

The State College Choral Society



NEWSLETTER

July 2002



Sale!

State College Choral Society

2nd Annual

YARD SALE

Saturday, August 24, 2002 9:00 am - ??

Drop off donations Friday, August 23 at 769 Westerly Parkway

The Choral Society is holding a Yard Sale to offset expenses. Here's how you can help:

DONATIONS: Bring clean new or used clothing, housewares, furniture, sports equipment, and other items to 769 Westerly Parkway Friday, August 23 anytime between 10:00 AM and 8:00 PM.

PERSONNEL: We need people to 1) price and sort items on Friday, 2) set up early Saturday morning, 3) serve as sales people during the sale, and 4) clean up and dispose of leftovers at the end of the sale. Call Janet Haner at 861-8749 if you can give an hour or two to help, or if you have any questions.

Special thanks to tenor Frank Hartranft and his wife, Patti,
for letting us use their yard again this year for our sale.



Summer Sing-Along Oratorio Series

Summertime and the Singing is Easy

The State College Choral Society started a new program this summer, the Summer Sing-Along Oratorio Series. Long-time Choral Society member Pat Farrell suggested that, since both SCCS and many church choirs are on hiatus over the summer, it would be enjoyable to get together on a summer evening and sing through a favorite major work. The idea is to sing just for fun, going straight through the pieces with solo parts sung *en masse*. In addition to giving members an opportunity to sing over the summer, the Sing Alongs allow singers not in Choral Society a chance to get to know us.

We invited all choir directors in State College and the surrounding area to direct an oratorio, and a few brave volunteers came forward. Mim Locklin, choir director at our "home" church, Trinity Lutheran, graciously agreed to start off the series in June with the Mozart *Requiem* (actually, she had several choices listed, but since the *Requiem* was the first, and she was the first to volunteer, it was first come, first served). Since the *Requiem* is not an easy piece to play, we had to find an accompanist equal to the task; fortunately Choral Society's talented Asa Carns agreed to the assignment. On June 23rd, the group sang through the piece with Asa on the piano, and then returned to sing "Lacrimosa" a second time accompanied by organ. Including a few listeners, 49 people attended. It was a very enjoyable evening, and an offering of \$115.10 was split evenly between the Choral Society and Trinity Lutheran Church.

Despite a traffic accident which partially blocked the road to the church, a dedicated group of singers showed up for the second Sing Along in July at St. Peter's United Church of Christ to sing the Vivaldi *Gloria*. Director Jan Miller (choir director at our "concert" church, Grace Lutheran) worked through the piece slowly the first time, stopping to give directions. Then we sang

the *Gloria* straight through a second time. Pat Lloyd, organist from Grace Lutheran, provided excellent accompaniment. Attendance for the evening numbered 42, including an audience of church members. An offering of \$60.30 was shared with St. Peter's.

The third and final Sing Along for the summer is scheduled for early August. Sara Hopkins, music director for Our Lady of Victory, and Gail Ritchey, one of OLV's organists, offered to do Mozart's *Coronation Mass* on Sunday, August 4th. Sara will share directing duties with Chris Kirkpatrick, director of OLV's "Knights and Squires" boys' choir.

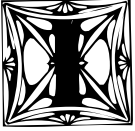
These events were not planned as fund raisers; the modest amounts taken in as offerings cover expenses such as postage for flyers, refreshments, and thank you gifts for the directors and accompanists. By the same token, SCCS is making a determined effort to stay within budget, and we did not want the Sing Alongs to be a financial burden, so it is greatly appreciated that the offerings are sufficient to cover the expenses incurred.

The Sing Alongs offer a low-pressure chance to get together and sing through a major work, and give those of us who miss singing in the summer something to tide us over until rehearsals begin in the fall.



Jan Miller conducts the Vivaldi *Gloria* at St. Peter's UCC Church in July.

ACAPPELLA



t's the middle of summer. Time for vacations, drinking a refreshing beverage outside in a favorite spot, family reunions, opportunities for gardening, and, for some of our members, continued opportunities for singing!

Several of our members took part in the Academy of Sacred Music's annual workshop in Altoona. By doing this, they had a chance to sing in the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament, beating the rest of us by about seven months. Some of our female members are participating in the group, Arietta, this summer. Arietta performed at our annual Madrigal Dinners, but over the summer they get together to rehearse and then participate in various area churches as a part of worship services. And some of our members have been getting together for the new Sing-Alongs, revisiting Mozart's *Requiem* and *Coronation Mass*, and Vivaldi's *Gloria*.

We have a great concert season planned for the upcoming year and are looking forward to resuming our rehearsals in September. Until then, take some time to enjoy summer by going for a walk, enjoying flowers, or at dusk, just sit outside and do nothing but watch the lightning bugs come out.

Rha

Do you know someone who should be
on the Choral Society mailing list?
Let us know--email Janet at
jhaner@adelphia.net.

Dear Members,

Thank you so much for making the 2001-02 season so successful, not only in terms of our singing, but also with our fund raising. Despite the sluggish economy, the State College Choral Society received \$12,585.50 in contributions during the past year, a 26.5 percent increase from the 2000-01 season. Even more remarkable is the fact that about 55 percent of those donations (more than \$7,000) came from current or past members of the Choral Society. You should all be proud--your gifts of time, talent, and resources have enabled the Choral Society to survive and grow for 53 years...and the best is yet to come!

I also want to thank you for your help in securing advertising for our spring concert program--believe me, it is a lot easier having 150 people "pound the pavement" than it is for one person to do it. I will be seeking your help again this year and hope to hand out advertising packets sometime in September. If you know of a business that might be interested in advertising, but you don't feel comfortable approaching them yourself, that's okay, too--just give me a call (231-1213) or stop me after a rehearsal and let me know the name of the company and a contact person (if you know it). I'll take care of the rest!

One area to which I plan to devote more of my attention this year is securing corporate support. Again, if you know of any business that you think would be interested in supporting the Choral Society, please let me know. The more support we receive, the more we grow!

Sincerely,

Bill Hessert
Development Director





I think it was in the movie *Parenthood* (with Steve Martin and Rick Moranis) that the Grandmother in the story talks about life by comparing it to carnival rides. She said life can be like a carousel, or like a roller coaster. The carousel, while it goes up and down a little, basically goes round and round in circles; it's safe and secure. The roller coaster, on the other hand, has unpredictable highs and lows--you never know what's going to happen, but it's a heck of a lot more fun. Thanks to a job in transition and my beloved aging parents, I've been on the roller coaster this summer, and while I prefer that to the carousel, I am anxious to get back to SCCS rehearsals and the therapy that music provides. The new works and innovative events planned promise to make for an exciting year. Here's the schedule:

Schedule for 2002-03

(Subject to change)

October 29

Sing for the Cure

A concert celebrating breast cancer survivors
Eisenhower Auditorium

December 5 & 6

Madrigal Dinners

December 15

Handel

Messiah

Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament, Altoona

March 1

Orff

Carmina Burana

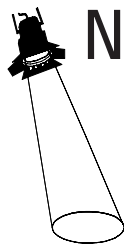
with the Pennsylvania Ballet
Eisenhower Auditorium

May 4

Brubeck

To Hope: A Celebration

(Location to be determined)



New Kids on the Block

Introducing new members in SCCS

by Margie Wyand

Annette Slater

Annette Slater joined SCCS last fall and does not regret making a long drive to sing with SCCS because she enjoys the experience of singing with Russ. Music is a major part of Annette's life, with 31 years teaching music in Pennsylvania. She spent a number of years in a Benedictine community in the Erie area where she taught music and piano. During that time, she and 50 other members of that community performed over 100 concerts to raise money for a new Mother House. One of these performances became her "most memorable" music experience. She appeared on the Ed Sullivan show in the 60s, sharing the stage with Petula Clark, Alan King, and the Rolling Stones (they played "Ruby Tuesday"). Besides teaching in the Benedictine community she taught in a Catholic school in Clarion where she prepared a boys' choir for a Clarion State University performance of *Carmina Burana*. She finished her teaching career at the St. Marys Area Middle School where she taught general music, choir, and theater. She played a nun in two different productions of the "Sound of Music" and helped in staging and costuming for the performances.

Annette retired two years ago, but maintains a busy, active life that includes European travel, mountain biking, cross country skiing, kayaking, and backpacking. Her home in the small community of Weedville (population 650) has a beautiful view "as good as the Alps." If you're in the area, stop by and ask anyone where Annette lives. A special thanks to Annette for making the long trip to State College with Peg Hayes.

Mark Kelly

This is the first choral experience for Mark Kelly. While growing up in the northwest suburbs of Chicago, Mark played brass (mostly trombone), and was known to do jazz gigs while in undergraduate school at the University of Illinois. Mark received his master's degree at the University of Mississippi, and is now at Penn State working on a doctorate in meteorology with an emphasis on turbulence. He enjoys being around people, playing sports, and being out of doors, but he has yet to climb Mt. Nittany. Does anyone care to race him to the top? Mark has another recruit for the bass or tenor section this fall. Way to go, Mark!!

News & Notes 🎵



Special thanks to the volunteers for the WPSX Pledge Break in June: Dorothy Blair, Karen Bryan, Joan Denny, Steve Houtz, Gayl Lent, Jan Miller, and Margie Wyand. The announcers gave us several positive plugs.