

# The State College Choral Society

## NEWSLETTER

September 2001



Russ Shelley auditions the massage chair.

## YARD SALE A SUCCESS

*(Despite Director Sleeping on the Job!)*

The first yard sale held by the State College Choral Society as a fund raiser was an unqualified success and brought in just over \$1,000.

In an effort to balance the SCCS budget and avoid the financial losses of the past two years, the Board decided to include a certain amount of income in the budget from “special fundraising.” The yard sale idea was particularly attractive because it involved no expenditures; any money raised would be pure profit.

Choral Society members dropped off used clothing, furniture, housewares, and other items on Friday, August 17. The sale was held the next day, since that was “move-in day” for Penn State students.

A large contingent of Choral Society members helped make the sale possible. While it was a lot of work, it was also fun: we cheered as each large item sold, especially the massage-lounge chair that didn’t go until the very end. We debated who

among us would buy the singing Kermit. The sale was so well attended that we decided not to close at the planned hour (noon) but stayed until after 2:00 p.m.—we couldn’t go until the massage chair sold!

There are many people who deserve special thanks: Frank and Patti Hartranft for generously letting us invade their home and use their strategically placed yard—Patti also helped carry out boxes and boxes of goods at 7:00 a.m.; Peggy Halleck, who helped plan the event, made some great signs, was there all day Saturday, and took a carload of leftovers to Good Will; Margie Wyand, who worked on Friday and all day Saturday; Martha Hummel, who worked both Friday and Saturday, brought some beautiful quilts from her church, and took the leftover books for the AAUW book sale; Ryan Ditmer, who delivered and picked up tables from his church; Julie Peterson, who diligently handled the cashier’s table; Phil Halleck, who delivered a large load of items and brought us lunch; and many more: Jean Hawks, Winnie O’Halloran, Megan Jones, Vic Sparrow, Melissa Deines, Bill Hessert, Jennifer Hessert, and Mitzi Elliott. There were others, including those who brought delicious baked goods and those who donated items, whose names were not written down—thank you, thank you, thank you.

Thus an institution is born. Start saving your items for next year’s sale—we hope to make twice as much!

### **You’re Invited:**

## ***Post-Concert Reception After Beethoven’s 9th Symphony***

Choral Society members singing in the Beethoven concert, and their families and friends, are invited to join the Nittany Valley Symphony for a reception at Windsong in the Brookline retirement community immediately following the concert on September 24th. This reception is free of charge thanks to the Nittany Valley Symphony Guild and the generosity of an anonymous donor in the Choral Society.

To get to Windsong, head south on Atherton Street. Just before Hill’s Plaza, turn left onto Branch Road (Perkins Restaurant is on the left). Pass the back entrance to the Plaza and turn right on Cliffside Drive. Take the first right, which takes you to Windsong in the Brookline complex. From there, signs will direct you to the reception site.

# ACAPPELLA



The days are getting shorter, the temperature in the morning has been a little more brisk, and the trees are starting to show their colors. These signs can only mean that summer is ending and that SCCS rehearsals are starting for our 2001-2002 season. As a choral singer, you can't get a much better repertoire than we have for this year's season. This variety and the rare opportunity to experience "The Rush" are why I am a member of the SCCS. You know the rush I'm referring to ... your singing and the words are working, your part is working, the accompaniment is working, and something mystical happens to your physical being. I remember one of our dress rehearsals at Grace Lutheran Church when we were preparing a concert that contained John Rutter's arrangement of the hymn-tune, "Loben den Herren." We had only rehearsed this piece with piano but today we were adding the brass, percussion, and organ for the first time. It started innocently enough with the brass providing fanfare. I had my head down, listening to the interaction between the brass and percussion. And then it happened ... the brass sounded a second theme in their fanfare and stopped. But the music didn't stop; it was propelled forward by the full pipe organ. Then the brass came back enhancing what the pipe organ was playing. My head came up filled with this glorious sound; I got goose bumps and felt "The Rush." We were going to sing this piece, I wanted to sing this piece, and nothing was going to stop us from singing this piece. I felt this same emotion when we sang Beethoven's *Ninth* with the Nittany Valley Symphony in 1993. We were onstage, I heard the familiar chords leading to the major choral portion of this work, and we sang! As I was singing I couldn't help but think to myself that here I was, a central Pennsylvanian, born and raised in rural Juniata County, and I was singing a piece of music that I had only ever heard on recordings.

You can also experience "The Rush" in other ways. I have seen some of our members moved to tears when we rehearsed particular movements from *Elijah* or from the Brahms *Requiem*. I've also seen our members enjoying the experience of comfort in re-singing favorite pieces such as "Frostiana" from last season. This, I think, is why we sing ... to be comforted, to feel exhilaration, and to experience that special emotion that binds us together as a choir. This season may you experience "The Rush."

**State College Choral Society**  
has a new phone number: 861-8749



*Madrigal  
Dinner Manager  
Gets Married*

*Bev and  
new husband,  
Allan Sutley*

Best wishes to Choral Society Madrigal Dinner Manager, Beverly (Balger) Sutley, who got married June 23, 2001, to Allan Sutley, who works in Penn State's College of Arts & Architecture. The wedding took place at Park Forest United Methodist Church, and was accompanied by the Westminster Handbell Ensemble of Our Lady of Victory Church. The pictures above show Bev with Allan, at her wedding reception, and fishing on her honeymoon.

## Thanks for SCCS Donation Goes To The Dog

Minnie, a 5-year-old black and silver German shepherd, has an ear for choral music, and backs up her good taste with financial support of the State College Choral Society.



Minnie's owner, Alyce Ritti, who sent the donation in for Minnie, says, "I did not get Minnie a ticket because she would want to sing along. Although her mezzo is robust, it's a bit rough around the edges. Great chest tones, but her head tones sound surprisingly close to howls."

We hope other pet owners will follow suit and send in donations from their animals. Maybe we should have a dog-cat challenge?

**WHO'S WHO IN SCCS:** Below are some of the folks who do the work in Choral Society, and their responsibilities.

*Artistic Staff*



*Music Director*  
**RUSS SHELLEY**

- Chooses repertoire
- Plans and directs rehearsals and concerts
- Sets rehearsal schedule
- Conducts auditions for new members
- Selects and engages soloists, and works with Orchestra Manager to facilitate orchestra personnel
- Orders choral and orchestra scores
- Serves as liaison with other community/University musical organizations
- Serves as highest authority for all things musical

Email: shelley@juniata.edu Phone: 643-9241 (h) 641-3473 (o)



*Orchestra Manager*  
**TRINA GALLUP**

- Selects and engages orchestra members as requested by Music Director
- Monitors orchestra members for attendance and contract compliance
- Distributes orchestral scores
- Orchestra rehearsal arrangements



*Accompanist*  
**ASA CARNS**

- Accompanies rehearsals
- Accompanies concerts as needed

*Ace Volunteers*



*Historian/Archivist*  
**PATRICIA ZARKOWER**

- Maintains records and archival materials for the Choral Society



*Keeper of the Lists*  
**ELIZABETH SPECHT**

- Maintains databases with mailing lists of past and current members, and friends of SCCS

*Administrative Staff*



*General Manager*  
**JANET HANER**

- Concert arrangements
- Tickets and reservations
- Publicity, including newsletter & website
- Concert programs and season brochure
- Rehearsal space arrangements
- Ladies' new outfit initiative, special fundraising and other projects as needed

Email: haner7@home.com Phone: 861-1277 (h) 865-0771 (o)



*Chorus Manager*  
**MARGIE WYAND**

- Membership, including registration & rosters
- Supervision of section leaders
- Audition arrangements
- Announcements & information dissemination
- Sales and distribution of learning tapes & CDs
- Monitors attendance and outfit compliance
- Sales and distribution of tuxedos, folders, etc.
- Chorus trips and other projects as needed

Email: mjlw2@psu.edu Phone: 234-8984 (h)



*Director of Development*  
**BILL HESSERT**

- Development to include corporate sponsorship and private contributions
- Grants: applications and reporting
- Concert program ads
- Special fundraising as needed

Email: sw4@psu.edu Phone: 231-1213 (h) 863-4325 (o)



*Madrigal Dinner Manager*  
**BEVERLY SUTLEY**

- Madrigal Dinner arrangements
- Tickets and reservations for Madrigals



*Sales Manager*  
**NANCY WILSON**

- Sales & distribution of scores for singers
- Sales & distribution of concert tapes & CDs

# The Board of Directors

The State College Choral Society is governed by a Board of Directors, which manages the administrative and fiscal activities of the Society. While the Music Director is responsible for all music decisions, the Board sets policy for SCCS activities. The Board consists of twelve members, each elected to a three-year term. Four members are elected each year. You need not be a member of the Choral Society to serve on the Board. The Board meets the third Wednesday of every month at St. John's United Church of Christ in Boalsburg. Meetings, except where evaluations of salaried personnel are to take place, are open to members of the Choral Society. Listed below are the current Board members.

Telephone key: (h) = home (o) = office



**H. RYAN DITMER, Chair**

2000-03, 2nd Term  
 Email: hrditmer@csrlink.net  
 Phone: 466-6431 (h)



**JULIE PETERSON, Treasurer**

2000-03, 1st Term  
 Email: jjp5@psu.edu  
 Phone: 238-6233 (h)



**JOHN M. KELLER, Secretary**

2000-03, 1st Term  
 Email: jmk13@psu.edu  
 Phone: 863-6035 (o)



**KRISTINE ALLEN**

2001-04, 1st Term  
 Email: kta1@psu.edu  
 Phone: 865-3333 (o)

**PEGGY HALLECK**

1999-2002, 1st Term  
 Email: msh4@psu.edu  
 Phone: 692-2104 (h) 863-1767 (o)



**JANET ATWOOD**

1999-2002, 2nd Term  
 Email: jxa3@psu.edu  
 Phone: 238-3683 (h)

**PHIL HALLECK**

1999-2002, 2nd Term  
 Email: pmh2@psu.edu  
 Phone: 692-2104 (h) 863-1701 (o)



**NANETTE BOHREN**

2001-2004, 2nd Term  
 Phone: 466-6264 (h)

**ERNIE HAWK**

2001-2004, 2nd Term  
 Phone: 237-4812 (h)



**NORENE FERRIS**

2001-2003, 1st Term  
 Email: norsings@yahoo.com  
 Phone: 238-6351 (h)

**BRIAN PANULLA**

2001-04, 1st Term  
 Email: brian@elmwoodmedia.com  
 Phone: 238-6680 (o)



**THIS COULD BE YOU!**

*SCCS is looking for one more board member—please see Ryan if you're interested.*



I am pleased to report that the survey on a new women's outfit has had many returns. Results to date are shown in the box below. I appreciate the time taken to complete the form, and I read all of the comments with interest.

The case for a new outfit is more than a personal preference; there are many reasons for a common outfit. Perhaps the most important is that different outfits can be distracting to the audience, and detract from the music. A common outfit serves to make "what the women are wearing" a non-issue. The professional look of an organization signals to the audience the group's dedication to a high standard—in appearance as well as in musical presentation.




Based on responses below, sample outfits have been ordered, and we plan to hold a fashion show after the October 1 rehearsal. A vote will be taken by written ballot at the conclusion of the fashion show. We hope to have our new outfits in time for the January concert.

I am looking forward to a great season this year with SCCS. You will see changes, since we are always looking for ways to do things better. With the addition of Director of Development Bill Hessert to our administration, our financial future looks brighter, and with Russ Shelley coming into his own as our Music Director, the possibilities for great choral music are limitless. What a great time to be a member!

Please feel free to contact me with your questions and concerns—phone 861-1277 or email haner7@home.com. If you have not received emails from me, send me your email address, and I will add you to the list.

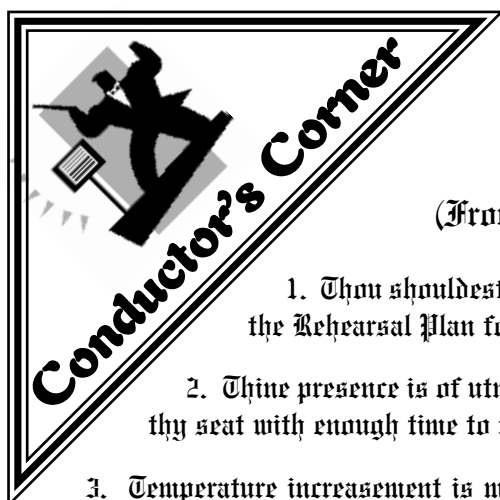
| Women's Outfit Survey Results |               |               |               |                  |       |
|-------------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|------------------|-------|
| Prefers                       | new           | 59.2%         | Sleeves       | close fitting    | 26.0% |
|                               | old           | 35.2%         |               | loose            | 69.9% |
|                               | no preference | 5.6%          |               | puffed           | 0.0%  |
|                               |               | no preference |               | 4.1%             |       |
| Color                         | black         | 63.4%         | Sleeve Length | short            | 3.9%  |
|                               | white/black   | 32.4%         |               | elbow            | 10.5% |
|                               | no preference | 4.2%          |               | three-quarter    | 26.3% |
| Style                         | one-piece     | 27.5%         |               | long             | 55.3% |
|                               | two-piece     | 60.9%         |               | no preference    | 3.9%  |
|                               | no preference | 11.6%         | Waist         | fitted           | 32.9% |
| Neckline                      | jewel         | 36.7%         |               | loose            | 47.1% |
|                               | v-neck        | 21.5%         |               | no preference    | 5.7%  |
|                               | open          | 30.4%         |               | elastic          | 14.3% |
|                               | collar        | 6.3%          | Fabric        | cotton/polyester | 54.3% |
|                               | no preference | 5.1%          |               | georgette/crepe  | 25.7% |
| Skirt                         | straight      | 18.1%         |               | satin            | 1.4%  |
|                               | gathered      | 11.1%         |               | no preference    | 7.1%  |
|                               | a-line        | 69.4%         |               | washable         | 11.4% |
|                               | no preference | 1.4%          | Cost          | \$70 or less     | 49.3% |
|                               |               |               |               | \$71-100         | 45.2% |
|                               |               | \$101 or more |               | 1.4%             |       |
|                               |               | no preference |               | 4.1%             |       |

## News & Notes

-  Please send get well wishes to Choral Society soprano Sharon Arnold. She and her husband were recently in a car accident, and while Sharon has recovered enough to go home, her husband remains in the hospital. We wish them both a speedy recovery. Send cards to Sharon at 49 Ash Street, Bellefonte, PA 16823.
-  Thanks to Melissa Deines, Steve Houtz, and Charlotte Rimert, who joined the Nittany Valley Symphony on their recent WPSX pledge break. SCCS was mentioned several times, and the announcers gave the Beethoven concert a nice plug.
-  Thanks also to the volunteers who helped get the SCCS season brochure in the mail: Bill & Jennifer Hessert, Mitzi Elliott, Elizabeth Specht, Julie Peterson, Peggy Halleck, Ernie & Jean Hawk, and Janet Atwood.

*If you have an item to include in "News & Notes," please send an email to haner7@home.com.*





## Our Common Good . . . In Rehearsal

### Rehearsal Etiquette

(From *Take Note of Thine Notes* by William S. Byrd, Jr. 1567 - 1674)

1. Thou shouldest come to rehearsal with pitches and rhythms already learned. Thou art provided with the Rehearsal Plan for this express purpose.
2. Thine presence is of utmost importance. No member is insignificant. Therefore, doest thine best to arrive in thy seat with enough time to review the Rehearsal Plan repertoire portions prior to temperature increasement.
3. Temperature increasement is more than a time to warm up the voice. If the truth be known, the carriage ride to rehearsal is a perfect time to extend the voice to the upper and lower extremes. Opening group vocalizations are intended to achieve the sense of ensemble present at the end of the prior rehearsal. It is a time to "create the chorus" in a most comprehensive fashion.
4. Since we all have stock in pencil manufacturing corporations, it is critical that marks in the score be present in each member's music. Here a bit of humility is required—takest no offense when thine neighbor reaches over to mark thine score. To prevent awkward moments, mark thine own score first.
5. The stoppage of singing happens just prior to precise instructions from the conductor. It is those instructions that givest us reason to meet in congregation. Therefore, it is of the utmost importance that silence follows any stoppage of singing. Talking to thine neighbor hinders others' ability to hear instructions. Assume thou art the one who needs the instruction. All lips should be fully connected when not singing. (This, of course, is an instruction for individuals, not the whole group.)
6. Hold thine instrument in a way that fosters the best sound emanation. Keep thine bellows from collapsing.
7. Since thou hast but one mouth, yet two ears, always listen louder than you sing. 'Tis only natural.
8. Holdest thineself accountable to others and others accountable to thineself. Takest no offense when thine neighbor points out possible improvement. Help thine neighbor after the second repetition of an error.
9. Conductors tend to be shifty characters. Always keepest thine eye on them!
10. Seekest thou the highest possible common good. Fulfillment cometh from filling each moment full.

## Preregistration Night Is A Winner

In an effort to make registration easier for members and to alleviate the first rehearsal press to get music and pay fees, this year the Choral Society not only made it possible to register for membership and pre-pay music by mail, but also held a preregistration night where music could be picked up and membership fees paid, long before the first rehearsal.

On August 6, a team of volunteers joined Chorus Manager Margie Wyand at Trinity Lutheran Church to facilitate the registration/music-buying process. On that night, pre-

vious members could 1) pay membership and music fees, and pick up music; 2) pick up music pre-paid by mail; 3) borrow music; and 4) pick up learning tapes and CDs.

The night was well received, especially since, in addition to relieving the rush at the first rehearsal, it allowed singers to get music far enough in advance to get in some early practice time. At our first rehearsal on September 10, Margie thanked those who helped, especially Emily Gregory, who filled in for vacationing Sales Manager Nancy Wilson.