

# cantemusnews

Cantemus Chamber Chorus Biannual Newsletter

Vol. 2 / No. 1 • October 2000



**CANTEMUS**  
Small Chorus. Grand Sound.

## Cantemus Chamber Chorus

### Sopranos

Ruth Berry  
Claire M. Cayot  
Katy Fickenwirth  
Donna Gale  
Jennifer Hand  
Patty Kennedy  
Pamela J. Morris  
Susan Nash

### Altos

Peter B. Hoyt  
Dorothy Monnelly  
Mary C. O'Donnell  
Christine Reif  
Marilyn A. Shepard  
Marcia Siegel  
Debby Twining  
Marianne Zwicker

### Tenors

Chris Barker  
Jamie Cabot  
Gary Freeman  
Bill Gelwick  
Todd Herrmann  
Larry Zwicker

### Basses

Jim Berry  
Richard Blumenscheid  
Jud Brooks  
J. Douglas Guy  
Ron Pressler  
Nathaniel Pulsifer

### Music Director

John Hoffacker

### Accompanist

Robert Littlefield

### Cantemus Chamber Chorus

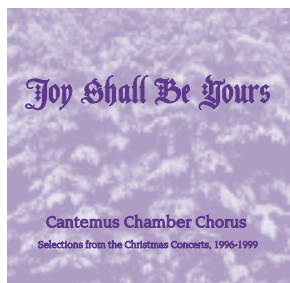
P.O. Box 784  
Ipswich, MA 01938

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## Joy Shall Be Yours: Cantemus Records Its First CD!

by Jamie Cabot and Ruth Berry



Cantemus is overjoyed to announce that we will be releasing our first-ever compact disc, entitled *Joy Shall Be Yours*, in time for our holiday concerts this December. The recording is a retrospective

that presents highlights from our 1996–1999 holiday concerts, 1996 being the year that our close friend and stalwart supporter Hook Danforth began recording our performances. Ranging from traditional carols to international music of the season to a complete performance of Benjamin Britten's masterful *Ceremony of Carols* for treble voices and harp, our debut CD presents the listener with a sampling of our most spirited seasonal pieces.

The CD begins with one of our favorite pieces, "Joy Shall Be Yours in the Morning"—a setting by Z. Randall Stroope of a carol by Kenneth Grahame from *Wind in the Willows*. The music continues in this traditional English vein with two carols arranged by John Rutter: the "Sans Day Carol" and "There is a Flow'r."

The recording then shifts gears to the starkly beautiful motets of Francis Poulenc, who, in despair in the aftermath of World War II, drew hope and comfort from his faith in the mysteries of Christ's birth. The theme of joy and hope continues with a lovely old German carol, "Maria Walked Amid the Thorns," arranged by our own maestro, John Hoffacker.

The exploration of the meaning of the holiday season continues in a less familiar part of the world with *Three Latvian Carols* set to music by Andrejs Jansons. There are several more songs of joy and celebration, including a rollicking version of "Jingle Bells" arranged by David Willcocks, and the intricate, boisterous King Singers' version of "The Twelve Days of Christmas," arranged by Geoffrey Keating.

The recording concludes with our *pièce de résistance*: Benjamin Britten's *Ceremony of Carols*, a collection of old English Yuletide poems orchestrated for harp and treble voices. This exquisite piece, of which surprisingly few good recordings exist, allows our matchless sopranos and altos to truly shine.

Cantemus rejoices in presenting our audiences with vibrant holiday concerts each winter, and this year, we are proud and excited to offer you a way of recreating the musical warmth and beauty of the season whenever you wish. *Joy Shall Be Yours* will be available for purchase at all of our concerts as well as at the River Gallery in Ipswich and The Bookshop of Beverly Farms. If you would like to purchase a CD through the mail, please fill out the form provided in this newsletter and send it in. We hope you will enjoy listening to our CD as much as we enjoyed creating it! 🎵

## Best of the Best

Making music and sharing that music with the community is the fundamental mission of Cantemus. This year, we want to reach out to our community in a new way by bringing you "The Best of the Best"—our name for a concert in which Cantemus will perform along with select choirs from seven local secondary schools. The high-school choirs and Cantemus will each sing for about 10 minutes, and then all the groups will join together for a finale.

The mission of this concert is three-fold. First, many of the music students and teachers in our local schools are reaching extraordinary levels of accomplishment, and Cantemus wants to give you a snapshot of the wonderful work taking place in the music departments across our school system. Second, we want to provide the directors of the various choirs with a convenient forum in which to observe each other and share ideas. Third, we'd like to heighten the students' musical awareness by having them

*Cantemus is supported, in part, by funding from the Massachusetts Cultural Council, as administered locally by the Hamilton-Wenham, Ipswich, and Newburyport Cultural Councils.*

## What Is Cantemus?

Founded in 1982, Cantemus (Latin for "let us sing") is a nonprofit organization composed of about 30 voices from across the North Shore. The group is dedicated to the performance of music composed for chamber chorus. Its repertoire ranges from medieval and Elizabethan to Baroque, Classical, Romantic and contemporary music from around the world.

### Board of Directors 2000-2001

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### cantemusicnews

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sing in a larger community setting that crosses age boundaries. We hope that if these students see the musical enthusiasm of both their peers and the adult members of Cantemus, they will be more likely to think of music as a life-time hobby and stay involved after graduation.

The Best of the Best concert will be held at Hamilton-Wenham High School, Hamilton on Wednesday, November 8, 2000 at 7:30 p.m. We are excited about bringing these high-school singers together with each other and us, and we hope you will come and share the excitement!

| School                               | Choir Director          |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Beverly High School                  | Lyn Palanin             |
| Governor Dummer Academy              | Anne Connolly Potter    |
| Hamilton Wenham Regional High School | Claudia Frost           |
| Ipswich High School                  | Katherine Murphy        |
| Newburyport High School              | Evelyn Mann             |
| The Landmark School                  | Richard Fish            |
| The Pingree School                   | Christopher Fitzpatrick |

## Celebrate the Holiday Season With Cantemus

by John Hoffacker

You know the feeling—it's the middle of winter and your feet haven't been warm or dry for weeks, the driveway needs shoveling (again), and it's so dark! You need warmth, you need light, and you need some joy! It's holiday time.

For thousands of years, people have celebrated the Midwinter Solstice on December 21—when the days start to lengthen again. And so, religious authorities assigned this time for celebration: Christmas and Hanukkah, two holidays for which the historical dates were unknown. Christians look for a star and cover pine trees with sparkling candles; Jews light the menorah; and everywhere people celebrate the return of light and warmth by gathering in joyful revelry.

Our holiday concerts on the first weekend of December will pop the cork on your holiday season with songs old and new, conveying the many spirits of Yuletide.

The first half of our program features an old American hymn, "Star in the East," a 16th-century motet, "Surge Jerusalem," and Mendelssohn's "There shall a star come out of Jacob." These three pieces celebrate the coming of light into a world filled with darkness.

These are followed by three modern pieces. The first two are somewhat unconventional, but I know that, sitting in

the darkened church with this mystical music swirling around, you'll be thrilled and filled with the beauty. The songs depict snow, darkness, and the coming of the new day. Read the special article in this newsletter about the composers, Murray Shafer, Robert Sund, and René Clausen.

We end the first half of the concert with music from Handel's great oratorio, *Judas Maccabaeus*. This is the story of the origin of Hanukkah, the victory of the Israelites over the Hellenists. It's stirring, exciting music of triumph and liberty.

The second half of our program features the music of holiday gatherings. There's party music from religious and secular celebrations, including two songs in Hebrew, one in German, and some familiar carols all dressed up.

Bring your friends. This is a special occasion, a warm and wonderful way to start the holidays. 🎵



### CANTEMUS WINTER 2000 CONCERT SCHEDULE

Saturday, December 2, 2000 at 8 p.m.

Central Congregational Church

Pleasant & Titcomb Streets, Newburyport

Sunday, December 3, 2000 at 4 p.m.

Christ Church, 149 Asbury Street, Hamilton

## Winterscapes

### Conductor's Notes for the Winter Concert



John Hoffacker,  
Music Director

Encountering the world around us—seems pretty simple, doesn't it? And yet, listening to music by **R. Murray Shafer** hints at a deeper reality. More than a composer, Shafer is a teacher, a journalist, an environmentalist, and (you'll know this if you've ever seen his fantastic musical scores) a visual artist.

Early in his career, Shafer coined the term *soundscape* to refer to the musical environment in which we live. We are living in a world that's constantly changing, and the music of the world continues—too fast for us to appreciate—unless we pay attention to the music Shafer encapsulates for us. His "Snowforms" doesn't use notes. The singers are reading pictures of snow and using Inuit words for various kinds of snow. It's a very quiet piece—like the stillness of snowfall.

The inner landscape of the mind fascinates **Robert Sund**. This Swedish composer and conductor was born in 1943, and his “Come out all trolls” is the fourth in a set of choral settings of poetry by Helga Henschen. Cantemus performs this in English translation. You know the bleakness and fear occasioned by dark skies day after day—this is the sensation depicted in “Come out all trolls.” A thrilling work, it captivates anyone who’s ever been afraid of the monster under the bed.

The third in our series of three modern pieces about Winter is by **René Clausen**. Conductor since 1985 of the Concordia College (Minnesota) choirs, Clausen writes serene, playful, lovely music to wonderful texts. “All this night” uses two poems, the first by William Austin (1587–1634) and the second by Oliver Wendell Holmes (1809–1894). The Austin poem depicts the shattering of night by Chanticleer’s cry, bringing joy to the world. Holmes’ poem captures the thought of light covering the world, granting freedom and peace.

Winter brings a glittering world of white: a time to feel, to experience, to reflect, and (above all) to delight in. We hope this music brings delight to your world. 🎵

## Your Generosity Means New Frontiers for Cantemus!



Long-time Cantemus supporter, Hook Danforth (left) and current Cantemus Board President, Ruth Berry (right), celebrating last year’s fundraising results of \$5,600.

For two years now, Cantemus has run an enormously successful donor campaign that has let us branch out in significant new ways. The tremendous generosity of you, our loyal supporters, has provided for new ventures such as a Web site, vocal workshops for chorus members, our first CD, and this very newsletter. We are immensely grateful to our donors for helping us to take on new challenges and extend our presence in the community, and this year, we continue to explore new frontiers through an expanded concert season.

Traditionally, Cantemus has presented two major concerts per season: a holiday concert and a Spring concert. In keeping with our goal of increasing the group’s repertoire and community presence, our 2000–2001 season includes two new concerts: a joint concert with local high-school choirs this November (see the “Best of the Best” article) and two performances of Fauré’s *Requiem* in March. (Our traditional Spring concert will be held in June this year.) We are thrilled to be able to present you with more concerts, but the benefits of an expanded season are accompanied by an increase in our budget, so we need your donation more than ever this year! Please send your contributions to Cantemus, P.O. Box 784, Ipswich, MA 01938 (see form below). Thank you for your continued, generous financial support! 🎵

### Cantemus Introduces Our Subscription Series

Want to get all your ticket-buying out of the way early this year and get a discount on prices? Just fill out the form below and send it in, and we’ll mail you your Cantemus 2000–2001 subscription series tickets!

Your subscription series includes tickets to the following performances (tickets are good for either night of a performance):

- ◆ **“Best of the Best” Joint High School Concert:** Wed., 11/8/00, 7:30 p.m. (Hamilton-Wenham High School, Hamilton)
- ◆ **Winter Concert:** Sat., 12/2/00, 8 p.m. (Central Congregational Church, Newburyport) & Sun., 12/3/00, 4 p.m. (Christ Church, Hamilton)
- ◆ **Fauré’s Requiem:** Sat., 3/10/01, 8 p.m. (First Parish Unitarian Church, Beverly) & Sun., 3/11/01, 4 p.m. (Christ Church, Hamilton)
- ◆ **Spring Concert:** Fri., 6/1/01, 8 p.m. (Christ Church, Hamilton) & Sat., 6/2/01, 8 p.m. (Central Congregational Church, Newburyport)

## Cantemus Order/Contribution Form



- I’d like to purchase \_\_\_\_ (number) of adult subscription series and \_\_\_\_ (number) of citizen subscription series. \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- I’d like to purchase \_\_\_\_ (number) of the Cantemus *Joy Shall be Yours* CD(s) (\$15 per CD plus \$2.50 per order for shipping). \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- I am enclosing my tax-deductible contribution of: \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- Total amount enclosed:** \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- I’d like my name added to the Cantemus mailing list.

### Subscription Series (save \$7)

Adult: \$40  
Senior Citizen: \$34  
(Ages 18 and under are free at all concerts.)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Town: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

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## Meet the Tenors

**Chris Barker** has been singing with Cantemus for three years and is Past President of the Board of Directors. He has sung previously with the New England Classical Singers, Longy School Chamber Singers, and as a student at St. Lawrence University. As Director of Information Technology at Chapel Hill-Chauncy Hall school in Waltham, Chris also coaches its varsity wrestling team and his son's soccer team in North Andover. His family is the proud owner of Annabelle, a 15-year-old basset hound.

**Jamie Cabot**, a Cantemus singer for three years, attended Amherst College where he sang in the Glee Club under the direction of Bruce McInnes. He recently sang with the University Mastersingers, also with Mr. McInnes, throughout the cathedrals of Europe. Jamie studies voice with William Cashman and performs with the Solstice Singers, a Hamilton-based choral group for fun and charity. Jamie is a writer and lives in Wenham with his wife Carole and daughters Anna and Mariel.

**Gary Freeman** grew up in a musical family and has been singing in church and school choirs since a very young age. Gary has a Masters degree in Musicology from Boston University and is a frequently featured soloist with Cantemus. A journalist by profession, he has the opportunity to write feature articles on choral groups throughout the greater Boston area. In his non-musical spare time, Gary enjoys sailing near his home in Ipswich.

**Bill Gelwick** is in his third year with Cantemus and alternates between singing baritone and second tenor. Bill is retired from General Electric Company, having served in various finance, contract, and international marketing positions. He is also retired from politics, having served as President of the Board of Aldermen in Beverly. A graduate of the University of Nebraska and an army infantry veteran, Bill now keeps busy with gardening, following Boston sports teams, and singing. In addition to Cantemus, he has sung with Boston Bel Canto Opera Chorus, Beverly Men's Glee Club, Chorus North Shore, St. Mary Star of the Sea choir and currently with Church of St. Paul in Hamilton.

**Todd Herrmann** has been singing with Cantemus for three years and alternates between tenor and bass. As the son of a church music director, Todd has been singing in choirs as long as he can remember. Other groups with which he has sung include the Dartmouth Glee Club, Master Chorale at the University of South Florida, and Coro Allegro in Boston. Todd works in planning and business development at Children's Hospital Boston. He and his partner live in Byfield with their four-year-old son and two aging dogs.

**Larry Zwicker**, in his first season with Cantemus, graduated from the New England Conservatory of Music and has taught music in Germany, Rhode Island, and Beverly, Mass. Now retired, he has also taught German and French. Larry studied voice at the Conservatory and has sung in several groups. In addition to Cantemus, he presently sings at the First Baptist and First Parish Churches in Beverly. Larry's main hobby is tennis, which he plays about five times a week. 🎵

