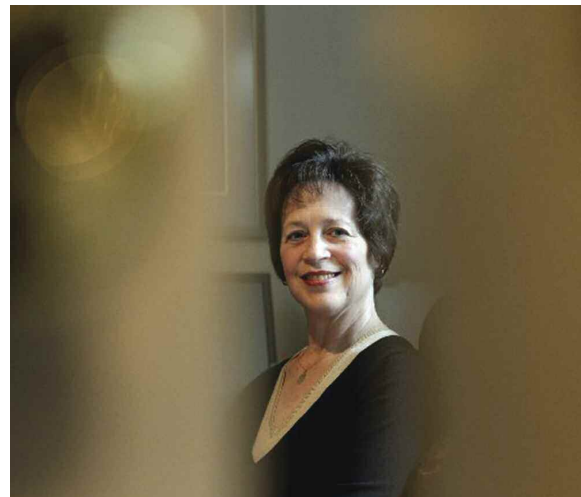




VOICEMAIL

May 2017

A Tribute to Linda Ryder



Linda Ryder (photo courtesy of the St. Louis Post Dispatch)

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Making music in a vacuum may be possible for a solitary artist, but in a genre as cooperative and collective as choral music, it matters where you sing (i.e. venue), with whom you sing (i.e. your fellow choristers), and finally who organizes your performance. Without that final leadership weeks and months of rehearsing are wasted, and frustrations abound. This is the debt we owe to **Linda Ryder**: the efficient and professional direction of a disparate group of individuals. Our continued success is testimony to her vision, energy and professionalism. And as everyone can attest, she has tackled every challenge with determination and even a smile!

In the GO Awards of the Post-Dispatch Linda was hailed as one of St. Louis's 'unsung arts heroes'. Such recognition is more than deserved, except that her achievements have, in fact, been regularly sung, albeit indirectly; for every performance you have heard has been in part testimony to her management and dedication to the Arts. Linda has served our choir selflessly for many years and her legacy is all about you, and for this we are most grateful.

Thank you, Linda; it's time for you to sit back and enjoy the music!

Philip Barnes

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Message from the President

As we bring the 61st season to a close, please join me in celebrating two jobs well done:

Without a doubt, the Chorus completed a terrific year, with new music by talented composers, including **Melissa Dunphy, Sasha Johnson Manning, Bob Chilcott, Eriks Esenvalds, and Judith Bingham.** Judith is here in the audience today and we hope you will stay to meet her after the concert.

And, of course, we are delighted to recognize **Linda Ryder** and all she has brought to the Chorus over the past 20 years. As audience members and subscribers, you see a lot of what Linda does with grace and skill—she is our face for dealing with your tickets, your experience at each venue, and your primary contact when you have questions. But you don't see the broad range of other things she does for us that has helped put us on such a firm foundation.

Let me share with you just how broad her portfolio is:

Linda manages our relationships with the major organizations that give us substantial grants, and with our donors and advertisers, helping strengthen our financial position.

She collaborates with the skilled artists and historians and others who help put together our

season program booklet, and season brochures. She oversees all our advertising and marketing, completes grant applications on a timely basis and makes sure our taxes and other governmental filings are in order.

Linda keeps up with our subscribers through advertisements, our website, our mailings and the many one-on-one relationships that she has helped nurture over the years.

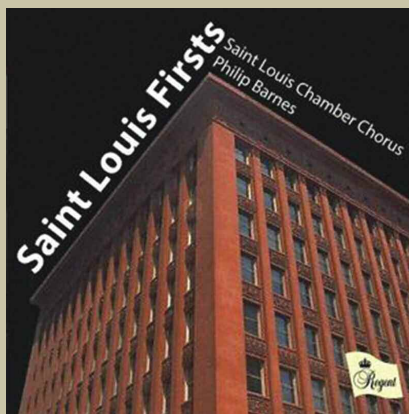
She has put us in an enviable position of having wonderful relationships within our community. When we reported that she was retiring and advertised for people to apply for her position, we were very pleasantly surprised that so many talented and skilled people applied for her position. The applicants recognized that Linda had set a very high bar, and they wanted to help build on that background.

As we have noted elsewhere, we are thrilled that **Laura Frank** applied for the position and accepted our offer. Laura is a worthy and committed successor to Linda. We'll have more for you on Laura next fall.

Please join us after today's concert to celebrate Linda's long history and valuable contributions to the Chorus and to the community.

Dick Brickson

Chorus Receives National Recognition



The Chamber Chorus is proud to announce that it has received third place in a juried competition, The American Prize for Choral Performance, 2016-2017. This national competition began in 2010, and recognizes excellence through recorded performances; on this occasion we were represented by our CD, *Saint Louis Firsts*.

Do you have your copy? If not, inquire at the ticket desk!

Composer-in-Residence Update

In February, it was a delight to welcome back to St. Louis our Composer-in-Residence, **Melissa Dunphy**, this time not for a piece she has written for us, but for a performance of the work that first brought her to our attention: *What Do You Think I Fought For At Omaha Beach?* This highly charged piece brought out the best in our singers, and was the subject of seminars she gave at Washington University and a local high school. We look forward to her next SLCC commission, which will conclude next season.

We congratulate Melissa on successfully submitting her doctoral project, an opera of the life of Ayn Rand, to the University of Pennsylvania. She was awarded a Ph.D. earlier this month at a ceremony in Philadelphia.



Philip with Melissa in February at the *Revolution and Revelation* concert held at the Karpeles Manuscript Library Museum

Philip Barnes

Next Season – A New Composition at Each Concert

One of the exciting features of our new season, *Dance to the Music of Time*, will be the inclusion at each performance of a brand new work written for the Chamber Chorus. This accords with our mission to promote new choral music to be shared not only with our singers and listeners in St. Louis, but also with the wider musical community around the globe. The composers who have agreed to write for us in 2017-2018 are, in order of the premieres, **Mårten Jansson** (Sweden), **Stuart McIntosh** (UK), **Wolfram Buchenberg** (Germany), **Francis Pott** (UK), **Sydney Guillaume** (Haiti/USA), and **Melissa Dunphy** (USA). And as with **Judith Bingham**, we hope to welcome many of these international composers to St. Louis to hear their new works in person.

And it is not too soon to start thinking about 2018-2019; to engage inspired, talented composers who are greatly in demand requires plenty of 'lead time'. We have already contracted with some leading composers, and are currently responding to supporters of the Chorus who are interested in commissioning a new work. If you would like to know more about the process, and the unique opportunities it offers to celebrate or commemorate those near to our hearts, contact **Philip Barnes** directly.

DANCE
to the
MUSIC of TIME

Noteworthy Notes

Recording Session

At the tail end of February, Chorus members gave up four consecutive nights to record our next CD, *St. Louis Classics*. As the title would suggest, the repertoire was a selection of major works from the canon, with compositions by Gretchaninov, Kodály, Schumann and Sibelius. Rarities from familiar names included premiere recordings of large-scale works by Bantock and Vaughan Williams, and we slipped in **Bob Chilcott's** fantasia on the classic Elizabethan madrigal, *The Silver Swan*. A selection of iconic *a cappella* works, then, and definitely something to look forward to!

We anticipate a release date of November 2017, so look for an announcement on our website and at our concerts in the Fall.

Reception After the Concert

There will be a reception adjacent to the church immediately following the performance for all concert-goers. This will be an opportunity to meet composer **Judith Bingham**, whose premiere *Ceaselessly Weaving Your Name* will be heard in this last concert of the season, and also to thank **Linda Ryder** for her many years of service with the Chorus. All are welcome!

COMMOTIO to Sing *Silver Swan*

It's such a delight when one of 'our' commissions is taken up by another choir, and this has already happened with one of the season's new pieces. **Bob Chilcott's** *Silver Swan* that SLCC premiered last November at the New Mt. Sinai Hebrew Cemetery will soon be sung by one of Britain's most innovative and accomplished chamber choirs —COMMOTIO.

The ensemble, based in Oxford, will include the Chilcott work in a program with the theme of birds and birdsong on 10 June; this will be the UK premiere of *Silver Swan* which has just been published by Oxford University Press.

Purchase Your Season Subscriptions Today

We hope you will renew or purchase your subscription for our 62nd concert season. Your subscription supports the organization, guarantees seating in the most acoustically-advantageous area in each venue, and includes Philip's pre-concert letter, ticket exchange benefits, and invitations to post-concert events. So be sure to visit us at the intermission or after the concert to reserve your subscription today!

For more information about concerts, tickets or auditions:

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