



VOICEMAIL

February 2016

Celebrating Love

Jon Wilson earned the admiration and perhaps envy of spouses everywhere by celebrating his 20th wedding anniversary with a commission to a wildly popular British composer, **Gabriel Jackson**. The result, which even enticed the composer to our shores, was *Felices Ter*, a double choir setting of joyful words by the ancient poet Horace (he of "carpe diem" fame).

Above the rich choral sound two individual singers exchanged and interwove beautiful solo lines to represent the bride and the groom. This 'new classic' for Jon and Stacey will be published later in the year by Oxford University Press, allowing other choirs around the world to mark similar milestones.

Philip Barnes

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Save the Date

May 29, 2016

SLCC 60th Season Gala Celebration

The Saint Louis Chamber Chorus

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www.chamberchorus.org

Message from the President

The second half of our 60th season starts today! We look forward to bringing you our spring concerts. Today, we look at love; in April, we'll focus on a range of gods; and in May, we will sing beautiful music *in memoriam*.

As a unique treat for all our subscribers and audience members, we will hold a special event after our May 29 concert; a Gala Celebration that will give you the chance to meet our singers and conductors...and one of our favorite composers! We hope you will join us for this event on the Washington University campus. Why should you come? You'll have the chance to gather informally with others who also appreciate beautiful music, and to meet many of our chorus members who have performed so brilliantly for you this season. As the SLCC board president, I love working with the singers, conductors and composers, but I am looking forward to the chance to thank them all personally and informally for all they do to enrich our lives. Former composer-in-residence **Sasha Johnson Manning**, a long-time composer for the Chorus, will join us from the UK and share her experiences with us as well. As a fun addition, you'll have the chance to bid in a silent auction for unique, one-of-a-kind items you just can't get anywhere else.

So, plan to come. Add the Gala Celebration to your calendar right now, or as soon as you get home. We look forward to seeing you.

Dick Brickson

Meet the Singers — Caroline Ibnabdeljalil

Caroline grew up in Potosi, a small town in Missouri. She says she is not from a musical family, but was always surrounded by music growing up. She began piano lessons when she was six. She loved to sing, either in church or in her elementary school musicals. She learned to play the French horn when she was in the 6th grade. The same year she was also asked to be the pianist for the 8th grade jazz band!

Caroline joined her high school choir as an accompanist, not a singer. One day while singing *a cappella* with the choir, a teacher heard her voice and said "no more piano for you". She started private voice lessons and went from there. She pursued a double-major in vocal performance and music education at Southeast Missouri State University. After graduation she accepted a position teaching 5th and 6th grade music and was the assistant high school choir director at Perryville schools.

In 2002 she accepted the position as choir director at University City High School and has been there since. Caroline directs, publicizes, rehearses and produces the school's spring musical. She has coached many of her high school singers to the All-District level and beyond. She has students who have traveled to Germany, Austria and New York all for voice and one student made it to Hollywood on *American Idol*. In



Caroline Ibnabdeljalil

2009 she became the district music facilitator. She was written up in an article called *Art for Arts Sake* in *St. Louis Magazine*.

Her other roles include being assistant music director for the Youth Sing Praise summer camp from 2008-2011, choral chair of the E. Desmond Lee collaborative, cantor for the national shrine of Our Lady of the Snows from 2006-2013 and cantor at Saint Peter Catholic Church of Kirkwood. She has sung in recitals with Baroque St. Louis, and performed in and directed Maryland

Heights Community Music Theater.

She met Fayçal Ibnabdeljalil in University City. He is the French teacher at the high school and a tennis pro at Missouri Athletic Club. Although she says he is definitely not musical, he did run the Louisville Ironman in August of 2014—a huge accomplishment. He is originally from Casablanca. Fayçal and Caroline have traveled there multiple times to visit family and friends. Their twin boys Ayden and Zayn were born in March, 2012 and their daughter Amelia in October, 2014. Caroline will never forget singing in the concert at the Schlafly Tap Room in February, directing the musical *Aida*, and then having the twins the next week!

Gill Waltman

Meet the Singers — Chris Kilfoyle

Chris was born in Tacoma, Washington and moved to St. Louis to be closer to family when he was two years old. He showed an avid interest in music from an extremely young age. His parents recounted that whenever the *Star-Spangled Banner* would come on the television he would come running in to listen. In elementary school, he immersed himself in music, joining the school's special chorus and began getting invitations to other special chorus groups and honor choirs. At Crestview Middle School in Ellisville he met **Sue Williams**, the choir director. She told his parents that he had great talent; this was relayed to Chris and inspired him to work hard to improve his voice. She was probably one of the biggest influences Chris ever had on going into a life of music. It led him to the top choirs in high school and he was fortunate to attend the Missouri All-State Choir during his senior year.

Chris attended Missouri State University and studied under **Dr. Guy Webb**. While in college, he sang in the school's top choir and took two international tours, the first being to Italy and the second to Austria. After graduation, Chris landed a couple of teaching jobs; one at the Academy of the Sacred Heart and the other at Eureka Elementary School in the Rockwood School District.



Chris Kilfoyle

Chris heard about the Chamber Chorus from a friend who had performed in a joint concert with the Chorus and Webster University's choir. He immediately called and auditioned with Philip, Orin, and Mary and was accepted as a full tenor. He says he has been fortunate to sing with the choir since. Chris comments, "Singing under the direction of Philip is a very rewarding experience. He is well prepared and extremely knowledgeable about the history of each composition and exceedingly adept at bringing out

the expression of each piece. I have a lot of respect for how much hard work and dedication he puts into each concert."

Chris says his life-long goal is to direct a choir program of his own, but that sometimes life makes changes for you whether you like them or not. At the moment, he is a manager at Fortel's Pizza Den in University City. He plans to go back for a master's degree in conducting, composing or music history and is working towards his goal. Meanwhile, he is still heavily involved with choral singing and music—aside from the Chorus, he sings in three groups with his church at Living Word United Methodist. He also loves playing racquetball, billiards, and throwing darts.

Gill Waltman

Christmas Concert – Auf Deutsch!

For the Christmas concert, held at Trinity Lutheran Church in Soulard on Sunday Dec. 20, Philip Barnes chose a combination of pieces composed by Germans sung in German (notably Mendelssohn, Praetorius and Schütz), but also - his added twist - pieces by non-Germans but on German themes. He says this explains his inclusion of works by Austrians Arnold Schoenberg, Stefan Gerdej and Otto Strübl which were complemented by Martha Shaffer's version of an Austrian song and Stephen Paulus's sumptuous arrangement of Silent Night. His other surprises were Clare Maclean's lullaby *Susaninne* and John Rutter's *Still, Still, Still*, together with a German take on an English carol (*I Saw Three Ships*) by Wolfram Buchenberg.

In that vein, SLCC commissioned former composer-in-residence Yakov Gubanov to give us his (new) version of the familiar words *Es ist ein Ros entsprungen*. Philip says Yakov warmed to this challenge as he had spent some time living and teaching in Germany prior to his move to the USA. Sadly, he could not be with us for the premiere as he is currently living in Italy, hard at work on a commission from the National Symphony of the Ukraine for a new symphony.

Gill Waltman

Noteworthy Notes

Kansas City Road Trip

Chorus members boarded a chartered bus at John Burroughs School on Nov. 14, 2015 for an away concert appearance. They arrived at Grace and Holy Trinity Episcopal Cathedral in Kansas City at 3:30 p.m. after a five-hour trip.

The interior of the church with its dark stone architecture was gorgeous. The choir warmed up in the space and experimented with singing both in front of and behind the chancel screen—the latter being the acoustic winner.



Photo by Matthew Chapman

The concert began at 5:00 p.m. as the choir embarked on one of its more challenging programs, especially given the day of travel! They sang five large pieces in each half and then an encore. Several were SLCC commissions, including pieces by composers **Howard Helvey**, **Stephen Paulus**, **Gabriel Jackson**, and **Bob Chilcott**. The choir sang to a very appreciative audience. **Sarah Bryan Miller's** *Post Dispatch* review highlighted the work *In the Beginning* by writing "Soprano **Mary Ongioco Chapman** repeated her triumph as a soloist in the Copland."

Following the concert, church members provided a lovely dinner serving risotto and an amazing carrot cake. Members slept or chatted on the way home arriving safely back in St. Louis around midnight.

Kelly Daniel-Decker

60 in 60!

Please help us celebrate our 60th season by becoming one of 60 new donors! Many of you have risen to our challenge, but we are not there yet. For information on how to contribute, contact **Linda Ryder** or one of the board members at the concert or check the website www.chamberchorus.org.

New CD – *Saint Louis Firsts*

Our new compact disc is finally here and should make an ideal gift to any lover of choral music. We've called it *Saint Louis Firsts* because all of its eleven tracks were written initially for us. Though many have found subsequent admirers and interpreters, they were SLCC commissions and through this disc we can demonstrate to a wider public our commitment to enlarge and enhance the *a cappella* repertoire. The selections are both sacred and secular, originate on three continents, and include everything from carols to a movie soundtrack. If you've admired any of our commissions in recent years, this CD is for you. It will shortly become available through Regent Records' worldwide distributors, as well as through iTunes, but for now we are your only source.

Philip Barnes

After the Concert

After today's concert, why not have dinner at Pi Pizzeria in the Central West End (44 N. Euclid Ave.)? Join the composer Francis Pott and the SLCC personnel for some of the best pizza in St. Louis. Be sure to mention you're with the Chorus and a portion of your check will be donated to SLCC.

For more information about concerts, tickets or auditions:

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