



VOICEMAIL

April 2013

Pre-Concert Lectures

Audience members who arrived early for the Sunday, February 17 concert at St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church were treated to a pre-concert lecture. The concert theme was *Music and Movies Go Hand in Hand* and the conversation was between **SLCC Artistic Director Philip Barnes** and **Dr. Todd Decker**, assistant professor of music at Washington University. Barnes talked about the way movie music usually enhances what is being shown visually, but sometimes seemingly innocent music can be played during tragic scenes for artistic and ironic effect.

Much of the dialogue discussed the pieces being performed in the concert, including **Trevor Jones'** new composition of *Psalm 23* for a movie adaptation of **Kate Mosse's** novel, *Labyrinth*. The Chamber Chorus recorded this new work for the soundtrack, and the concert provided its first public performance.

Decker talked of the synergy between Richard Rodgers and Lorenz Hart and later, Oscar Hammerstein II with whom he wrote *The Sound of Music*. Some of the religious music composed for that movie was sung in the concert.



Dr. Todd Decker and Artistic Director Philip Barnes

He mentioned the music of John Williams who started composing for Steven Spielberg's movies over thirty

years ago, beginning with *Close Encounters of the Third Kind*. Every Spielberg movie since then has included music by Williams. One anecdote tells of a piece of music by Williams that was two minutes too long for the scene. Instead of asking Williams to cut it, Spielberg extended the action to match the composition! Music from his movie *Empire of the Sun* was featured in the concert.

Philip Barnes says that St. Louis is a city blessed with erudite musicians and scholars aplenty, so whenever possible his printed program notes will be enhanced with the comments of experts in various fields. "Sometimes these guests will focus on the music, but they may also address the texts we're singing, or the building in which we're performing." Look forward to more of these pre-concert presentations next season.

Gill Waltman

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The Saint Louis Chamber Chorus

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Message from the President

Everyone who has attended our concerts knows that **Artistic Director Philip Barnes** devises unique programs that include works by composers whose names are familiar along with those less well known, composed across decades or centuries, with season and concert themes presented in venues appropriate to each concert both thematically and acoustically. He hasn't been called "Mr. Creativity" for nothing! So I wish you a warm welcome to this most unusual choral concert venue, the South Broadway Athletic Club for today's performance, *Musicians Wrestle Everywhere*.

In addition to today's concert, we have organized a silent auction and invite you to participate in this fundraising event. Read about the many generously donated items in your program booklet. As with most organizations like ours, ticket sales do not cover all of our expenses. Special thanks to **Rachael Barnes**

and singer and board member **Kate Leslie** for planning and organizing this auction.

I would like to thank the Board of Directors who give generously to the organization in so many ways. On behalf of the Board, I express our gratitude to **Philip Barnes**, Executive Director **Linda Ryder**, Assistant Directors **Mary Chapman** and **Orin Johnson**, and Rehearsal Accompanist **Martha Shaffer**. Above all, thanks are due to the dedicated singers whose talent, artistry and hard work have made the St. Louis Chamber Chorus, according to critics, one of the best *a cappella* choirs in the country. I hope to see you on May 26 at the St. Francis de Sales Oratory for the final concert of this season, and on October 6 at the Ethical Society for the first concert of our 58th season.

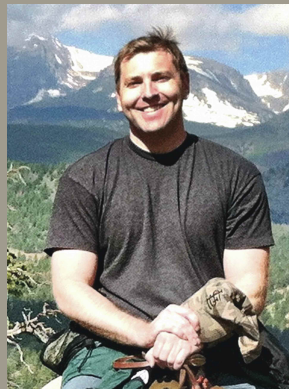
Barbara Uhlemann

Meet the Singers — Jonathan Brader

Jonathan's musical journey began at a young age because his mom is a musician. He started singing in the church choir and took piano lessons as a boy. He was always more interested in playing outside than practicing, so was allowed to stop taking piano lessons if he promised to play an instrument when he got to sixth grade. As a result, he says he is not the best pianist. He attended Truman State University to pursue a major in Trumpet Performance and Communications. After his first semester, he changed his major to Vocal Performance and minored in Communications. While at Truman, he co-founded and sang with *True Men*, a men's *a cappella* group, and sang in *Cantoria*, the university's *a cappella* chorus. Both groups were instrumental in developing his love of *a cappella* singing.

After college, Jonathan wound up in the "music business" and worked first at Opera Theater, and later, the St. Louis Symphony. He also wrote and performed music and in 2002, recorded a pop rock album of original songs in Nashville with the help of a friend who was working at a major recording studio there. He promoted the album by playing shows in town and around the country with the help of many friends.

Jonathan also performed with the Bach Society as Principal Baritone. During the '02-'03 season, he heard



Jonathan Brader on horseback

Philip Barnes on KWMU and sought out the Chamber Chorus. He auditioned and became an alternate for the '03-'04 season. He has been a full-time member of the Chorus since the '04-'05 season. In addition to continuing to write and perform rock/pop music, Jonathan has performed in a number of operas with Union Avenue Opera, including the critically acclaimed, *Dead Man Walking*, in 2011.

Beyond his music interests, Jonathan enjoys numerous outdoor activities such as road and mountain biking, camping and hiking. In the fall of 2011, he became a proud part-owner of a racehorse and has since expanded the "stable" to include three thoroughbreds. Their full-time home is Churchill Downs where they are trained by Tim Glyshaw. At the recent Pan Zaretta Stakes in New Orleans, his horse, My My My Maria, won! Jonathan finances his musical and equine exploits by managing all aspects of a national lecture series that takes place in five cities around the country. This includes the St. Louis Speakers Series presented by Maryville University. He says that the glamorous part of his job is socializing with celebrities and politicians, but most of the time he is in his office, working hard on planning the next event.

Gill Waltman

Meet the Singers — Elise Ibendahl

Elise grew up in the village of DuBois, Ill., a place about an hour east of St. Louis with a very strong Polish heritage. When she was five, her mother encouraged her to take piano lessons. Seventeen years later, she graduated with a minor in Piano and Voice Performance from Christian Brothers University in Memphis. Three sisters, including former SLCC soprano, **Jen Harkey**, also play piano and sing and love to make music together. Brother-in-law **Jay Harkey** sings bass with the Chorus. Elise learned to play the organ in grade school and played her first wedding in 8th grade for a brave cousin! She took up the French horn in high school and continued playing through college in the Rhodes College orchestra.



Elise Ibendahl
Photo by Jill Ritter Photography

Elise always loved math and science, and comes from a long line of engineers and technical tinkerers. She was torn between choosing a future in engineering or music. After making a list of the pros and cons of each, she realized the elaborate list itself was a pretty clear indicator that she was destined for an engineering career. She graduated with a degree in Civil Engineering from CBU in 1997 where her piano teacher, **Dr. Brian Ray**, broadened her horizons beyond engineer-favorites Mozart and Bach and gave her a love for French piano music that she will always cherish. Paradoxically, to her voice teacher's great dismay, she refused to sing anything in French. Elise was the head accompanist for all the university's choirs, and played for many campus liturgies.

Professionally, Elise is the Global Technology Lead for Floodplain Management for CH2M HILL, a large international engineering company, and the recent past president of the St. Louis Section of the American Society of Civil Engineers. She solves flooding problems, designs green infrastructure, and builds hydraulic models of sewers —and loves her job. She says, "if you've enjoyed the new river through Forest Park, you've enjoyed the fruits of about five years of my life's work—it was a great privilege, incredibly fun and rewarding to help bring one of my favorite spaces back to life." Her two

worlds collided a couple of years ago when she sang the National Anthem at a Society of American Military Engineers/Levee Conference!

After hours, Elise turns into super-mom of daughter Keaton (10), son Chapin (8) and daughter Regan Rose (6). All three are studying violin, and Keaton also sings and plays piano, among a million other busy activities. She and husband Stephen were high school sweethearts. He is a landscape architect who is wonderfully supportive of her many talents.

This is her fifteenth year affiliated with SLCC, interspersed some seasons as an alternate while having babies and leading the St. Louis community of Civil Engineers. Elise is happy to be back as a full member this season!

Gill Waltman

New Chorus CD in Production

In late February British producer **Gary Cole** returned to St. Louis for his fourth visit, this time to work with the Chorus on a new anthology of American choral masterpieces. Most of the pieces are in our current repertoire, and were heard either during last season or this one. Several of the selections will receive their first recording with this release on Regent Records, due out in the fall.

All the pieces, however, sounded magnificent in the resonant and warm acoustic of Second Presbyterian Church in the Central West End, the location for the recording. Our last collaboration with Regent, *Christmas from St. Louis*, released only 18 months ago, has nearly sold out!

Watch for news of this new CD featuring the Chorus. Updates for the release date will be provided as we approach the 58th season.

Philip Barnes

Noteworthy Notes

Silent Auction to Benefit SLCC

Before, during intermission and after Sunday's concert, music lovers can participate in a silent auction to benefit SLCC. Auction items include two opportunities to dine with **Philip and Rachael Barnes** in the homes of SLCC board members, tea with Philip and composer **Sasha Johnson Manning** a Cardinals game with **Linda and Bruce Ryder**, and a myriad of gift certificates for restaurants, tickets to the Symphony, Opera Theatre and the Speakers Series.

There is a wonderful selection of foods, fine wine, original art work, boxed sets of music and books, retail and pampering services—even golf and boot camp!

Tables will be open at 2:00 p.m. and close shortly after the concert. Look at today's program booklet for details.

Purchase Your Season Subscriptions Today

We hope you will renew or purchase your subscription for our 58th concert season. Your subscription supports the organization, is a savings over the cost of individual tickets, and guarantees seating in the most acoustically-advantageous area in each venue. Those who renew early will receive an extra ticket to the first concert. Take advantage of this bonus by bringing a friend who is not familiar with the St. Louis Chamber Chorus. So be sure to visit us at the intermission or after the concert to reserve your subscription today!

Post-Concert Dining Opportunities

For the past year or so, members of the SLCC Board have made arrangements with a local restaurant in the vicinity of each concert venue for singers and concert-goers to meet somewhere for dinner after almost every concert. Many of you will remember such an evening last year at Fitz's in the Delmar Loop. This is not an event requiring advanced reservations, but an informal gathering where you can order whatever you want with the added benefit that a percentage of your food and beverage receipt will be donated to the Chorus.

All you need do is show your concert program, ticket stub or just mention the Chorus to your server to participate. The location will be revealed in advance of the concert on the website and by eBlast and announced at the beginning of the concert.

After the Sunday April 14 concert, stop on your way home at PW Pizza in the Lafayette Square neighborhood. You can enjoy dinner and benefit the Chorus at the same time!



PW Pizza
2017 Chouteau, St. Louis, MO 63103
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For more information about concerts, tickets or auditions:

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Advance Ticket Purchases:

Buy tickets online at our website
www.chamberchorus.org

or contact
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