



VOICEMAIL

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Collaborations Open New Vistas

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Today's concert marks the culmination of a series of co-operations that have characterized this, our 62nd season. We conclude as we began the year, with working with a composer on a new work: this time with **Melissa Dunphy**, who completes her official 'residency' with this piece. There is life after such a relationship, of course, so we hope for future commissions from her. She will be succeeded as our 'Composer-in-Residence' by **Mårten Jansson**, who opened our season; more about Mårten next year! This season we've also collaborated with a photographer and a videographer, a choreographer and dancers, a children's choir, and even—heresy for an *a cappella* choir—instrumentalists!

Such joint ventures open up new vistas for both singers and audiences, keep us both fresh and open to choral music, and remind us that it is a living art form. Our offerings will be different again next year, but they will continue to explore the symbiotic relationship between singing, composition and venue. As always there will be new pieces and new settings to explore, together with pillars of the repertoire that demand to be heard in a center of artistic excellence like St. Louis.

Philip Barnes

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Message from the President

by Dick Brickson

Welcome to our final concert of the 2017-2018 season. Once again, we are delighted to have **Melissa Dunphy** with us today. While this concert marks the end of her three-year term as our “composer-in-residence”, we hope our relationship continues to grow for years to come.

Next season we will present our concerts in six unique and very special venues: We will return to The Schlafly Tap Room in November—we cherish our concerts in the Tap Room for the fun (and the beer). Please keep in mind that the Tap Room is smaller than our typical venue, and season subscribers will have a huge advantage as we will have fewer seats than usual for people who want to attend but are not subscribers.

We will sing at Christ Church Cathedral in September and at St. James the Greater Catholic Church in December, both venues we thoroughly enjoy. Don't miss the opportunity to return to the splendid St. Stanislaus Kostka Polish Catholic Church in April. Finally, we are excited to take you to the Ladue Chapel Presbyterian Church in February and to Congregation Shaare Emeth in May. Both have been substantially reconfigured recently, and we all will get a chance to see and enjoy their new facilities—they are beautiful, both visually and acoustically. Thanks for your continued support and your love for the Chorus.

Meet the Singers — Celeste Hobbs

Celeste was very shy as a child, but always loved to sing! No one in her family had any formal musical training, but music was always around. The biggest influence was her uncle **Robert R. Nally**, a riverboat captain but also the song leader at their church near Charleston, Mo. Every family gathering included her uncle singing hymns with everyone joining in.

When she was eleven, her uncle encouraged her to pursue voice lessons with the late **Avis Muench**, a voice teacher well known in southern Missouri. The renowned Mrs. Muench was very hesitant to take her at such a young age, but after hearing her sing, immediately changed her mind and taught her for the next seven years. As one of twenty former students who sang at Mrs. Muench's 100th birthday celebration in 2016 a few months before she passed, Celeste was able to sing for her one last time—her response, “You still got it kid!”

Throughout junior high and high school, Celeste sang in the choir, played French horn, and one year even played piano in the jazz band. She attended Southeast Missouri State University as a music education major but realized midway through her sophomore year that was not the path for her. Soon after, she learned about music therapy and knew the search was over.



Celeste Hobbs

After graduating in 1991, Celeste married **Steve Hobbs** with the Army Corps of Engineers and moved to Blue Springs, Mo. She attended the University of Missouri—Kansas City, earning an equivalency degree in music therapy. Celeste has been a music therapist for over twenty years, working mainly in special education, but also trained in Music Therapy Assisted Childbirth.

In 2000, the family moved to the St. Louis area where Celeste started singing with the Archdiocesan Choir.

She met **Jennifer Harkey**, a former SLCC singer (and wife and sister to singers **Jay Harkey**, **Elise Ibendahl** and former singer **Linsey Calza**), who convinced her to audition. She auditioned in 2003 and has been singing soprano for Philip ever since. Celeste says that “singing for the choir is my own personal music therapy because it challenges me at every concert”.

Steve and Celeste have two children, **Ashley** and **Ethan**. Ashley is married to Rob and finishing a masters' degree in animal science at Mizzou. Ethan is a senior at SEMO studying marine biology. In her spare time, Celeste enjoys singing at her church, doing plays, and taking tap lessons. For the past ten years, she has performed in local community theater productions and in their church's musical theater productions, doing everything from performing to directing.

Meet the Singers — Peter Hensel

SLCC tenor **Peter Hensel** began singing in the first grade along with his sisters, in the choir of a one-room parochial school in rural Wisconsin, where his father served as teacher. His choral “turning point” came in the fifth grade, when the principal and pastor selected him with two other boys to shoulder the alto part in the school’s singing endeavors. Peter recalls “with the continual backdrop of the Lutheran chorale, part singing was at once thrilling and satisfying.” That same year also marked the beginning of a lifelong preoccupation with the French horn, as obligatory piano lessons continued.



Peter Hensel

Peter says that his “ten digits, two lips and vocal chords” persisted in high school, in school musicals, band, piano recitals and contests, youth symphony, and in the summer-time Symphony School of America, where students performed orchestral and chamber music repertoire along-side their player coaches, professionals from various American orchestras. “The drowning effect of this immersion revealed the French horn to be my musical life preserver. Furthermore, an illogical thought entered my impulsive adolescent mind, namely that one could earn a living playing the French horn.”

Thanks to his parents, encouraging music teachers, and the inspiration of his grandfather’s career in the Minneapolis Symphony during the **Ormandy-Metropolis-Dorati** years, Peter attended music school at

Carnegie Mellon University, under the severe instruction of **Forrest Standley**. As instrumental ups and downs followed, so did choral singing! It steadied the path through college, a year-long orchestral stint in Mexico, graduate studies at the Juilliard School, and an eventual US Army band assignment in Germany.

When Peter moved to St Louis in 2001, courtesy of the Air Force Band of Mid-America, his friends **Carl** and SLCC board member **Avery Springer** invited him to hear the final concert of that SLCC season. He says he’d never heard an *a cappella* arrangement of a Beatles tune before, let alone all the other works from that performance spanning 500 years of choral styles. He concluded “I have to sing with that group!” Peter has been either a full or alternate member most years since the 2001-02 season and says he is eternally grateful to have been a participant with accomplished professionals from a number of disciplines under **Philip Barnes’** boundless and persuasive artistic direction.

As a retired Air Force band member, Peter now teaches horn and music appreciation at Jefferson College and has performed horn at the Fox, MUNY orchestra, SLSO and other freelance occurrences throughout the region. Peter and his artist and German teaching wife, **Jessika** have two sons, **Paul** (11) and **Jakob** (4), one of whom is a veteran of sitting quietly through nearly an entire SLCC dress rehearsal.

This Past Season’s Commissions

This season we matched our 60th—two years ago—by commissioning a new piece for each concert. This is an extraordinary achievement, given their musical demands—each piece was extensive and rigorous, and it is a credit both to the singers and to those contributors whose generosity showed such support in our mission, “not merely to entertain, but to educate and inspire.”

Subscribers this year have enjoyed brand new works by **Wolfram Buchenberg**, **Melissa Dunphy**, **Sydney Guillaume**, **Mårten Jansson**, **Francis Pott**, and **Stuart McIntosh**, together with revivals and US premieres of pieces by **Judith Bingham**, **Racquel Cristóbal**, and **Gabriele Fattorini**. Extracts of many of these, together with informative interviews, may now be viewed on our website www.chamberchorus.org/videos-and-radio.



Philip Barnes with Sydney Guillaume at the April concert

Noteworthy Notes



Bruce and Linda Ryder with Philip Barnes and Francis Pott at the Music Center in University City for the world premiere.

Commission Brings Both Music and Friendship

After singing several pieces by **Francis Pott**, **Bruce Ryder** decided he wanted to commission a piece to honor his marriage to **Linda**, and their musical life within the Chorus. The Ryders were able to visit Francis and his wife Ginny in England, and through developments both predictable and unforeseen have forged a friendship that reaches beyond their February 2018 commission of *Ardor Amoris*.

New CD Features Choral Classics

The latest commercial CD by the Chamber Chorus, *Saint Louis Classics*, is now available for purchase. Released by **Regent Records** (UK), it was recorded in February 2017 at Second Presbyterian Church (CWE). The selection includes canonical works of the repertoire by Kodály, Schumann, and Sibelius, as well as rarities by Bantock and Vaughan Williams, and an SLCC commission from **Bob Chilcott**.

Our deep gratitude is owed to **Dr. Margaret S. Albin-Wilson** for underwriting this project, and to **American National Insurance** for its additional support.

Wine Country Dinner to Support SLCC

Join **Philip and Rachael Barnes** for an alfresco wine tasting dinner on October 6, 2018 generously hosted by **Craig and Kristine Suntrup** on their family farm in Sullivan, Missouri. For ticket information go to www.chamberchorus.org/winedinner or check the ticket desk at today's concert.

Assistant Conductor Steps Down

For more than a decade **Mary Chapman** has not only been a leading light of our soprano section but has also served as one of our assistant conductors. Her musicianship and infectious enthusiasm for all things choral have been invaluable to us, but her growing obligations as a singer, teacher and church choir director, not to mention plenty of family commitments, have led her to step down as our Assistant Conductor. While we express our deep gratitude to Mary for how she has supported the group as a leader, it is a great comfort and pleasure to note that she will continue to sing with the Chorus. Thank you, Mary, and here's to your next season!



Mary Ongloco Chapman

Philip Barnes

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