



VOICEMAIL

November 2016

Season Opener

Following the theme for the 61st season, *New Sites – New Sounds*, the first concert was held at a new site for the Chorus—the Resurrection of Our Lord Catholic Church—a beautiful Vietnamese church on Meramec.

Our current 'composer-in-residence' **Melissa Dunphy** was on hand to put the finishing touches to her new work written expressly for us, *The Day of Resurrection*. It's not lost on the singers that we are the first to make printed notes an aural reality, and to meet the originator of those notes is a real privilege.

No matter how much or how little composers alter and critique our perception of their creation, singing before them elevates our performance. And for the composers, the opportunity to hear the Chorus's distinct sound enlivening their music is both rewarding and inspiring. I have often noticed how subsequent commissions from the same composer speak more personally to our choir. And even after the formal partnership is over, we have maintained a close relationship with Melissa's predecessors, **Sasha Johnson Manning**, **Clare Maclean**, and **Yakov Gubanov**, and based on the works she has already written for us, the same will undoubtedly be true for Melissa.

Thanks to **Linda** and **Bruce Ryder** for generously underwriting this recent commission, and if you would like to follow their example, please contact Philip Barnes through the Chorus office.

Philip Barnes

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Philip Barnes with Melissa and Matt Dunphy at the champagne reception following the concert. This reception was offered as a subscriber benefit.

The Saint Louis Chamber Chorus

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Welcome to Our 61st Season

This season, the St. Louis Chamber Chorus offers you new music in all new venues. One of the most appealing things about attending our concerts is that you get to experience our music in historic and distinct places that make St. Louis so exciting. This season, we will take you to six venues where we have never performed before. Enjoy the music of the Chorus while experiencing the images, beauty and history of these fantastic buildings, and the chance to learn something new at each new place.

Esley Hamilton, recognized as St. Louis's most prominent and energetic preservation historian over more than a third of a century is the author of short informative essays about each of our venues that he writes for our annual season brochures. He brings to life the architecture of each building and the history of each site for us. Be sure to read his descriptions of our new venues.

Today, welcome to the New Mt. Sinai Cemetery, another new site for us. For more than 160 years, the cemetery has provided Jewish families with a time-honored final resting place for their loved ones. Many men and women who have contributed greatly to St. Louis and to its Jewish community, including rabbis, cantors, philanthropists, business leaders, political figures and veterans from every major conflict since the Mexican-American War in 1846, are buried here. The Cemetery offers the only Mausoleum available in the St. Louis Jewish community. Enjoy the Mausoleum's gorgeous stained glass window behind the singers. In addition, when the Chorus moves outside to sing Mendelssohn's song cycle "to be sung outdoors", you will be able to experience the hilly and tree-lined grounds of the New Mt. Sinai Cemetery. We do these concerts for you, our audiences, with love and care. We hope you enjoy each concert in this, our 61st season.

Dick Brickson

Meet the Singers — Scott Kinworthy

Scott remembers not liking music at the elementary level and was so excited after completing the sixth grade because he thought he'd never have to take another music class again. When he found out that he had to take a general chorus class in seventh grade he was extremely upset until he met **Mrs. Pat Stewart**. She was the first person to make him like a music class. It was during her class that Scott actually realized that he was good at something! In eighth grade she invited him to sing with her auditioned concert choir. During high school he couldn't get enough music in his schedule and was inspired by **Chuck Phegley** to pursue a career in music.

Scott enlisted in the United States Army Reserves right after high school and served for fifteen years. He completed a tour in Iraq from February 2003-August 2004. During his tour he received an Army Reserve Commendation Medal with Valor and a Purple Heart. He didn't sing during his time with the reserves.

Scott says that he knows it doesn't make sense but he enrolled at Jefferson College and earned an Associate Degree in Accounting and then continued to Missouri State University to finish his bachelor's degree. All his close friends were music majors and sang in the choir with him. Listening to them talk about their classes and plans made him realize he was in the wrong field.



Scott Kinworthy

Although he wasn't a music major, he auditioned with **Dr. Guy B. Webb** and received a music scholarship. He switched his major during his senior year of college and finally graduated in 1998 with a Bachelor's degree in Music Education under the direction of Dr. Webb.

In 2002, Scott earned a Master's of Music in Education with an emphasis in Choral Conducting from the University of Missouri-St. Louis. He has been a choir director for nineteen years and currently teaches at Webster Groves High School. In

2006 and 2015 his choir was selected to perform at the MMEA convention. His concert choir will perform again at the 2017 MMEA convention in January.

Scott first heard about the Chorus through **Bentley** and **Erin Caughlan**. They had encouraged him to join so he met and was auditioned by **Philip Barnes**. This is his first season with the Chorus and so far says it has been amazing!

Scott has been married for seventeen years to **Lisa Kinworthy**, the Percussion Instructor and Associate Band Director of Parkway South High School. They have a fourteen-year-old daughter, Rebekah Grace, who attends Webster Groves High School.

Gill Waltman

Meet the Singers — Christine Hemphill

Christine's love of music began at a very early age—she began piano lessons at the age of six, and studied with **Carol Wipke**, **Dr. Richard Han-non**, **Anne Nagle**, and **Daniel Schene**. Through their instruction over the years, she was led to begin accompanying singers and choirs in middle and high school.

Her family was always singing and listening to music when she was growing up, so joining choirs was a pretty natural choice for her. Christine first studied voice lessons with **Tom Lowery**, then continued on to the University of Missouri Kansas City and at Webster University. At UMKC she worked with **Frank Curtis**, **Un Chong Christopher**, and **Michael Cousins**. She says that her most impactful teacher was probably **Gary Sims** at Webster University. He not only taught her to be a great singer and musician, but shared a good deal of his pedagogy techniques that have helped her with her own music studio.

For the past twelve years Christine has owned and operated The Monarch Music School, where she teaches private piano and voice lessons. She has had the good



Christine Hemphill

fortune to work with hundreds of students over the years—her youngest was 3, and the oldest was 87!

Christine first encountered SLCC after she completed her undergraduate degree in 2004. She performed with the Chorus for one season, and then left to develop her own music studio. In 2011 Christine finished her master's degree and got married, so she decided that would be a good time to revisit the SLCC—she says she has been very happy with that decision!

She and her husband **Charlie Guthrie** live in the Southampton neighborhood with their dog Waffles. On the weekends they have a busy gig as food bloggers with their website We Eat Stuff. They write, photograph, produce videos, and record podcasts of food and drink people throughout the St. Louis area. Their mission is to share what a great place St. Louis is to eat and drink, and to support local businesses and restaurateurs. (www.weeatstuff.com)

Gill Waltman

Tour of New Mt. Sinai Cemetery

It was a glorious Saturday morning in October, sunny and mild with a bright blue sky, when about twenty Chamber Chorus supporters enjoyed an amazing tour of the New Mt. Sinai Cemetery led by renowned historian **Esley Hamilton**. This was one of the auction items from our 60th anniversary gala last May. It is the venue for the second concert of the 61st season for the Chamber Chorus. This cemetery is a trove of St. Louis history and a place of beauty, both because of its natural setting and because of its wealth of artistic monuments that span 19th and 20th century design.

We started the day with a light breakfast of coffee, fruit and scones donated by Jane Gilbert. Then Esley took the group on a fabulous 90-minute tour through this amazing gem. Esley, of course, knows his subject thoroughly. He gave us a short history of the Jewish community in St. Louis, talked about the previous cemetery that was displaced when the railroads came through the center of the city, and discussed how the new cemetery came to be opened on Gravois, way out from the settled parts of St. Louis. The tour itself focused on the architecture of the monuments, which show a number of different styles through the years. But Esley also talked about the people buried there—their businesses, their relationships, their interests, their descendants.

We learned about the symbols adorning monuments and mausoleums as well as the history of some of the key business, civic and philanthropic leaders of Saint Louis including family names of Baer, May, Fox, Harris and Stix. Esley adeptly moved the group through the entire cemetery and pointed out interesting particulars from architectural details to amusing epitaphs including one for Henry Scherck that stated "He always tried." We are grateful to Esley for sharing his passion and making the history within this place come alive. It was an enlightening and enjoyable morning. (See photo on back page.)

Contributed by George Durnell and Jane Gilbert

Noteworthy Notes

Annual SLCC Picnic

The annual Chorus picnic was held on Saturday September 10th at the Ryan Hummert Memorial Park in Maplewood. It was attended by singers, board members and their families. The organizers were **Katie Loeper** (soprano) and **Chris Kilfoyle** (tenor.) **Chris** and **Bentley Caughlan** (bass) were the grill masters.

After threatening rain, the weather turned for the better and was perfect for the picnic. While attendance was a tad lower than in previous years, it was still well-attended, and everyone had a great time.

Mary Ongjoco Chapman



Grill masters Bentley Caughlan and Chris Kilfoyle



Singers, board members and their families at the picnic



New Mt. Sinai Cemetery tour, led by Esley Hamilton

After the Concert

Join us for dinner after the concert at Aya Sofia Restaurant. Please identify yourself as a Chamber Chorus supporter; and Aya Sofia will kindly donate a percentage of your check to the choir.

Directions: Turn right out of the cemetery, turn left at the 3rd light—River Des Peres Parkway. After the first stop sign, go another 1/2 mile and take the right turn (it is unmarked) that leads to Chippawa. Cross Jameison and it is on the left—park in the Eagle Bank parking lot.



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concerts, tickets or auditions:

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