability with even greater fidelity. Because the daily management of the Deer Creek Chorale has become more complex due to organizational maturity, as well as the addition of the

Deer Creek Youth Choir, this position will focus on performing and coordinating administrative functions, and provide key assistance to Board members as well as committees. Through our treasurer's extremely careful and constant fiduciary oversight, the necessary financial resources are available for this paid staff position. It is the Board's goal to select the individual for this position

during the spring and for the choir administrator to begin with initial training this summer. As the position advertising and candidate search processes proceed, we will continue to keep you aware of the search process and results. These truly are exciting times in the Deer Creek Chorale as we engage in continuous growth and improvement!