



Betty Bertaux, Artistic Director

News to Note

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From the Artistic Director

Dear CCM Family,

Thank you for the many wonderful comments about our Holiday Concert. We like knowing what we're doing well. We especially like knowing that our concerts are well received. *Nollaig* was a special hit, as was having its composer, **Jennifer Margaret Barker**, present. Audience members liked it so well that, after honoring the performers with a standing ovation, they said they wanted to hear more or at least hear it again! Perhaps we'll feature it again next year.

Many thanks to **Matt Brashears** for his beautiful solo in *Once In Royal David's City* before the Concert Choir processional. Chorister instrumentalists **Emily Keamy-Minor**, **Martha Robichaud**, **Isabelle Briggs**, **Coleen Weber**, **Christopher Maddox**, **Beya Likhari**, and **Amanda Walsh** added a special dimension to the Lyric Choir's rendition of *Chrissimas Day. Ave Maria* was beautifully presented by our guest alumna soloist, **Bonnie Wilt**.

Choristers worked hard to memorize their music, and each choir performed well. Intermediate III choristers, under the direction of **Larry Friend**, should feel especially proud of their performance. I'm certainly proud of them. Thanks to **Jennifer Jordan** and **Larry Friend** for their good work conducting the Treble Choir, and to **Lorene LaBerge** and **Edna Nelson** for helping to prepare the young singers.

Trinity Episcopal Church in Towson hosted our performance and welcomed us graciously. It was wonderful working with **David Huggins**, organist, and **Sara Nichols**, flutist and mother of Concert Choir chorister **Susannah Landgren**. We also enjoyed the expertise of harpist, **Bridget Hight**, and percussionists, **Robert Jenkins**, **Donna Distephano** and **Erica Richstadt**.

We're looking forward to a series of concerts in 2002. In March we will go to the Eastern Shore

From the Artistic Director cont.

to perform on Kent Island for the **Christ Episcopal Church** Concert Series, and in April we will appear on the **Heidelberg Church** Concert Series in York, Pennsylvania. Also in April we will host our first annual Maryland Children's Chorus Festival held at Goucher College's Kraushaar Auditorium.

After a nice holiday break, I'll be quite ready to get to work on our exciting winter and spring plans. And, of course, I'll be very happy to see and work with our wonderful young, talented choristers again.

Happy Hanukkah, Merry Christmas, Happy New Year!

Betty Bertaux

La Bohème a Success!

by Sue Goetze (Amanda Walsh's mother)

Children's Chorus of Maryland is about musical opportunities and education. Our children were afforded both of these in full measure when they participated in The Annapolis Opera Company's production of Puccini's *La Bohème*. There was a little organization required to get the schlep to the rehearsals in Annapolis neatly arranged into carpools, but, once on the road, the kids were unstoppable!

They had fun learning the Italian music with the significant help of **Patty Amato**. The job of deciding who would be an urchin and who would be a well-to-do Dickensque child was easily completed by our wonderfully varied children. Through the staging and costume sections the children learned what it was like working with professionals.

Aliyah Alavi, **Elizabeth Burgess**, **Nichole Chaney**, **Jane Denisyuk**, **Rachel Ellis**, **Chelsea Kjas**, **Rebecca Lachance**, **Katie Lavelle**, **Lauren Rubin**, **Amanda Walsh**, **Jocelyn Worley** each did an outstanding job and I know a few of them would be willing to return to the opera stage in the future.

Thank you Children's Chorus of Maryland.

Concert Comments

"This was our first concert and we were thrilled. Our daughter, Eva, sings in the Treble Choir and loves it. She is so happy to be part of the group and singing with other children who share her love of music. After her lessons, she won't let us play the car radio - she is too busy singing to us what she has learned in class. She even conducts her own teddy bear chorus at home - Mrs. LaBerge would be proud! We thought the children sounded wonderful. We especially enjoyed the last piece and it was especially exciting to see the composer and watch her as she listened (she sat near us). The children looked beautiful in their concert dress, but they sounded heavenly. They obviously were well-prepared and serious, but their personal enjoyment of making music shone in their faces. What a wonderful experience for children to share in the pleasures of ensemble work in such a nurturing environment. Thank you for making it all possible."

- Lisa Woznicki (Eva's mother)

"Our whole family came to enjoy the concert and that's just what we did. I had the pleasure of having a sneak preview during the Grand Rehearsal and knew how wonderful they sounded, but to see the whole show on Sunday was really a treat. What a wonderful group of talented people."

- Grace Warch (Hunter's mother)

"We were delighted with the concert. The variety of music, the lovely voices and the smashing finale were all marvelously inspiring to prepare for a joyous, yet reflective holiday season. We plan on ordering the CD!"

- Mary Jeanne Buck (Tori's mother)

"This is my daughter's first year with CCM and I am absolutely delighted with her joy after each class. We... thought the concert was great...Thanks for a wonderful concert."

- Bonnie Adachi (Natalie's mother)

"I took two guests to the concert who were extremely impressed with the professionalism of the chorus. We all enjoyed it immensely. And what a great job Matthew Brashears did!"

- Sara Rose (Meryem Ahmadian's mother)

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Calling Youth Choral Groups

The Children's Chorus of Maryland invites children's choruses to sing in its First Annual Maryland Children's Choral Festival. The festival will be held Saturday, April 6, 2002 at Kraushaar auditorium on the campus of Goucher College in Towson, Maryland. The festival, hosted by the Children's Chorus of Maryland under the direction of Dr. Betty Bertaux, will feature a full day of non-competitive performances by children's choruses from throughout the state. Any size treble chorus of singers ages 6 to 16 may participate at the festival.

An early bird registration discount will be offered through January 31, 2002. For more information or to sign up to sing at the festival, please call 410-494-1480.

Concert Comments cont.

"We did attend the holiday concert and had a lovely time. The church was beautiful, and provided both an air of solemnity and the appropriate intimate atmosphere... All of the choristers looked very elegant, from the littlest ones on up - the new formal dress is perfect for both boys and girls. The special Gaelic piece at the end was wonderful. It could have been longer and still held us riveted. The children sang like angels and were very professional in demeanor... Thank you for your contribution to my daughter's musical education. I know that these experiences are very good for her and will be part of an excellent foundation for whatever she chooses to pursue in her adult life."

- Colleen McCahill (Molly Hyatt's mother)

"The concert was lovely! The beautiful area around the church, combined with the crisp autumn air, lent a festive feel to the afternoon concert. The program was very creative in its presentation: I loved the children's processional during one of the songs. I felt like I was in England because of the surroundings of the church and the singing. The children's voices so young and clear and they sounded so professional. A very enjoyable afternoon."

- Natalie Ellis (Rachel's mother)

"To have all three of my kids in different chorus's this year was a highlight for me. It helped me pay attention to all the music, rather than just watch "my kid", and what I heard was glorious! The voices soared and certainly readied my spirit for this Holy time of year. Thanks for all you do."

- Heidi Bertaux (Joshua, Renee & Daniel's mother)

"The children are so wonderfully talented and the selections for the evening were absolutely delightful. Please let the children know how impressed and pleased I was with their incredible performance."

- Nancy Grasmick (State Superintendent of Schools)

Welcome New Board Members

Serving on a nonprofit organization's Board of Directors is an exciting, rewarding and personally fulfilling experience - or so our Board members tell us! Filled with opportunities for professional development, emotional satisfaction, promotion of personal beliefs, and the pure joy of helping others, Board membership is a truly unique form of "giving back" to the community.

Children's Chorus of Maryland wishes to express our heartfelt appreciation for the time, energy and support we receive from the members of our Board of Directors. We could not teach our talented choristers, provide quality arts performances, promote choral music, or realize any of our other visions for our community without them. Bravi! (plural for "bravo")

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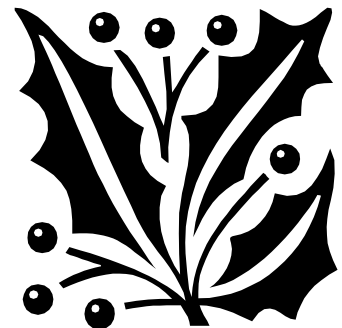
Remember: 'Tis the Season

...for musicals. Many of our students will audition for school musical productions, and many will be selected for performances. Rehearsals can be intense and vocally demanding. Young voices are not up to the rigors of staged performances designed for adult singers and can become damaged by overuse. Yet these students are regularly asked to "sing louder" to project their voices from the stage, even when using microphones. Staged performances, including operas, are exceptionally hard on even professional singers, especially during long rehearsals. In order to preserve their voices, they observe the following voice saving guidelines, as should every singer:

1. When the voice feels tired, stop singing. If that is impossible, rest it by singing softly, gently and lightly
2. "Mark" during rehearsals by singing softly, at "half-voice" (*mezzo-voce*). Sing full voice only occasionally. Learn the staging, memorize lines and develop the role.
3. Warm-up the voice before rehearsals and performances. Begin warm-ups gently.
4. Don't talk loudly, don't yell or scream. ANYTIME.
5. Drink LOTS of fluids throughout the day, not just while singing: Water, juice, soups. Avoid caffeinated beverages, sodas, chocolate and dairy products.
6. Eat healthy food, stay rested, get extra sleep.

OAKE Honor Choir

Congratulations to Concert Choir choristers **Logan LaBerge, Lauren Rubin** and **Aubrey (Kate) Siegel!** They were invited to sing in the OAKE National Youth Honor Choir held in San Antonio, Texas, in March 2002. OAKE Honor Choirs will present the final concert of the National Conference of the Organization of American Kodály Educators. **Janet Galvan**, a nationally known conductor, clinician and specialist in choral music for young voices, will conduct the Youth Choir.



CCM Collaborates On Recording

When composer **Andrew Anthony** wrote his powerful response to the events of September 11, the result was the song “*We Will Always Remember*.” Part of his vision was to have children’s voices as part of the recording. This led him to Children’s Chorus of Maryland and a dynamic collaboration with **Betty Bertaux**. On December 9th, at St. Dimetrios Church in Parkville, CCM joined Andrew to record the children’s portion of the song. Other featured artists on this song will include members of the band “**Crack the Sky**”. We’d like to thank the following choristers and their parents for responding to this last minute exciting opportunity:

Meryem Ahmadian	Sara Karlin
Moran Beidleman	Rebecca Lachance
Daniel Bertaux	Corey McAndrews
Joshua Bertaux	Caitlyn Nuger
Renee Bertaux	Martha Robichaud
Matt Brashears	Lauren Rubin
Victoria Buck	Aubrey Siegel
Devon Burgoyne	Katie Slonevskaya
Mirielle Burgoyne	Zita Toth
Nichole Chaney	Alex Vanko
Jane Denisyuk	Amanda Walsh
Lisa Diver	Sarah Watt
Rachel Ellis	Eva Woznicki
Ashley Goeller	Amy Wunder
Devin Jones	Kelly Zuraitis

Hot off the press!

These same children have been asked to participate in the making of a feature spot with WMAR Channel 2, and will be taping Friday, December 14, 2001. Stay tuned for exciting details on when you can catch our talented choristers on TV!

A Parent Speaks Out

by *Coverly Beidleman (Moran’s mother)*

I, like most CCM parents, have limited knowledge of what it takes to “create” the songs we hear our children sing. We drop our children off at the Waldorf School twice a week. We race through traffic in order not to be marked “tardy,” our children miss sleepovers and soccer games and we wonder if it’s worth it.

I went to the Christmas concert. I know the children sing beautifully but I had no idea how talented these youngsters are. Last Sunday, however, I got a chance to experience what these children can do, how they learn and how they are taught.

Our children are more knowledgeable about music and more talented than we know. I watched 30 children hear a song for the first time. I watched them while they penciled in (without any hesitation) the new notes Betty added. I heard them sing measure 14 over and over until they were satisfied. I watched the children’s faces as they concentrated on Betty’s direction. I saw Betty treat the beginners with the same respect she gives the more experienced singers - and they responded. After only 1 hour of rehearsal, I heard those same 30 children (with a maturity I’m sure few of us parents have seen) put it all together and sing. Beautifully. One hour after that, the song was recorded. This was not a straight, simple melody but a complex, 3 part song. The children, so well trained, made it seem simple - they knew exactly what they were doing. I was amazed and impressed and a little bit jealous. I can barely get the beds made in 2 hours - they learned and recorded a song in that same time period.

I admit I am in awe of those who can sing. I wish my daughter had gotten her talent from me but I can’t carry a tune. I have wondered though, whether the time commitment to CCM is too great. I wonder no more.

It is worth it.

American Kodály Institute

The highly acclaimed American Kodály Institute (A.K.I.), which was so successfully launched last summer at the Loyola College of Maryland, will offer first and second levels of instruction this summer. This is an intensive teacher training certification program offered in three levels for music educators. Dates for the 2002 summer session have been set as follows:

Level I will meet July 13 to 26.

Level II will meet July 7 to 26.

“Developing the Child’s Voice” (“Voice Intensive”) will meet July 8 to 12.

Some Level I courses will also be available July 7 to 26 as an option.

For more information about this program, please contact the Children’s Chorus of Maryland offices at 410-494-1480 or Amy Huggins at amybhuggins@hotmail.com.



The American
Kodály Institute



of the Children’s Chorus
of Maryland

Kodály Certification Program

July 13 - July 26, 2002: Level I (of three)

Loyola College in Maryland (Baltimore, MD)

A.K.I. Faculty:

Director:

Amy Branum Huggins

Assistant Director:

Betty Bertaux

Laurdella Foulkes-Levy

Robbin Schaffer

Level II and individual courses, as well as Graduate, Inservice and Certification Credit, are available.

The A.K.I. curriculum follows O.A.K.E. guidelines for Kodály certification programs.

For More Information:

The American Kodály Institute
100 East Pennsylvania Ave., Suite 202
Towson, MD 21286

Phone: (410) 494-1480 * Fax: (410) 494-4673

E-mail: amybhuggins@hotmail.com

Website: www.ccmsings.org



Betty Bertaux, Artistic Director

Annual Fund Campaign

On November 15th CCM began it’s 26th Annual Fund Season. This is your chance to lend your financial aid to the chorus. Your tax-exempt donations will help the chorus carry on it’s mission. If you have not yet received an Annual Fund letter and wish to donate, please contact the CCM office at 410-494-1480 or by email at ccm@ccmsings.org. All gifts are deeply appreciated.



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