

# The State College Choral Society

## NEWSLETTER

November 2001

### DECISION 2001: *THE OUTFIT*

After months of a painstaking decision process, a new concert outfit has been found for the women of the State College Choral Society. In an effort to get input from everyone involved, we started the process in August with a survey to determine preferences. Of the approximately 140 surveys sent to current and recent female members of the Choral Society, more than 70 responded with their choices. Four possible outfits were found which matched the criteria as stipulated by the responses, and a “fashion show” was held after rehearsal on October 8. Thanks to models Nanette Bohren, Gail Ritchey, and Margie Wyand for making all the choices look great. When the votes were counted, one outfit was an overwhelming favorite: “Descant” received 55 of the 90 votes cast; “Airetta” received 14; “Juliette,” 12; and “Simone,” 9.

The Descant dress, in black washable polyester crepe, features a draped cowl neckline and long, loose sleeves with elastic at the wrists. The floor-length full skirt has an elastic waist for an easy fit. The dress has a self-tie sash and side pockets (important for holding tissues and car keys). Skirts must be hemmed so they touch the tops of your shoes.

The next step is to order dresses. Since the easiest way to determine size is to try on, we’ve ordered dresses in every size from 0 to 24. Try on sessions will be held at Janet Haner’s house, 737 Storch Road (see directions in the box), at the dates and times listed below. If you are unable to make any of these times, call Janet at 861-8749 to set up a time. (As of 11/12, sizes 14 and 16 have not yet arrived, but we expect them any day. If you think you will need 14 or 16, call Janet before coming to try on.) We hope to have all dresses ordered by the end of November, since we will be wearing our new outfits for the January concert.

#### ***These Are Trying Times***

Wednesday, November 14	7:00-9:00 p.m.
Thursday, November 15	7:00-9:00 p.m.
Sunday, November 18	2:00-5:00 p.m.

With shipping and handling, the cost per dress is \$57.00. Cash or checks (made out to “SCCS”) should be attached to the order form, which will be available at the try-on sessions. Dresses may be ordered from the size chart shown on the back page of this newsletter, but the Choral Society will not be responsible for postage if the dress does not fit and has to be returned. Tall sizes are available for those 5’8” or taller, with an extra 1” in length in the bodice, and 2” in the skirt. Special cut sizes may also be ordered for women with measurements outside those in the chart; add \$15.00 for special cut orders.



#### **Directions to Janet’s house**

From the State College High School, head west on Westerly Parkway. Take the first left, turning on to South Sparks Street. On Sparks, take the first right, which is Storch Road. Janet’s house is the fifth one on the right, number 737. If you get lost, call 861-8749 or 861-1277.

#### **AUDITIONS TONIGHT**

for solos in the Rutter *Requiem* and  
Schubert *Mass in G*



Remember the country hit, *Cryin' Time*? Here's my version:

*Oh, it's ticket time again—we're gonna sell 'em,  
Gonna hit up all our family and our friends,  
Gonna ask the folks at work and all the neighbors,  
Gonna do our best to sell 'em in the end.*

*'Cause it's concert time again—we'll do some singin',  
Madrigals are in December, very soon,  
And Messiah comes along a few days later,  
Time to get the people in to hear our tunes.*

If country isn't your thing, here's another incentive:

**Free SCCS T-shirts**  
will be awarded  
to the top two *Messiah* ticket sellers!

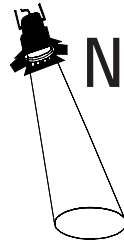
Call me at 861-8749, email me at haner7@home.com, or see me at rehearsal if you need more tickets. You may turn in tickets or money any time; place money and/or tickets in the envelope provided (or another envelope) and mark clearly what is being turned in (please don't hand me loose cash or checks—I'll never remember who gave it to me and why!) Tickets or money must be turned in no later than Monday, November 26.

*Thanks!*  
*Janet*

**STATE COLLEGE  
CHORAL SOCIETY**  
**Purple T-shirts**

**\$12.00**

Purple order forms available from Janet



## New Kids on the Block

*Introducing new members in SCCS*  
by Margie Wyand

### *Evelyn Mugridge*

Evelyn is originally from the Bellefonte-Pleasant Gap area. She and her husband moved around a bit, but 11 years ago, they settled in the Penns Valley area. Evelyn taught in the Penns Valley school system as an instrumental music teacher in four elementary schools. She is now the instrumental and choral teacher for the Penns Valley Junior High.

Evelyn is married to a minister who is currently pastor at the Penns Valley United Methodist Church. They have three children—Chris, 24, who recently got married; Matthew, 21; and Elizabeth, 19, who attends Point Park College in Pittsburgh. Evelyn and her husband have a cat and dog, both inherited from their children. She enjoys gardening and jigsaw puzzles. An important musical accomplishment for Evelyn was to get to the point where (just this year) she will bring together 6th graders from all four schools in her district to perform as one group. Good luck, Evelyn!

Being assistant director of the marching band prevented Evelyn from participating in SCCS in the past, but she now has Monday evenings free. An alto, she says it is refreshing to sing with us, and she's getting a lot of pointers from Russ.

### *Jim Straw*

Jim is originally from Curwensville, PA, but his job as an electrical engineer took him out of the area to Naperville, Illinois, and to New Jersey. He retired to State College three years ago. In his retirement, he serves as a substitute math teacher (calculus, etc.) at the high school.

Jim has a son and daughter-in-law who live in Seattle, and a daughter and son-in-law with one daughter and another child on the way. Jim has a cat named Euigi, and loves to golf, hike, and attend Penn State sporting events.

During his retirement, Jim restored a 175-year-old log home near LaMar (Tylersville), PA. When asked about musical events in his life, Jim said that trying out for SCCS was the most memorable.

Welcome to the bass section, Jim!

**STATE COLLEGE CHORAL SOCIETY**

**Telephone: 861-8749**

**On-line:**

**[www.SCChoralSociety.org](http://www.SCChoralSociety.org)**

# Our Common Good in the Community



The most recent issue of the Chorus America journal has a feature article that focuses on the fundamental benefit of people sharing the experience of attending live music performances. Given the increased reliance on recorded compact discs and videos, it comes as no surprise that fewer folks look for live music opportunities. After all, there is less distraction, more convenience, and superbly polished performances with a compact disc. What's missing in a recorded listening experience? The human connection that comes from sharing the art experience; the specific sense that accompanies sharing the art experience; the intangible benefit of the unpredictable: In short—community.

A couple years ago, we were in a small Eastern European city for a few days. In the center of the town square was a huge Sony video screen that was as tall as a three-story building. Shortly after dark, people began to assemble in the hundreds of chairs set up in the square. They were gathering to view a live simulcast of the Vienna Philharmonic. What struck me as so intriguing about this event was the incredible sense of belonging the evening created. Several hundred people were spending their evening outside in the town square sharing a concert by the Vienna Philharmonic. In addition to the wonderful benefits of searching the human condition, LIVE music provides a community connection that is necessary and vital to who we are. The connections felt and nurtured through concert attendance add weight and importance to our role in the greater State College community.

Meeting on Monday nights to gather around Rutter's, Schubert's, and Handel's particular choices of pitches and rhythms is somehow more meaningful than just meeting to rehearse. It's an opportunity for us to connect our individual to the corporate through the beauty of those musical human expressions. Yes, we're meeting to rehearse; but more than that, we're meeting to connect with the past through the composers, with the present through the collective sound, and with the future through the eventual concert. Ideally, our concerts are the natural outgrowth of the need to share the experiences we've created on Monday nights.

In the beginning, there was a choir that met just to sing together. Then, someone said, "We're having such a great time and making such good music, let's not be selfish—let's share our music with those we know." Thus began the concept of concert. Let's continue to create experiences on Monday nights that cultivate a desire to want to share.

As we expand our season offerings to include the December benefit concert and the Fall 2002 *Sing for the Cure* concert, may we make opportunities to let our friends, family, partners, and patrons know about the important role the State College Choral Society plays in the life of our community. It's wonderful to be involved in an organization that seeks the Common Good through sharing.



*Dear Choral Society Members:*

Another holiday season is quickly approaching, which means that it is time to make our lists and check them twice so that we don't overlook a special someone during this magical time of the year.

If you are stuck for gift ideas, perhaps you should consider purchasing tickets to our January and/or April concerts for a friend or family member. Or, perhaps you would like to make a monetary contribution of \$50 or more to the Choral Society, in which case we will be happy to send one or more tickets on your behalf to that special person.

As a member of the Choral Society, the contribution of your time and your talent already provides our community a tremendous gift that is unrivaled in our area—the gift of classical choral music. However, none of this would be

possible were it not for the generous financial support that we receive from our members in addition to the support we receive from the community. In fact, more than half of our contributions each year come from our singers.

If you have already provided a contribution for the 2001-02 season, thank you again. If you haven't, then I encourage you to do so—your gift helps ensure that the Choral Society can continue to share its gift of music with the community.

Best wishes to you and your family for a safe and peaceful holiday season. Please feel free to call (231-1213) or email (swh4@psu.edu) me with any questions.

Sincerely,  
*Bill Hessert*  
 Development Director

# ACAPPELLA



The events of September 11th have had a profound effect on all of our lives. Individually and together we try to understand how any person or group of persons could harbor so much hate that they would inflict so much pain on so many innocent people. But we still end up asking ... why?

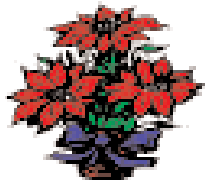
Personally I've found that one of the interesting things that has happened after the tragedies is that, either in a worship experience or in other gatherings, people are turning to music and especially to singing to find some solace in these uneasy times.

Imagine ... something so simple, something that you and I take for granted ... helping people to find an answer for an unanswerable question.

And so we sing. For ourselves and for our audience. To share ... to comfort ... to inspire ... and hopefully, in some way ... to find an answer.

*Rva*

## Nittany Valley Symphony Guild Poinsettia Sale



The Nittany Valley Symphony is selling poinsettias as a fund raiser. The plants, available in red, white, and pink, come with two plants of 12-14 blooms per 7" pot, measure 18-20" tall, and are wrapped in gold foil. Cost is \$12.00 per plant—make checks payable to "NVS Guild."

Orders should be mailed to: Nittany Valley Symphony, P.O. Box 1375, State College, PA 16804. The deadline for ordering is Monday, November 19, 2001. Orders of 10 or more will be delivered; smaller orders can be picked up Friday, December 7 between noon and 6:00 p.m. or Saturday, December 8 between 9:00 a.m. and noon at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship (across from the YMCA on Waupelani Drive).

For more information, call Don Hummel at 861-8552 or the NVS office at 231-8224.

## CONGRATULATIONS

- To SCCS Board Member **Norene Ferris** who was elected Vice Chair at the last board meeting.

- To our newest Board Member:



**ADRIAN OCNEANU**


2001-02, 1st Term


Email: [adrian@math.psu.edu](mailto:adrian@math.psu.edu)

Phone: 865-4060 (o) 234-4608 (h)

Thanks, Adrian, for volunteering for this position.

## News & Notes

-  Auditions for "trained" church soloist November 11 or by arrangement. Christian Science Church—warm, supportive atmosphere—professional musician organist. \$40 per Sunday morning—one service, one solo, three hymns with congregation. Call Julie, 466-7704 (home) or 231-5097 (work).

-  Need help hemming your new SCCS outfit? Call Gail Foster at 359-0912. She charges only \$5.00 per skirt!

*If you have an item to include in "News & Notes," please send an email to [haner7@home.com](mailto:haner7@home.com).*

## A Star Is Born

Russ Shelley will appear on 95.3/3WZ's *Morning Show* on Wednesday, November 28 at 8:00 a.m. He will discuss the Madrigal Dinners and our upcoming performance of the *Messiah* with hosts Steve Jones and Matt Spence.

### Dress Size Chart

Size	0	2	4	6	8	10	12	14	16	18	20	22	24	26	28
<i>bust</i>	30	32	34	35	36	38	39	40	41	43	45	47	49	51	53
<i>waist</i>	22	24	26	27	28	30	32	34	35	37	39	41	43	45	47
<i>hips</i>	32	34	36	37	38	40	42	43	44	46	48	50	52	54	56
<i>length</i>	40½	41	41	41½	41½	42	42	43	43	43½	43½	44	44	44½	44½