



The Chorister

Volume 3, Issue 11

June 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

Sat. June 3, Strawberry Fundraiser—Shaw Orchards, 8-5 p.m.

Fri. June 9, Strawberry Fundraiser—Shaw Orchards, 8-6 p.m.

Sat. June 17, Bethel Flea Market—8-2 p.m.

Tues. Sept. 12, DCC First Rehearsal—Bethel Pres. 7-9 p.m.

Tues. Sept. 12, DCYC First Rehearsal—Bethel Pres. 5:00 p.m.

Director's Notes

What a grand ending of our 10th anniversary season! Such successes, smiles, tears, new friends, special moments, goosebumps, and the list goes on.

If the Music and Memory concert wasn't enough, the DCYC gave their inaugural Spring Concert on May 9th at Bethel. Thanks to all who came and supported their music making. What a performance—12 pieces, four languages, two solo performances, and all memorized.

And then our dedicated and talented Chamber Choir thrilled the residents at Avondell on May 11th and were thanked by a standing ovation...and for many of the audience members that was a feat. How proud I am of everyone both "on and off the field!"

And what about these folks



Artistic Director
Marty Banghart

who had PERFECT attendance for the entire season: Soprano **Katie Allen** (Banghart Scholar); Altos **Meredith Leroy** and **Donna Wilson**; Tenors **Joe Close**, **Patrice Hieronymus**, and **Sandy Dickerson**; and Bass **Jeff Roemer**. Every section is represented but dig those tenors!! Perfect attendance for 2nd semester goes to Soprano **Mary Sue Shaw** and Alto **Kathy Browning**. Soprano **Jean Sack** and Altos **Donna Gotsch** and **Miriam Long** had only one absence for the entire year. Bravo!!

So many exciting things to look forward to in our 2017-2018 season: **Anthony Blake Clark** as our guest clinician, Carnegie Hall, **Z. Randall Stroope** as our guest conductor, collaborating with the Handel Choir (Arian) and Towson University, and of course THE MUSIC! That is my favorite part of

being your artistic director... picking repertoire that is both fun and challenging with meaningful texts, gorgeous melodies, and of course complex rhythms! Please do some active recruiting over the summer, especially for tenors and basses to balance out the women.

I want to take this opportunity to say a special thank you to **Liz Phelan** for her extraordinary work on the website and the newsletter these past two years. She has spent countless hours promoting our story in professional print. We will miss her eye for design, informative articles, and timely treatment of our news. I wish her the best of adventures!

Until we sing together again, stay well, soak in the warmth of the summer months and dream! And for those graduating and moving on, there is always a seat for you in the DCC! Musical hugs, Marty

Board Update

As we conclude our magnificent 10th anniversary season of the Deer Creek Chorale, there are several key celebrations to highlight. First, however, please accept my most sincere gratitude for all you have done as choristers throughout this hallmark year to make our 10th anniversary season both memorable and highly successful. From participating in philanthropic events to faithfully attending rehearsals, your support has been exceptional.

On May 2nd, the fourth annual Deer Creek Chorale member dinner meeting was held. Everyone was in a joyous and festive mood for good reason. We were still "buzzing" about, and processing, the enormity of our

spring concert. Many of us had received wonderful plaudits about the concert and how the music had touched people to the core. Also, at this event, the members unanimously endorsed next the new Board officers: **Patrick Dickerson**, President; **Cris Martin**, President-Elect; and **Pete McCallum**, Past President. **Suzanne Zantop** did an excellent job of succinctly presenting the financial status of our organization and due to her incredible diligence our fiduciary picture is sound. **Marty Banghart** provided an overview of next year's exciting season which includes the Carnegie Hall excursion and performance.



Board President
Pete McCallum

Deer Creek Youth Choir conducted an outstanding concert in the Bethel Presbyterian Church sanctuary. There was a standing-room only capacity audience that was deeply moved by our youngest choristers' performance. Coupled with the successful new-chorister recruiting social on May 16th, the future for the Deer Creek Youth Choir is solid.

The final Board meeting for this season is on Thursday, June 15th where the new officers will assume their respective responsibilities. At this meeting goals for our next season will be established and work will begin. As a

The following Tuesday, the

(Continued on page 4)

Spotlight On... Alto Stephanie Davis



Stephanie Davis

Alto **Stephanie Davis** has sung with the DCC for the past nine years. Though she had no prior experience, Marty convinced her to join her “non-auditioned” choir, and it was a decision she has never regretted! In addition to her participation as a chorister, Stephanie served as president from 2009-2014, helping to shape the future of the DCC.

Favorite pieces of music she has sung with the chorale include the “Bluegrass Mass” and most recently Robert Cohen’s “Alzheimer’s Stories.” Favorite genres beyond the DCC include world music, rock & roll, jazz, classical, country, and soundtracks. She is very eclectic in her tastes!

When not singing or making music Steph can be found at her day job as Director of Development at Johns Hopkins Hospital Division of Pediatric Oncology. She also volunteers extensively. She is the International Assessment volunteer for Project C.U.R.E., as well as the Johns Hopkins liaison for the same organization. In addition, she serves on the Pediatric Oncology Advisory Board and with the Children’s Oncology Camping Association. Her travels as a volunteer have taken her to Peru, Uganda, Kenya, Benin, and Tanzania.

For fun Stephanie likes to travel, hike, walk, ski, babysit her grandchildren, and volunteer. She tries to live life to the fullest! Those who know her would tell you that she is energetic, inclusive, and committed. Her greatest

strengths might be said to be collaborating, capacity-building, and creating partnerships. She is very positive in her outlook and doesn’t like negativity.

Special people in Stephanie’s life include her family, especially her three grandchildren Wesley (age 8), Lauren (age 5) and Decker (age 3). Favorite foods for Stephanie are BLT sandwiches and M&M’s.

What might surprise you about Stephanie? She was Marty’s roommate in graduate school at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, and they have remained friends ever since. And would you guess that at one time she was the Executive Producer of Romper Room?

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

Alzheimer’s—First Steps to a Cure?

The following information was published in *Science Translational Journal*, stm.sciencemag.org/content/7/278/.

Australian researchers have come up with a non-invasive ultrasound technology that clears the brain of neurotoxic amyloid plaques - structures that are responsible for memory loss and a decline in cognitive function in Alzheimer’s patients.

Alzheimer’s disease is usually the result of a build-up of two types of lesions—amyloid plaques and neurofibrillary tangles. Amyloid plaques sit between the neurons and end up as dense clusters of sticky beta-amyloid protein molecules.

Neurofibrillary tangles are found

inside the neurons of the brain, triggered by defective tau proteins. These cause tiny filaments called microtubules to get twisted, which disrupts the transport of essential nutrients.

Treatment of Alzheimer’s has started with how to clear the build-up of defective beta-amyloid and tau proteins from a patient’s brain. A team from the Queensland Brain Institute at the University of Queensland have come up with a promising solution for removing the amyloid plaques.

The technique uses a focused therapeutic ultrasound, which non-invasively beams sound waves into the brain tissue. By oscillating super-fast, these sound waves are able to

gently open up the blood-brain barrier, a layer that protects the brain against bacteria, and stimulate the brain’s microglial (waste-removal) cells to activate, so they’re able to clear out the toxic beta-amyloid clumps responsible for the worst symptoms of Alzheimer’s.

The team reports fully restoring the memory function of 75% of the mice tested, with zero damage to surrounding brain tissue. They found improved performance in three memory tasks - a maze, a test to recognize new objects, and one to remember places to be avoided. Trials are now planned with higher animal models and humans in 2017.



Our Community Outreach Focus!



Past Service—Haiti Earthquake Relief

Flower Power—Haiti’s Relief Fund

The January 12, 2010 earthquake in Haiti devastated the country. An estimated 220,000 people perished and over 300,000 were injured. Four thou-

sand schools were damaged or destroyed. Among the losses at the Holy Trinity Cathedral complex in Port Au Prince was a music school, L’Ecole Ste. Trinité. Joining in the relief



efforts being provided by St. Johns Episcopal Church in Glyndon, the DCC held a spring plant sale at the May 2010 concert, with profits going to replace instruments and supplies at the school.

Thanks for all You’ve Done!

Our sincere thanks go to outgoing Board President **Pete McCallum** for the outstanding leadership he has shown over the past three years. Under his guid-



ance the DCC has continued to thrive and grow, always striving for professionalism and musical excellence. As Pete now turns over the mantle of leadership, he

will continue to support the DCC in his new role as Past-President, and we wish incoming President **Patrick Dickerson** well as he moves the DCC into its second decade!

Marketing Matters... Keep Up the Good Work!

It may be the off-season for the DCC, but that doesn't mean you can't share about our hard work all summer long. Our 10th anniversary season was spectacular as far as marketing is concerned—radio spots, more print ads than ever, our first TV debut, and a video coming soon! We want to spread our reach even further next season, and we need your help. Here are a few ways you can get the word out before we start again in September:

- Send me places where we can present

about the DCC. We have a presentation available and ready to go for anyone who wants to talk about us to their church, club, building; you name it. Contact me at pdickerson@deercreekchorale.org with ideas.

- Testimonials! After every concert, we get all kinds of testimonials from performers, their family, and friends. But it never hurts to add to the pot. These stories can be used on our website, in print materials, and in grants. They give everyone a sense

of who we are and how much of a difference we make in our community.

- Pictures! Did you take pictures at our events or concerts? We could use them online and on social media.

Lastly, if you would like to help us with marketing during the upcoming season, contact me as soon as possible. We need as many brains as possible to get our brand into the community. Have a great summer, everyone!

DCYC News...

What an amazing first year for the Deer Creek Youth Choir! From our performance debut at our holiday concert in December with the Deer Creek Chorale, to a lovely concert at St. James Church in February, to an incredible day at the Maryland Young Voices Festival at the Cathedral of the Incarnation, to the incredible Music and Memory Concert program at Goucher, and finally at our very own DCYC Spring Concert, "Sing to Me," I have watched our singers grow and blossom into beautiful musicians and singers with each concert. They have grown individually in musicianship, confidence, vocal ability, and mature vocal tone. They have learned teamwork, artistry, discipline, compassion, and empathy. The music has become a part of us, and has taught us about life, joy, and hope.

The success of this first season is due to the work of many hands. Without the dream and vision of Deer Creek Chorale

director, **Marty Banghart**, none of us would be here listening to these beautiful children sing. It was her persistence and tenacity, and the undying support of the DCC Board and singers that helped to make her dream a reality. We were truly blessed to have **Mrs. Amanda Bentkowski** join the DCYC family as our accompanist. She is a wonderful friend, music teacher, singer and pianist, and I couldn't have asked for a better partner in crime. In January, we were fortunate to have high school junior at Notre Dame Prep, **Maddie Saldaña**, join us as our student intern. Maddie was a student of mine at North Harford Middle, and she has jumped into this organization with both feet, her fantastic voice, and beautiful spirit; and she helps keep our singers focused and on track in rehearsal. We love you, Ms. Amanda and Ms. Maddie!



DCYC Director
Julie Culotta

Finally, parents and families of our choristers, I am indebted to all of you. Thank you for supporting your child and their love of music. Thank you for taking a chance on a new organization and supporting us every step along the way. Thank you for sharing DCYC with your friends and community, to help us reach more children each year. Choral Music had a significant impact on my life as a child and continues to do so each and every day. I am incredibly grateful for the opportunity to share it with the youth of our community through the Deer Creek Youth Choir.

This is just the beginning! I can't wait for our 2nd season and all that is to come! Keep on spreading the word about the DCYC. Auditions will be held over the summer for new singers. You can request an audition and find more information on our website. I wish you all a relaxing and rejuvenating summer! Julie

A Memorable Performance!

This spring's Music and Memory Concert featuring the Mid-Atlantic premier of "Alzheimer's Stories" was an outstanding success by any measure! Beyond the normal concert preparation, the eleven hours of rehearsal over three consecutive days melding all participants – the DCC, the Goucher Choir, the DCYC, conductors, and composers—were productive and enriching. The tremendous effort by all resulted in a stellar and very inspiring performance as demonstrated by the audience reaction to the entire concert. The simultaneous eruption into a standing ovation at the end was extremely moving and said it all!



Kudos to soloists **Thomas Beard** and **Carolyn Black-Sotir** who were exceptional, as well as pianists **Shisa Suskey**, **Andrew Stewart**, and flutist **David Lavorgna** who were also excellent. It was thrilling to meet, speak with, and perform for the composer, **Robert Cohen**. Conductor **Bruce Rogers** was brilliant in his interpretation of the work, and **Dr. Danny McDavitt** did an outstanding job with his commissioned work for the DCC and as a conductor. And of course major props to director **Marty Banghart** for making her vision for the concert come to fruition!

Special thanks **Marty, Wayne, Danny McDavitt, Lexi Morris, and Steph Davis** who coordinated the event, and to the many DCC choristers and volunteers who worked so diligently behind the scenes to make it the success it was. Cheers also to everyone who publicized the concert. Online ticket sales were a record 200+! Our appreciation also goes to the Goucher students for the wonderful "get-to-know-you" pot-luck supper before the first rehearsal.

Since the concert Marty has continued to receive testimonials about the incredible

(Continued on page 4)

What's The Buzz?



Birthdays and Celebrations

We have eight birthdays to celebrate in June. **Suzanne Zantop** begins the month with a **June 4th** birthday. **Louise Ballard** celebrates on **June 17th**, followed by **Cassidy McGinty** on **June 22nd**, **Anita Koller** on **June 23rd**, **Michelle Hubner** on **June 25th**, **Jason Redmond** on the **26th**, **Steve Scheinberg** on the **27th**, and **Elena Pietrowicz's** special day is **June 30th**. Since there is no newsletter in July, we have five July birthdays to recognize as well. **Kris Foster** celebrates on **July 1st**, followed by **Julie Foster** on **July 5th**, **Dan Cassenti** on **July 21st**, **Cyndy Allen** on **July 25th**, and finally **Claire Chambers** on **July 27th**. We hope that all these choristers have a wonderful birthday!

Cancer Conference!

Jennifer Hayes will be attending the North American Association of Central Cancer Registries (NAACCR) conference in Albuquerque, NM from June 16th-23rd. The theme is "Breaking Barriers in



Cancer Surveillance" and will provide attendees with the opportunity to learn from national experts in cancer surveillance, cancer registry operations, and cancer research. Following the conference Jennifer will be traveling to Flagstaff to visit family.

DCC Fundraiser—Strawberry Picking

Mark your calendar now! Pick your own strawberries to benefit the Deer Creek Chorale. **Where?** Shaw Orchards (5594 Norrisville Rd. Whitehall MD) **When?** **Saturday, June 3rd**, 8 a.m.-5 p.m. and **Friday, June 9th**, 8 a.m.-6 p.m. (Rain date June 10th). Mention you are supporting the DCC and a portion of sales will benefit our organization. Tell your family and friends. What a fun outing! A great big THANK YOU to **Mary Sue Shaw's** family for providing this opportunity for us! There will be another DCC fundraiser on August 12th. It will be a "Farm to Table" dinner. Details TBA.



Keyboard for Donation!



Bass member **David Sacks** has a high quality keyboard with amp and speakers to donate to anyone who can use it. It would be great for a youth group, school group, or even someone who just likes to play music. If you are interested, or know of anyone who would be interested, please contact David at Dsack1@jhu.edu. What a great opportunity!

Bethel Flea Market

Bethel Presbyterian Church is having a **Flea Market** on **Saturday, June 17th** from 8:00 a.m. to 2 p.m. Spaces may be reserved for \$15. Vendors will be able to park in their reserved space. If you are interested in reserving a space or have any questions regarding the Flea Market, please contact Melissa Dick in the Bethel Office at 410-692-5282 or email her at melissadick@bethel-md.org.



Music and Memory (Con't)

(Continued from page 3)

evening. These are just bits from the countless letters and emails she has received:

"Thank you Martha Banghart and the DCC for one of the single most moving and powerful musical experiences of my life."

"I am such a lucky and blessed composer to have had my work performed by such wonderful and talented people." – **Robert Cohen**

"I just want to reiterate what an incredible experience the "Alzheimer's Stories" performance was... And it appears the performance was equally powerful for both the audience and the performers. I can't tell you how many people have raved about it. You should feel so proud and rewarded you made such an indelible artistic event possible that touched so many... Thanks again for including me in this fabulous concert!" – **Carolyn Black-Sotir**

"...It was a wonderful, wonderful experience. I

really, really appreciate everything and I look forward to working with you all in the future. Thanks again. Peace and blessings to you and the group." – **Thomas Beard**

"...Making music again has filled a hole that was in my soul."

"Thank you for the gift of a ticket which became an invitation to divine healing."

"The singing of "If Music be the Food of Love" was maybe the finest ever by DCC... What an opening! It brought a tear to my eye...and it was not the last of the day!"

"This choir is made up of extremely talented musicians who not only can sing, but truly have a passion for it. ...Thank you, thank you, thank you for reminding me about the power of music."

"...Finally, I offer so much love and gratitude to all of our amazing attendees... as the last notes rang out to the accompaniment

of thunderous applause. That magical moment will live forever in my memory."

"The whole process ... reminded me how important music is as an art form, how special it is to us as humans, and how music decorates time in such powerful ways."

"Masterful, insightful, inspiring performance! Thank you so much for your vision, passion, and compassion, Martha Banghart, and all contributors to this masterpiece!"

"I want to extend my heartfelt thanks for your moving performance of Music and Memory on Sunday. ...It was such a pleasure to hear wonderful music with such full sound. ...The last piece [about] Alzheimer's touched our deepest emotions. When that powerful music began to fill the house, all I was seeing was my friend in her most difficult end stage of dementia and tears were streaming down my face..." **Cass Naugle**, Dir. of the Alzheimer's Association, MD

Board Update (Con't)

(Continued from page 1)

final comment, we are in need of one new Board member, so if you are interested in serving in this important role please contact **Patrick Dickerson**.

Finally, all of us on the Board want to extend our most heartfelt and sincere gratitude to **Liz Phelan**. In her role as a Board member, Liz has managed our website and served as the editor of *The Chorister*. She has fulfilled these roles in an outstanding

and selfless manner. Liz is leaving as a Board member since her term is expiring but the positive impact of her contributions to the Deer Creek Chorale will remain. Please enjoy a great summer and we look forward to singing with you again next season!