



VOICEMAIL

February 2018

A Time of Mystery

The setting for the third concert of the season was the magnificent St. Charles Borromeo Roman Catholic Church in St. Charles. The music selected for the Christmas concert was chosen by **Philip Barnes** to fill that particular acoustic and the result was glorious.

Named the "Choral Concert of the Year" by music critic **Sarah Bryan Miller**, the performance earned the following review:

Artistic director Philip Barnes and his outstanding *a cappella* choir deliver six programs every year according to a unique formula: a program that explores a basic theme; a different venue each time, chosen to mesh with the program; frequent commissions of new choral works; lots of music by female composers. For this year's Christmas concert, Barnes took settings old and new of the poem *O Magnum Mysterium*, anchored by the mass by Palestrina, and performed it at St. Charles Borromeo Roman Catholic Church in St. Charles. It was all beautifully performed, a Christmas concert that offers more than the standards.

As the first half of the program ended, there was a surprise visit by **Sally A. Faith**, Mayor of St. Charles, who presented Philip and the Chamber Chorus with a Key to the City of St. Charles.

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Message from the President

by Dick Brickson

Welcome to the fourth concert of our 62nd Season! One of the biggest pleasures of serving on boards of organizations like the Chorus is that you get to meet, work with and learn from so many talented and enriching people.

In the summer of 2011, **Kate Haggans** and I joined the board of directors of the Chorus together. This Spring, Kate and her husband Michael, will move to Connecticut and she will retire from the Board. Kate, who until recently served as a Professor of Music at the University of Missouri, St. Louis, brought an understanding of, and appreciation for, great music to our meetings. Her input was always focused and on point. When we had spent several meetings talking about “why” the Chorus existed and “why” we served on its board, she succinctly said “because music is art that can enrich all of us and we need to support it wherever we can.” When an upcoming Chorus concert featured music by **Morten Lauridsen**, she described attending a dinner in California attended by Mr. Lauridsen at which the Los Angeles Master Chorale sang *Sure On This Shining Night* and other Lauridsen works. Such a depth of experience and deep commitment to choral music are among the qualities she brought to the Board. Kate, we will miss you.

At the same time, I would like to tell you about our newest Board member, **Jeanne Mulligan**. Jeanne is known as an effective, energetic and very committed volunteer who can make wonderful things happen to support the organizations she works with. We look forward to working with her and benefitting from her expertise and experience. As mentioned at the outset, it is a real pleasure to work with talented, committed people. Now, please sit back and enjoy today's concert.

Meet the Singers — Alison Fox

Alison grew up in St. Louis in a very musical family. Her father played the French horn, two of her uncles were pianists, and her aunt was a singer. There was always singing (usually show tunes) during big family celebrations. A favorite childhood memory was the “Goldstein Happy Birthdays”—where they would all intentionally sing as loud and off key as possible. (Alison says visitors were equally amused and appalled!)

Alison started taking piano lessons in kindergarten, continuing for about 10 years. She begged her parents for voice lessons but was encouraged to wait until her voice was more mature. She finally switched from piano to voice in high school and studied with **Christine Armistead** at Washington University. While at Clayton High School, Alison participated in the concert choir, show choir, “Broadway” shows, various community theater companies, and Missouri All-State Choir. She spent her summers going to various camps including Harand Camp of Theatre Arts in Wisconsin and Ballibay Fine and Performing Arts Camp in Pennsylvania. She also spent a summer at the National High School Music Institute at Northwestern University studying voice and choral singing with college professors.

At Miami University of Ohio, Alison received a Bachelor of Music in Music Education. She studied voice with **Dr. William Bausano** and sang alto with the Miami University Chamber Singers. Alison says this is where her love of singing in chamber choirs began. She toured in



Alison Fox

Europe with the Chamber Singers, singing in The Netherlands, Germany, Luxembourg, Belgium, and France and spent a semester abroad studying voice, composition, and Alexander Technique at Trinity College of Music in London.

Although Alison loved music, she realized after graduation that she didn't want to teach, so she got a job in IT at Monsanto, where she still works today. She missed having music in her life so was able to sing for five seasons with the Saint Louis Symphony Chorus until the arrival of her son David. After

five years as a full-time mom, she was asked to sing at her synagogue and couldn't believe how great it felt and how much she had missed it. A few years later, a friend suggested she audition for the Saint Louis Chamber Chorus. Alison wasn't sure how she could fit this professional rehearsal and performance schedule into her already hectic life but learned that the Chorus offered alternate positions. She says, “I was an alternate for four seasons, singing 2-4 concerts a year, and now that my son is older and my calendar is a little more flexible, I am thrilled to be a full member of the Chorus.”

In addition to singing in the Chorus, Alison fills in as a cantorial soloist at a few synagogues and church choirs in St. Louis. She is on the board of Congregation B'nai Amoona. She enjoys spending time with her large extended family, loves to bake (especially decorated sugar cookies), volunteer at her son's school, and shop!

Meet the Singers — Dale Burkhart

Choral singing has always been an important part of Dale's life. Singing at home when growing up on a farm in northern Illinois with a large family, in every school and church choir possible, along with piano lessons through ninth grade, gave Dale some limited exposure to and appreciation of music. But the biggest influence on his love of classical choral music was singing in a college choir, where the director imparted the basics of vocal technique and musicality using fine repertoire. After college, he has sung in various church, university, and select choral groups in the three states where he has lived. Over the years, this has given Dale the opportunity to sing many of the most frequently performed major oratorios and extended choral works.



Dale Burkhart

Dale first met his wife **Annette** in their college choir but did not date until they ran into each other again while in two separate graduate schools on the University of Illinois campus. Their common interest in music was a big factor in their relationship.

Having earned a B.S. in Biology (Wheaton College) and an M.S. in Horticulture (University of Illinois), Dale's career has been in commercial and research horticulture. After working in greenhouse flowering plant production in North Carolina and Pennsylvania, he moved back to the Midwest to St. Louis with his wife and children to be the head grower at a large wholesale potted flower and bedding plant green-

house. After many years of production schedule stress, Dale sought other jobs in the industry, and eventually found a place as greenhouse manager at the Danforth Plant Science Center. Recently Dale has entered semi-retirement and is employed part time in the Monsanto research greenhouses.

In St. Louis, Dale sang for almost thirty years in an outstanding church choir that performed major sacred works. When he heard that the Saint Louis Chamber Chorus needed baritones about five years ago, he decided to try out. To have the opportunity to sing

with such talented individuals has been the high point of his musical life. Dale comments, "I greatly enjoy learning so much repertoire that is new to me, along with interesting facts from **Philip** about the composers and historical contexts. With the extensive music the choir performs, I've seen a vast improvement in my sight-reading skills."

Music is very much a part of life for their whole family. Annette, as well as their daughter **Janna**, are both professional pianists and teachers. Annette has been on the music faculty at Washington University for almost thirty years and teaches piano privately. Their son **Jonathan** is currently pursuing a masters degree in music therapy. Dale and Annette also enjoy their four (of course!) wonderfully musically talented grandchildren! And to sing in this concert of *Love Dances* with his wife Annette as one of the pianists is a special treat!

Moscow Hears St. Louis

Former Composer-in-Residence **Yakov Gubanov** was recently invited to present a paper by the board of the Russian Annual Christmas Reading Forum. This major event for sacred music in Russia takes place in Moscow every year at the end of January and is personally patronized by the Russian Patriarch. This year's forum was called *Moral Values and the Future of Mankind*.

Yakov decided to speak about his music in the context of his collaboration with the Saint Louis Chamber Chorus! His aim was "to put the phenomenon of the Chamber Chorus into a major focus of my presentation. In my opinion it was very important for a Russian audience to get acquainted with the Chamber Chorus as one of the brightest beacons of Russian sacred music in the West."

So on January 24, Yakov addressed an audience of about five thousand at the forum, held in the 18th century university building right across from the Kremlin.

We congratulate Yakov and thank him for including us in his presentation at such a prestigious event.

Noteworthy Notes

Chorus Featured on *Choir Chat*

Late last year artistic director **Philip Barnes** was the invited guest on *Choir Chat*, an online podcast that focuses on choral music. Philip described the Chorus's background and current plans, as well as giving some information about his own background and training. You can hear the extended interview at: <https://soundcloud.com/choirchat>.

After the Concert

Did you know that you can join **Philip Barnes** and many of the Chorus singers and board members after the concert to share a meal and good company? After many of our concerts, we have an informal gathering at nearby local restaurants to do just that!

Today is no exception. Join us after the concert at Momo's Greek Taverna, just a few blocks west on Delmar, and then right to 630 North and South Rd. (MO 63130). Identify yourself as a Chamber Chorus supporter, and Momo's will kindly donate a percentage of your check to the choir.



SLCC Welcomes New Board Member — Jeanne Mulligan

We are delighted to announce our newest board member! **Jeanne's** professional and volunteer careers have crossed over into many areas of expertise. After college, she worked for ten years in real estate appraisal and home mortgage lending, then as a real estate lending consultant while their children were young. She volunteered at The Wilson School and John Burroughs School where they were enrolled, becoming the Parents Council Board President at the latter and an ex-officio member of the Board of Trustees.

Jeanne enjoys working with people of all ages and backgrounds. Her strengths include creative problem solving, a high level of energy and excellent verbal, written, presentation and organizational skills. She will be a great addition to the SLCC Board!

Find Us on YouTube!

The Klasskin commission last October, which opened this season, brought together the composer **Mårten Jansson**, and lyricist **Tony Silvestri**. Their collaboration and the subsequent premiere performance was filmed and is now available to be viewed on YouTube.

Here are the two YouTube URLs for your enjoyment:

- Full Performance: <https://youtu.be/VkbQvwqE4NE>
- Video Interviews: <https://youtu.be/TfnjGiM0waA>

For more information about concerts, tickets or auditions:

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