

CANTEMUS NEWS

Cantemus Chamber Chorus Semi-annual Newsletter

Vol. 5 / No. 2 • November 2003



CANTEMUS
Small Chorus, Grand Sound.

Cantemus Chamber Chorus

Sopranos

Claire Cayot
Katy Fickenwirth
Donna Gale
Janet Glasser
Anne Maguire
Pamela Morris
Susan Nash
Michele O'Connor
Suzie Reine
Bettina Turner

Altos

Debra Basile
Elizabeth Lebel
Pat Lowery Collins
Priscilla March
Dorothy Monnelly
Robin Moore
Elizabeth Powell
Chris Reif
Debby Twining
Betsy Vicksell
Nancy Weinberg

Tenors

Chris Barker
Jamie Cabot
Gary Freeman
Bill Gelwick
Gary Lubarsky
Chuck Mullen

Basses

Richard Blumenscheid
Bob Chase
Bill Dowdall
Michael Fosburg
David Geikie
Doug Guy
Nat Pulsifer
Richard Salandrea
Conrad Willeman

Music Director

John Hoffacker

Accompanist

Robert Littlefield

Cantemus Chamber Chorus

P.O. Box 784
Ipswich, MA 01938

Toll free information
1-888-CHORUS-1

www.cantemus.org



John Hoffacker,
Music Director

"Nowell! Nowell!" Celebrates Christmas

by John Hoffacker, Music Director

Every year we in Cantemus try to illuminate the holiday season. It's the giddiest time of the year, and somehow we all need it.

At the root of the Christmas story is a mystery: in the dark and cold of a winter night, a girl gave birth to a baby who many believe was God incarnate.

During the first weekend in December, we sing this story and our human responses to it. Following the cool splendor of Alleotti's Renaissance motet "Angelus ad pastores ait" (The angels said to the shepherds), we burst into the great, jubilant spiritual "Rise Up, Shepherds."

Francis Poulenc's exquisite, leaping "Hodie Christus natus est" (Today Christ is born) follows, and then Rachmaninoff's powerful "Bogoroditse Devo" (Rejoice, O virgin). Mystery itself moved two great masters, the Spanish Renaissance composer Tomas Luis de Victoria and the contemporary American Morten Lauridsen, to set an ancient hymn "O magnum mysterium" (O great mystery).

"Nowell," or "Noel," means Christmas, or a Christmas carol, and our first half concludes with six wonderful "nowells": Mathias's dancing "A Babe is Born," two French carols, a lightning-fast "Adam Lay Ybounden" by Hubert Bird, and "Go Tell It on the Mountain."

Our second half brings the mystery and the story home. Home is, after all, the centerpiece of the Christmas story. Parents' love and a warm place where we care for one another have given us all life. John Rutter's setting of Kenneth Grahame's beloved story "The Wind in the Willows" celebrates discovering home as



JOIN CANTEMUS FOR "Nowell! Nowell!"

Saturday, December 6, 2003 7:30 p.m.

Christ Church of Hamilton and Wenham
149 Asbury Street, South Hamilton

Sunday, December 7, 2003 4 p.m.

Central Congregational Church
Pleasant & Titcomb Streets, Newburyport

the place we need and love best. It's a delightful piece, with the chorus imitating an antique car and (slightly) out-of-tune Christmas carolers (we need to practice this!) and soloists singing the roles of Toad, Rat, Mole, and Badger. 🎵

Study of Choral Singers Proves We Are Different!

by Bettina Turner, Soprano 2

Earlier this year, Chorus America, the national service organization for choruses, released the results of a national study about choral participation, public attitudes towards choral music, and the key motivations and behaviors of choral singers. The study finds that choral singing is the top choice for participation in the performing arts, more than any other art form, with an estimated 28.5 million Americans regularly performing with a choir or chorus. (cont. next page)



Massachusetts Cultural Council

Cantemus is funded in part by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency, and by grants from the Beverly, Ipswich, and Newburyport Cultural Councils, local agencies which are supported by the MCC.

What Is Cantemus?

Founded in 1982, Cantemus (Latin for “Let us sing”) is a nonprofit organization composed of 36 voices from across the North Shore of Massachusetts. 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 2003-2004

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At Large

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Priscilla March
At Large

Kevin Rich
Non-Singing

Peter Smirk
Non-Singing

Marlene Switzer
Non-Singing

Deb Twining
At Large

John Hoffacker
Advisor

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Bettina Turner

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programs are available.

Members and friends of Cantemus will probably not be surprised by most of the study’s other key findings:

Early exposure to choral singing is the dominant common factor among adults who participate in choruses, with more than half the respondents growing up in households where someone regularly sang in a chorus, and two-thirds being exposed to choral music through radio or recordings. An informal survey of our 36 Cantemus members indicates that all but three members were exposed to choral music when growing up. Clearly, our childhood experiences in the arts continue to have a large impact on the choices we make as adults.

Choral singers are twice as likely as the general public to be major consumers of other arts – and not just music. The study finds that 87 percent of choral singers report visiting a museum in the past year, while only about 35 percent of the general public do. The informal Cantemus survey finds that 100 percent of our members attended a museum or art gallery in the past year. The study also found that the number of singers who regularly attend live theater performances was nearly double that of the general public.

Choral singers are far more likely to be involved in charity work, as volunteers and donors (76 percent) than the average person



A lighter moment: Sopranos Bettina Turner and Claire Cayot, and bass Richard Salandrea.

(44 percent), and are also more than twice as likely as non-participants to be aware of current events and to be involved in the political process. Twenty percent of choral singers report that they are actively involved in political causes, which is triple the number of non-singers reporting such involvement.

Choral singers felt strongly that the requirements of choral singing – discipline, attention to detail, teamwork and the social value of the experience – combine to improve their daily lives. Seventy-four percent “agreed strongly” that choral participation had helped them develop new friendships and bridge social gaps.

Not surprisingly, 44 percent of the choral singers surveyed in the study reported singing with more than one chorus regularly!

For more information on the study and Chorus America, you can go to their website at www.chorusamerica.org. 🎵

20th Anniversary Composition Competition Winner Announced

by Bettina Turner, Soprano 2

Michael Weinstein-Reiman, an undergraduate at Brandeis University, has won first place in Cantemus’ first Composition Competition, conducted in honor of our 20th anniversary year. After discovering a notice about the contest on a bulletin board at school, he wrote the four-part, a cappella piece titled “La Musique,” based on a poem by Baudelaire. ““La Musique” captures the magic of the poem” is how Cantemus director John Hoffacker describes the winning entry. Mr. Weinstein-Reiman, who majors in music theory and composition with a minor in French and art history, grew up in Brooklyn, N.Y. and East Brunswick, N.J. He has studied piano since age five and been a singer since his early teens. While still in high school, he won second place in a choral society composition contest. Originally he went to Brandeis “not to go into music, but I found myself leaning towards the arts more and more.” Besides choral and vocal music, he has composed string quartets, finished a violin concerto and is contemplating a song cycle for his thesis. (cont. next page)

After a summer internship with PBS working on a documentary series about Broadway music, Mr. Weinstein-Reiman is hoping to work in the field of documentary film production after he graduates from Brandeis in May 2004. He plans to attend the premiere of "La Musique," which will be a highlight of Cantemus' "Fascinating Rhythm" concert on June 5, 2004.

Three judges – John Hoffacker; Raymond Fahrner, conductor of the Cambridge Madrigal Singers; and Minnesota composer Carol Barnett – selected the winners from pieces submitted by composers enrolled in New England colleges and universities. Other winners included Naomi Epstein of New England Conservatory; James Martin of Charter Oak State College, Bristol, CT; and Min-jung Kim of Hartt School, University of Hartford. 🎵

L o o k A h e a d ▶▶▶

**Think Spring, and reserve these dates for
CANTEMUS' SPRING PERFORMANCES!**

— *Dona nobis pacem* —

Saturday, April 17, 2004 7:30 p.m.

Christ Church of Hamilton and Wenham, South Hamilton

Sunday, April 18, 2004 4 p.m.

Central Congregational Church, Newburyport

— *Fascinating Rhythm* —

Saturday, June 5, 2004 7:30 p.m. Location TBA

— **FREE "Wind in the Willows" Family Concert** —

Saturday, February 7, 2004

First Parish, Beverly **10 a.m.** -&- City Hall, Gloucester **3 p.m.**



CANTEMUS
Small Chorus. Grand Sound.

Please make checks payable to **Cantemus** and mail this form to:

Cantemus
P.O. Box 784
Ipswich, MA
01938

Cantemus Order/Contribution Form

It's far from inexpensive to make quality choral performances available to the arts-loving community. Less than 40 percent of Cantemus' operating expenses are covered by concert ticket sales. And grant funding for arts organizations in Massachusetts has not recovered: it is at the same level as last year, when it was cut 62%. These grant funding cuts make contributions from our individual fans even more critical than in the past. Won't you please consider supporting Cantemus by making a tax-deductible contribution? We'll continue to do our part by making your Cantemus concert experiences unforgettable!

- I am enclosing my tax-deductible contribution of _____.
- I'd like to have my name added to the Cantemus mailing list.
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- I'd like to purchase ____ (number) of the Cantemus "**Joy Shall be Yours**" CD (\$15 per CD plus \$2.50 shipping per order).

Total amount enclosed: _____

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Where to Get (and Save on) Tickets

To make your ticket buying easier and to offer exceptional pricing opportunities, Cantemus provides several ways to obtain discounted advance tickets to our concerts. To receive advance tickets by mail, simply write your ticket request and send it with your check (made out to “Cantemus”) to Cantemus Tickets-by-Mail, c/o 54 Ober St., Beverly, MA 01915. Orders must be received by December 3, 2003; late-request tickets will be held at the door. Tickets-by-Mail are sold at the advance-priced rate of \$15 (adults) and \$10 (seniors). Students are admitted free.

Advance-priced tickets are also available at our ticket outlets: The Book Shop in Beverly Farms, Nazir’s Fine Jewelry in Hamilton, Ipswich Shellfish Fish Market in Ipswich, and Newburyport Printmaker in Newburyport.

If you haven’t managed to get tickets in advance, you can still take advantage of savings at the door by showing your AAA card for 25% off. Or, show us your Essex Preferred Card and buy one ticket and get one free! With your WGBH Membership Card, you can get a \$20 ticket for \$18. Finally, if you have a Donor VIP Card, you can call the number on the card to have reserved discount tickets waiting for you at the door. 🎵

Free Family Concert Tradition Goes On!

Cantemus’ third Free Family Concert, on February 7, will be a rollicking good time for children of all ages! It’s become so successful, we’ll give two shows that day, in two towns. A generous Alfred Nash Patterson Grant from Choral Arts New England will help us cover some of our costs, including added instrumentalists, costumes and props, for this free event.

At the first Family Concert in 2002, we performed John Rutter’s *The Reluctant Dragon*, based on Kenneth Grahame’s children’s story. The next year, twice as many people came to hear “Old American Songs & Stories.”

Next February, we’ll warm up a cold Saturday morning and afternoon with Rutter’s adaptation of Grahame’s beloved *Wind in the Willows*. We’ll sing at 10:00 a.m. at First Parish Church in Beverly, and again at 3:00 p.m. at City Hall in Gloucester. With Rat, Mole, Badger, Toad, and the only-slightly-out-of-tune Field Mice, and Maestro Hoffacker leading the sing-alongs, you won’t want to miss it. Do come, and bring all the children you can round up! 🎵