



# VOICEMAIL

February 2009

## Message from the President



Barbara Uhlemann,  
SLCC Board President

Welcome to today's concert, *Echoes of Oxbridge*, the fourth concert of the 53rd season of the St. Louis Chamber Chorus. Artistic Director **Philip Barnes** has selected a location for this concert that provides an ideal setting for the works to be performed, namely, compositions written by and for musicians at Oxford and Cambridge Universities. As **Esley Hamilton** explains in the architectural notes in the season booklet, the "collegiate" architectural style of the venue for today's performance, the lovely Chapel of Saint Vincent De Paul, is associated not only with the building and its ornamentation, but with the interior arrangement of the seats, including rows of pews facing each other, as in the college chapels at Oxford and Cambridge.

A marvelous benefit of attending performances of the St. Louis Chamber Chorus is the opportunity to see and explore some of St. Louis's most beautiful places of worship, many of which are seldom open to the public. We are proud of the growing number of locations in which the Chorus has performed, and in this season of six concerts, today's concert and the two to follow are being held in venues new to us.

The efforts of the singers, the Artistic Director and the Executive Director of the St. Louis Chamber Chorus are supported by the dedicated members of the Board of Directors. If you are an admirer of the Chorus, please be aware that we are always looking for friends willing to serve on the board. New ideas and energy are important in any organization and if you would be interested in this possibility, please call 636-458-4343 and we'll be delighted to talk to you.

Thank you for coming to today's concert, and I look forward to seeing you at our next concert, *With Open Palms*, on Palm Sunday, April 5 at the Lutheran Church of the Atonement in Florissant.

**Barbara Uhlemann**  
SLCC President

### In this issue:

Message from the President

New Recording Sessions

Visiting Composers at Final Two Concerts

Meet the Singers — Amanda Meinen

Noteworthy Notes

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## New Recording Sessions

This past November saw the Chamber Chorus in recording sessions again. For this occasion, the repertoire was a wide selection of the choral works of **Sir Granville Bantock**. The recording venue was Our Lady of Sorrows Church on south Kingshighway, and the recording production was again under the direction of our friend **Gary Cole** of Regent Records. Gary returned to us from the UK exactly two years after producing our most recent CD, *Saint Louis Commissions*. And, once again, **Barry Hufker**, recording engineer, and **Martha Shaffer** were on hand to assist the effort in innumerable ways.



Philip Barnes directing SLCC singers and Parkway North High School students



Martha Shaffer monitoring the session

During four chilly evening recording sessions, the complete program of Bantock pieces proposed by Philip to Gary was accomplished. On one evening, singers from both Washington University and Parkway North High School choirs joined SLCC to participate in the sessions. Even a 45-minute delay (due to a wedding rehearsal) on the final recording evening did not deter the effort, and the compilation is now "in the can."

Over the next few months, both Philip and Gary will participate in the editing process that ultimately results in issuance of the final product. The anticipated release date for the CD should be sometime in 2009 or 2010. Stay tuned!

**Dave Bowers**



Recording engineer Barry Hufker (left) and producer Gary Cole (right) recording the session

## Visiting Composers at Final Two Concerts

Two distinguished composers will be in the audience to hear their new works premiered by the Chamber Chorus in the final two concerts of the season. On April 5, **Stephen Paulus** will travel from the Twin Cities to hear his *Stabat Mater*, written to complement a monumental setting of the same text by the 16th century Italian master, Palestrina. Paulus will be familiar to opera lovers for his close relationship with the Opera Theatre of St. Louis that yielded five new works. Dr. Paulus has also written for numerous major orchestras and has been awarded a Guggenheim Fellowship.

Our season concludes a remarkable juxtaposition: the complex and enthralling *Missa In Illo Tempore* of Claudio Monteverdi (1567-1643) with a series of recent works by **Clare Maclean**. Several of these have been written expressly for the Chamber Chorus, the fruits of Clare's 'residency' with us, with one work—*Psalm 137*—being composed specifically for this concert. We will be thrilled to welcome Clare and her husband John Carroll on their first visit to the USA; she will work with the singers in their final rehearsals, as well as discussing her experiences as a composer in Sydney, Australia, in several interviews and workshops.

**Philip Barnes**

## Meet the Singers — Amanda Meinen

There was always music in the Meinen home. Amanda started piano lessons at the age of five, which was a great foundation for her future musical endeavors. In third grade, she sang with the Rainbows, her first choir. In sixth grade, she played oboe in the school band. She played through sophomore year of high school when the band director changed his focus...unfortunately, oboes don't play in marching bands!

In junior high and high school, Amanda participated in solo and ensemble contests in the areas of voice, oboe and piano, continuing to state for oboe and piano. She also participated in all of her school's musicals. In high school, Amanda knew that music was to be part of her life, but didn't want to teach music. One day, her choir teacher's sister came into class to talk about music therapy, and she knew that she had found the perfect path for her ...combining her love of music with a passion for helping people.

Music therapy is an established healthcare profession that uses music to address physical, emotional, cognitive, and social needs of individuals of all ages. It improves the quality of life for well persons and meets the needs of children and adults with disabilities or illnesses. Basically, that means using music to achieve non-musical goals.

Amanda attended the University of Evansville to study music therapy where she also had her first dose of music theory! She had to start in a remedial class because she had had absolutely no previous exposure to music theory. She picked it up quickly due to her piano background, and also had her first formal voice training with **Joseph Hopkins**. Enjoying a wide range of music, she sang with the Concert Choir, Kantorei, Jazz Choir, and Chapel Choir!

For the past 7 years, Amanda has worked as a music therapist at the Illinois Center for Autism. She works with individuals on the autism spectrum, aged 3 to 21. Amanda says it is challenging and frustrating at times, but it is also incredibly rewarding to see how much she can impact the lives of her students.

Amanda sang with the St. Louis Symphony Chorus for 7 years, including a trip to Carnegie Hall in the spring of 2006. She really enjoyed singing with the orchestra, but most of that time overlapped with the Chamber Chorus. Since she also sings at a church, it was just too much singing! She has sung in several opera choruses with Union Avenue Opera Theater (now Union Avenue Opera) including *La Boheme*, *Carmen*, *Faust*, and *Madame Butterfly*. She has been alto soloist/section leader at Trinity Presbyterian Church in University City for five years. She has also sung with Early Music St. Louis and St. Louis Baroque (**Jeff Noonan**, **Nancy**

**Bristol**'s husband got her involved.) In the summer of 2000, while singing at Union Avenue, **Jennifer Boczek**, one of her fellow singers, talked about an amazing chorus where her sister sang. The sister was **Elise Ibendahl**, and the chorus was the St. Louis Chamber Chorus. Amanda auditioned later that summer and has been singing with the Chorus ever since!

Amanda is known for her unusual fundraising activities. Many Chorus members actively participate in

events to raise money for charitable organizations, but Amanda's is a bit more shocking (literally!) She participated in a Polar Plunge last year to raise money for Special Olympics (one of the charities in which many of her students are involved) and was able to raise over \$2,000. So she decided to do it again this year! She says, "It's amazing how many people tell me to go jump in the lake!"

Amanda's parents have always been incredibly supportive of her musical endeavors. When she went to college 4 hours away, they would drive out for an afternoon concert and home again that evening. They have been subscribers since she joined the Chamber Chorus and almost without exception, have been at every single performance of her life. She says "I'm lucky to have such understanding and supportive parents, and only hope that their lives have been enriched by the variety of music that they've gotten to hear through the years!"



Amanda Meinen

# Noteworthy Notes

## Café Eau Gathering

On Sunday, December 21, 2008, an extremely cold day in St. Louis, the St. Louis Chamber Chorus presented its Christmas concert, *An Old World Christmas*. The setting was the rich acoustics of the Cathedral Basilica of St. Louis and the Chorus sounded glorious in the space! Following this beautiful concert over twenty Board members, singers, family members, and other supporters braved the bitterly cold weather to gather for a Dutch treat of drinks and hors d'oeuvres at nearby Café Eau at the Chase Park Plaza. Freezing temperatures couldn't suppress the spirits of this hearty group who gathered to toast the holidays and relive the beautiful concert we'd all just experienced together: Artistic Director **Philip Barnes** received numerous congratulations for his choice of seasonal music that was beautifully enhanced by the lively and reverberating acoustics of the Cathedral!



Chorus members relaxing after the concert

The Board is considering arranging gatherings similar to the one enjoyed at Café Eau after the Christmas Concert. If you are interested in extending your own Sunday afternoon concert experience and getting to know other Chorus supporters and members, please let us know. If there's enough interest, the Board will find a way to make it happen.

The Board is planning a special Spring Gala and dinner to celebrate the conclusion of the Chamber Chorus's 53rd season on May 31. Please watch for reservation details coming in a general mailing.

*Gailya Barker*

## Board Welcomes New Member

**Suzanne Lagomarcino** recently joined the SLCC board of directors. She graduated from Mizzou with a BA in microbiology, worked in research at the Falstaff Brewery, raised her children, earned an MBA from SIU, sold computers for 10 years and then found OWL! Formerly Older Women's League, now called the Voice of Mid-life and Older Women, Suzanne served for 14 years as its Executive Director before retiring in December 2008. Suzanne and OWL members advocated to change public policies affecting women, including lobbying for equal pay for equal work and for a Social Security system that would embrace the work patterns of women.

Suzanne loves music of all kinds and was introduced to the Chorus after her daughter's friend married Philip! She lives with her husband in Alton, Ill., and is active in many community organizations. She is learning to play bridge and enjoys gardening in between trips to visit grandchildren.

## SLCC Commissions Reach New Audiences

Behind every one of our commissions lies the hope that this new music is a gift not only for St. Louis and the Chamber Chorus, but also for singers and audiences everywhere. So it is always gratifying when one of 'our' pieces is published, performed, or recorded by another choir.

**Howard Helvey's** *Teasdale Madrigals*, published by Oxford University Press, was included by Stanford University Chamber Choir in its British tour repertoire. At the end of last year **Judith Bingham's** *Shepherdess Calendar*, was recorded by the BBC Singers on the Signum label (SIGCD 144); this work was written in honor of our Executive Director, **Linda Ryder**, and may also be heard on our own recent CD, *St. Louis Commissions* (Regent Records 255).

*Philip Barnes*

For more information about  
concerts, tickets or auditions:

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