



VOICEMAIL

November 2012

Annual Picnic Festivities

The annual picnic has evolved into one of the organization's favorite events, where we can informally welcome new singers and Board members (and their families), as well as renew friendships with current members after our summer hiatus. This year the picnic was held at Tilles Park on August 25th, and was the best-attended picnic so far.

The picnic site was located next to a playground, which was quickly put to good use by the many children in attendance. Mother Nature cooperated, too, as we had perfect weather for the entire day.

Grillmasters **John Clayton** (husband of soprano **Jill**) and **Todd Glass** (husband of soprano and Chorus librarian **Kate**) kept us well-supplied with delicious burgers, hot dogs, and chicken breasts, and we all enjoyed sampling the side dishes and desserts brought by the singers and Board members. After such a successful picnic, we can't wait for next year!

Mary Chapman
Assistant Conductor



From left: Kelly Daniel Decker (soprano), Orin Johnson (assistant conductor/bass), Anna Drexelius, Joe Drexelius (bass), Cecily Borzillo (alto), and Kate Leslie (soprano).

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Personnel Changes

We welcome to our ranks two new full members, **Bentley and Erin Caughlan**, recent graduates from Missouri State University. Bentley joins the bass section, while Erin (soprano) fills the shoes left empty with the relocation of **Erin Ludwick** to Birmingham (AL) where her husband Bruce is the new cathedral organist.

The Saint Louis Chamber Chorus

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New Choral Works Commissioned

We continue to champion new and unfamiliar choral music through commissions and crafting new editions. While Concert II sees the first performance of a new edition of Carissimi's 12-voice mass, our Christmas program will feature a brand new work from celebrated British composer, **Bob Chilcott**, generously commissioned for us by **Dorsey and Sondra Ellis**. It's already completed, and is an ingenious and moving juxtaposition of the traditional *O Magnum Mysterium* prayer with Emily Dickinson's poem *Before The Ice ... Wonder Upon Wonder Will Arrive To Me*.

Also 'in the bag' is the new work from movie composer **Trevor Jones**, whose world premiere will debut

at our February concert. His *Psalm 23* is taken from his score for a new mini-series *Labyrinth*, which will be broadcast later this winter.

Later on this season, our former Composer-in-Residence **Sasha Johnson Manning** will fly out from England for the first performance of her new song cycle, *Musicians Wrestle Everywhere*—the title work of our April concert. Sasha reports that she is already immersed in writing the score, in between watching movies like *Fight Club* and draining cans of Red Bull. We can hardly wait...

Philip Barnes

Meet the Singers — David Goldman

David has been interested in music ever since, as a child growing up in St. Louis, he figured out that he could do more with a piano than just randomly bang on the keys. Fortunately, he had supportive parents who were able to endure the "banging" phase and encouraged his burgeoning interest.

Eventually, he began to take piano lessons through the CASA School for the Arts (now called COCA). Most of his childhood was spent pursuing instrumental music; at the age of 13, he began to study the cello as well. He continued to play both instruments throughout his time at Parkway North High School, where he played in the orchestra and accompanied his fellow musicians during solo performances and competitions.

David also developed an interest in musical theatre during his adolescence. At age 16, he discovered the joys of singing, thanks to the then-brand-new choir teacher (and future fellow St. Louis Chamber Chorus singer) **Brian Reeves**. "Mr. Reeves," in his capacity as the musical director of the school's musical theatre program, provided David with his first taste of vocal music, coaching him in performances of *Pippin* and *Kiss Me Kate*.



David Goldman

After graduating high school, David pursued a college education at Brown University in Providence, Rhode Island. There, he continued to explore the world of vocal music, becoming a member (and eventually musical director) of the Brown Madrigal Singers, a student-run group that performed classical *a cappella* works. He also served as accompanist and co-director of the Brown Encore Singers, a chorus whose mission was to give anyone with a passion for music the chance to sing.

David ultimately chose not to pursue music as a career (although he sometimes regrets that choice!). After graduating from Brown with a B.A. in English, he moved back to St. Louis in 2005. There, thanks once again to encouragement from Brian Reeves, he auditioned for the St. Louis Chamber Chorus and was accepted as a member for the Chorus' 50th season. He also sang with the St. Louis Symphony Chorus for two seasons and, most recently, joined the Ambassadors of Harmony. David supports his music addiction by working at Silgan Plastics providing technical advice to customer service.

Meet the Singers — Jill Clayton

Jill Kathleen Clayton (nee Vandegriff), a soprano with the Chorus since 2002, comes from a musical family; her grandfather was a band director and Jill's mother, **Janet Vandegriff**, is a gifted pianist, singer and choir director. One of Jill's early musical experiences was playing the French horn. She was grateful they didn't tell her it was difficult to play until she was quite proficient. However, Jill's main musical gift is her voice, which her mother helped develop every Sunday in church. She also enjoyed singing secular music as well, at Alton High School.



Jill Clayton

She went on to major in Voice at Covenant College, at Lookout Mountain, Georgia. Following college, she taught music at Lewis and Clark College, and performed in local theater productions of *Into the Woods*, *Brigadoon*, *Crazy for You*, and *Kiss Me Kate*. Jill also enjoyed singing the jazz nativity, *Bending toward the Light* at the Sheldon Concert Hall with legendary jazz musician **Clark Terry**.

Jill completed some graduate studies in choral conducting at Webster University and currently sings in the choir at Central Presbyterian Church in Clayton. She was "sort of" formally introduced to her husband, ex-KFUE-FM radio personality **John Clayton**, by **Philip Barnes**, with, "Jill, do you know who this is?" Philip denied setting them up, until learning they were engaged, whereupon he took full credit. John and Jill got their revenge on Philip on August 14, 2010.

The day after returning from his sabbatical in England, Philip was required to read Shakespeare's Sonnet 116 at their wedding. Despite the jet lag, he acquitted himself admirably.

Jill has loved singing such diverse music with this high-caliber ensemble. With such a dedicated and talented group on the stage, on the staff, and in the board room, Jill feels very fortunate to perform with The Saint Louis Chamber Chorus. To support her choir habit, Jill currently works as the receptionist and insurance coordinator at Volvo Rents in the city.

Message from the President

It is my pleasure to welcome you to the second concert of the 57th season of the Saint Louis Chamber Chorus. As today's concert takes place on November 11, Veteran's Day, here at Christ Church Cathedral and not far from the St. Louis Soldiers' Memorial, we offer a program of somber, thought-provoking and potentially controversial works on the theme of war and the resolution of conflict. We are certain you will agree that under the leadership of Artistic Director **Philip Barnes** the SLCC presents programs you are unlikely to hear from any other choral ensemble, and in the spirit of the mission of the SLCC we hope you will find today's concert an event which entertains, educates and inspires.

We are grateful to our season subscribers for their support and urge those of you who have not purchased a subscription to do so. We will gladly credit

the cost of your ticket today toward a subscription. As a subscriber you will receive a significant savings over the price of individual tickets in addition to reserved seating, informative pre-concert letters from the Artistic Director and ticket exchange privileges.

Moving from the somber theme of today's concert to one of hope and joy, I urge you to join us for one of our two Christmas concerts on Sunday, December 23 at Second Presbyterian Church in the Central West End. Last year these concerts were sold out, so if you are not a season subscriber please purchase your tickets early—either in the lobby today or online at www.chamberchorus.org. I look forward to seeing you on December 23.

Barbara Uhlemann
SLCC President

Noteworthy Notes

After-Concert Gatherings

A new tradition is emerging, initiated by the Chorus Board, looking for informal ways to bring concert-goers and singers together after a performance. Restaurants are approached in the vicinity of upcoming concerts and one is selected for its friendly atmosphere, nearby access and affordable prices.

All anyone attending the concert needs to do is show up at the restaurant or bar; no reservations required, and mention the Chamber Chorus concert. The restaurant tallies the receipts and donates a prearranged percentage. Proceeds are used to subsidize further social events. These either benefit the singers directly, such as the refreshment break between the two Christmas concerts last year, or can provide a reception for a visiting composer, like **Sidney Guillaume**.

Gather friends and family after Sunday's concert at Christ Church Cathedral and head over to **The Bridge at 1004 Locust Street**. They will generously donate 10 percent of proceeds to the SLCC.

Gill Waltman

Our Commissions Live On!

A new CD by London's *Vasari Singers* has been highly acclaimed in the press, who have singled out *When David Heard* by **Francis Pott** as the highlight of the disc, both as a composition and as a performance. SLCC supporters may recall that this work was commissioned by the Saint Louis Chamber Chorus, with which we concluded last season with a stirring repeat performance.

New SLCC Recording Planned

The international success of our three CDs made with Regent Records has prompted executive producer **Gary Cole** once again to brave February in St. Louis to make another recording with us. With engineer **Daniel Ruder** he will guide us through an entirely American repertoire, much of which we have sung this season and last. Though many of the composers are well known names, some of their choral works have yet to receive a professional recording—a situation we intend to rectify with Regent.

Following the sessions in late February, several months will be devoted to editing and writing the accompanying booklet, and we anticipate the finished product will be on sale in the fall of 2013.

Philip Barnes

Christmas CDs for Sale

Those in search of beautiful Christmas music 'a little off the beaten track' need look no further than the Chamber Chorus's recordings. We have four CDs offering a blend of the old and the new, the familiar and the novel. *A Chamber Christmas* has both favorites like *Jingle Bells* and rarely heard winter songs by Thomas Weelkes and Sir Arthur Sullivan, while Victoria's Renaissance mass sung at this year's December 23 program is the focus of *A Spanish Christmas*. An unusual medley of carols from around the world but recorded here live in concert is heard on *Rejoicing In His Birth*, while a few copies remain of our collection of traditional American carols and recent commissions—*Christmas from Saint Louis*. All these discs are available for purchase at our concerts, or through our website.

Philip Barnes

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