

a tempo

OUR MISSION

The mission of the Children's Chorus of Washington is to foster both the artistic and personal development of a diverse and dedicated community of young musicians in the greater Washington, D.C. area by providing them with an opportunity to study and perform the highest quality choral literature.

Spring Concert with Sweet Honey In The Rock

This year's spring concert on May 12 marks CCW's debut at the Music Center at Strathmore performing its own program. The concert opens with all 175 choristers on stage in the beautiful concert hall at Strathmore performing "Gloria Tibi," one of the most well-known selections from Leonard Bernstein's *Mass*. Each ensemble – Treble, Bel Canto and Concert Chorus - performs an individual program including works by Bach, Haydn and Copland. A highlight of the concert is the world premiere performance by the Concert Chorus of a newly commissioned piece, "Discovered," by Ysaye Barnwell. The internationally renowned a cappella ensemble, Sweet Honey In The Rock, takes the stage for the second half, performing music from the African-American tradition. Their music has been a vital and innovative part of the Washington music culture and around the world for over three decades. This remarkable concert concludes with CCW's young choristers joining Sweet Honey on stage to sing together with a collective voice.

CCW at ACDA

CCW was well represented at the American Choral Directors Association National Convention in Miami in March. Three Concert Choristers, Aisha Cooper, Olivia Haller and Caitlin Levine, were selected from hundreds of applicants from throughout the United States to participate in the 2007 National Honors Children's Chorus. Conducted by internationally acclaimed conductor Jean Ashworth Bartle, the Honors Chorus presented an outstanding concert for the entire ACDA membership at the new performing arts center in Miami. We can all take pride in these three CCW singers!

From the Artistic Director



Entering its second decade, CCW continues to grow and serve an increasing number of young singers from the Washington, DC area. For several years, the organization had planned to add an intermediate ensemble to accommodate choristers who are beginning to master basic musical and vocal skills. In September, the new ensemble, Bel Canto, began rehearsing with conductor Michael Wu and accompanist Anne Tyler.

After a few short weeks, this ensemble, comprised of a core group of 8 students who had moved up from Treble Chorus and 42 new students, presented their first mini-concert at the fall retreat. It was clear from that concert that Mr. Wu, Mrs. Tyler and the 50 singers were an exciting addition to the CCW program. Bel Canto members will perform at CCW's self-produced concerts and on domestic tours, serving as singing ambassadors. A focus for this ensemble will be on establishing relationships with other choral organizations. In April, Bel Canto

traveled to New York to participate in the Heritage Children's Choral Festival at Riverside Church.

The Concert Chorus has participated in numerous concerts and events this season, including Mayor Adrian Fenty's first Mayor's Annual Arts Awards Ceremony at the Kennedy Center. This spring, the Treble Chorus hosted our annual Building Community Through Song, collaborating with the Glorystar Children's Chorus and Frederick Children's Chorus.

The highlight of the year for all three CCW ensembles is the Spring Concert at Strathmore on May 12 with the acclaimed a cappella group Sweet Honey In The Rock. In preparation for that performance, Concert choristers worked with Dr. Ysaye Barnwell on the piece she wrote for them called "Discovered." Working with composers like Dr. Barnwell gives the young singers a better understanding and appreciation of what goes into the creative process. By commissioning pieces, CCW contributes to the repertoire for children's chorus.

The Children's Chorus of Washington is poised to continue to make the next decade a stimulating and rewarding one for choristers and families alike. I am grateful to all of you for your support and I hope that you will have an opportunity this spring to hear the choral artistry of our young singers.

Joan Gregoryk

Calling all boys and girls who love to sing...

Auditions for the Children's Chorus of Washington's 2007-2008 season are being held through May 17. Open to girls, and boys with unchanged voices, ages 9-16, auditions are easy – no preparation or experience is necessary to audition, just a love of singing! Scholarships are provided to all qualified students with demonstrated financial need.



To schedule an audition, call the Chorus Office at (202) 237-1005.



Senior Staying Power!

Melanie Ashkar (00-07)

Megan Brenneman (02-07)

Margot Catherwood (01-07)

Jasmine Dyba (01-07)

Becky Fradkin (02-07)

Lindsey Hunter (00-07)

How do young people juggle the demands of today's fast-paced society? Ask these six young women and you'll find they do it seamlessly, with hard work and dedication to what they love – music. A look at their musical resumes reveals over 60 performances that include some of the world's greatest choral works - Orff's *Carmina Burana*, Mahler's *Symphony No. 8*, and Bach's *St. Matthew Passion*. They have performed under the batons of Leonard Slatkin, Helmuth Rilling, and Marvin Hamlisch, and sung with every major adult professional chorus in the Washington area. Their voices have been heard in renowned concert halls in the US, Europe and South America. And, they have received the benefit of a world-class music education from celebrated children's chorus conductor, Joan Gregoryk. All are members of CCW's elite Chamber Ensemble. These committed choristers have had to make choices and have given up other activities to pursue their love of singing. In today's world where instant gratification is paramount, they have learned the value of working hard to perfect the music they sing, and have experienced what it means to achieve true excellence. Our seniors have been an inspiration to all of us and we wish them the best of luck as they move on to college and beyond.

Excerpts From a College Essay...

by Megan Brenneman

The final chorus of "O Fortuna" ends, and almost immediately the Kennedy Center Concert Hall is in an uproar caused by patrons cheering for the cast of *Carmina Burana*, including the maestro, the orchestra, the soloists, the adult chorus, and finally us, the children's chorus. I look around and I smile. Could I have gotten this feeling anywhere else? I think not. As I take a bow, I think, "I am so glad I gave up high school soccer for this." Like all members of the Children's Chorus of Washington, I have learned a thing or two about sacrifice. The chorus is a great commitment, and upon entering high school, I learned I would not be able to combine chorus with soccer. Right after making the difficult decision of where to go to high school, I was forced to make this equally important choice. I chose chorus. Giving up soccer was difficult for me; I had been playing for nearly eight years. Yes, I suppose I could have learned responsibility and discipline by being on the school soccer team, but I am still one hundred percent thankful I chose chorus. After all, how could I have heard that tumultuous applause after *Carmina Burana* if I were stuck at school running laps around the fields?

Cultural Exchange with Shallaway Children's Chorus from Newfoundland

CCW's chorus families are thrilled to host Shallaway Children's Chorus from Newfoundland by providing homestays for chorus members while they are in Washington this summer. Shallaway is traveling to our city to perform an opera they commissioned for children's chorus by composer Stephen Hatfield, the guest conductor and composer at CCW's 10th Anniversary Spring Concert last year. The opera, "Ann and Sheamus," tells the story of young Ann Harvey who, with her family, rescued 168 of 211 shipwrecked passengers and crew from the brig *Dispatch*, an Irish immigrant ship bound from Londonderry to Quebec City nearly 200 years ago. Shallaway choristers will perform the opera at the Kennedy Center Millennium Stage on July 11 at 6 p.m.

CCW Welcomes New Board Members

CCW's Board of Directors is fortunate to have added the talents of three CCW parents to its membership this year.

Nancy Kuhn is currently an attorney with Powell Goldstein LLP in Washington, D.C. where she focuses her practice on Federal tax controversy work, and tax-planning for public charities and private foundations. Nancy is also an accomplished musician with a master's degree in organ performance. She and her husband David have two children – Emily is a college sophomore, and Billy is in 7th grade and a second year member of Concert Chorus. Nancy serves on the Board Development and Governance Committees.

Gary Morgans is the father of three daughters, one of whom, Jennie, has been a member of CCW for five years. He is a partner at Steptoe & Johnson and represents investor-owned electric utilities in rate cases and other regulatory proceedings before the FERC. His interests include running, volunteer work, and attending his children's numerous choral concerts, plays and sporting events. Gary has joined the Board Finance Committee.

Karen Nakamura is State and Local Tax Director with the National Office of PricewaterhouseCoopers. With twenty years of experience in all aspects of state and local taxation, Karen is a welcome addition to the Board Finance Committee. She has a strong history of volunteer participation. Karen and her husband Kent have two children. Her daughter Theresa is a founding member of Bel Canto Chorus and former Treble Chorister, and son Christopher is in 4th grade.

Super Dad & Mom

Perry and Nanette Hunter, parents of Lindsey, have driven their daughter to CCW rehearsals twice a week from Columbia, Maryland, a 60-mile round trip, for seven years! This does not factor in extra rehearsals or performances. We sat down to figure out this family's contribution to their daughter's music education and were astounded: the Hunters put over 6,000 miles on their family car to support Lindsey's love of singing. In recognition of their dedication, we will present them with CCW's Outstanding Parent Support award at our graduation ceremony on June 4.

CCW Welcomes New Staff Members

After an extensive search, CCW's Board of Directors is pleased to announce the hiring of **Michael Wu** as conductor of the new Bel Canto Chorus. Mr. Wu serves as Director of Middle School Life at Landon School, where he instructs several choral ensembles. He also serves as Director of Music at Grace United Methodist Church, and as an assisting organist at Washington Hebrew Congregation. Mr. Wu holds degrees in Organ Performance and Church Music from the Peabody Conservatory and Northwestern University. He has composed original music for choirs and solo voices, and has arranged hymns for brass, organ, choir and congregation. A native Washingtonian, Mr. Wu has toured with American choirs and given organ recitals throughout the United States and United Kingdom. He resides in Gaithersburg with his wife Ellen Stanley.

We welcome **Anne Davis Tyler** to CCW's artistic team as the accompanist for Bel Canto. Mrs. Tyler has been a music educator in Washington area independent schools for the past 20 years and is currently on the faculty at St. Patrick's Episcopal Day School in Washington, DC. She holds a Masters of Music in Piano Performance from Catholic University. Her daughter Morgan is a member of CCW's Treble Chorus.

We are thrilled to have **Sophie Maupoil** join CCW as our Program Administrator. Sophie, a native of Paris, France, holds a Masters of Arts Management from American University. Among other professional experiences, she has served as an artistic assistant at the National Symphony Orchestra. Sophie handles all program related tasks and her unique blend of skills and enthusiasm makes her a valued member of CCW's administrative team.

CCW in Petropolis, Brazil



Debbie Shragger with son Ethan Ableman and Joan Gregory

CCW Receives Scholarship Endowment

The Children's Chorus of Washington is pleased to announce the award of a \$25,000 grant from the Shragger Foundation to establish the David S. Shragger Scholarship Fund. The establishment of this endowment fulfills one of CCW's top organizational priorities to provide tuition assistance to every child in need. Trustee Debbie Shragger, whose son Ethan is a member of the Concert Chorus said "My father was a strong believer in the importance of music education and he would have been very happy and honored to know that the Shragger Foundation is able to help CCW offer its outstanding program to children of diverse backgrounds." The Shragger Foundation's leadership role in establishing this scholarship fund will serve as an example and inspiration to other funders and enable CCW to grow this fund for the future.

CCW at Corcovado in Rio



CCW's 2006 South American Tour

By Nancy Ortmeyer Kubn, Tour Chaperone

In July 2006, sixty-four choristers and chaperones traveled to Brazil and Argentina to attend "Melo-dia! South America Children's Chorus Festival," along with three other children's choruses from Minnetonka, Winnipeg and Miami. It was an experience of a lifetime, and words can only begin to describe the variety of experiences we enjoyed. Our trip began with an unexpected layover in the Atlanta airport. As a planeload of soldiers clad in matching camouflage and combat boots began to board a flight on their way to Iraq, choristers gathered to give an impromptu concert, which was a very moving start to our travels.

Upon arrival in Rio de Janeiro, one of our first activities was to drive through the impoverished areas of Rio, known as favelas, to a samba school. There we participated in a musical and cultural exchange with the dancers of the samba school and a local percussion group, Cidade de Deus (City of God). The choir from Cidade de Deus was begun by Yale University in the favelas as a musical outlet for under-privileged children. Sightseeing was also on the agenda, as we traveled by cable car to see "Christ the Redeemer" at Corcovado and to Sugarloaf Mountain where perfect blue skies gave us breathtaking vistas of Rio and the surrounding area. Best of all, our hotel was two blocks from the famous and fabulous Copacabana Beach which we visited often, in between rehearsals and concerts.

Our concert in the glass enclosed Summer Palace in Petropolis was packed with appreciative Brazilian music lovers. CCW's performance at Candelaria, a spectacular cathedral in Rio, was superb and the acoustics were perfect for our young singers. For the finale, all the choirs sang a beloved national song to the natives from Rio (Cariocas), which brought a standing ovation and tears to audience members, all of whom sang along, including our beloved guide Fernando.

In Buenos Aires, choristers were busy rehearsing for the world premiere of Oscar Escalada's *Elogia a los Niños* conducted by Doreen Rao. The combined choirs were joined by the Children's Chorus of Cordoba, Argentina, to perform at the famed Teatro Colón to a very enthusiastic audience. Our stay in Argentina concluded with a tango show, great shopping and horseback riding with the gauchos on the Pampas! This was indeed a very special musical tour, providing our choristers with a lifetime of memories.

Calendar - Spring 2007

Building Community Through Song (Treble Chorus)

With Frederick & Glorystar Children's Choruses
April 14 at Metropolitan Memorial

Heritage Festival Tours (Bel Canto)

April 26-29 in New York City

Share the Music Series (Concert Chorus)

With Hawai'i Youth Opera Chorus
This special event includes a pre-concert
hula workshop!
May 14 at Metropolitan Memorial

Share the Music Series (Concert Chorus)

With Brooklyn Youth Chorus
June 9 at Metropolitan Memorial

"Mass of the Children" by John Rutter (Bel Canto)

Rock Creek Festival
June 19 at St. Paul's Episcopal Church

Gala News

American University's magnificent Katzen Center was the setting for CCW's 2007 Auction, "Salud! Prosit! Salute! Santé! Cheers! A Toast to Wine and Music" held on February 10. Featuring food and wines from around the world, this "fund-raising" event was attended by 170 parents, friends and supporters of CCW and raised over \$43,000 to fund CCW's world-class music education program and provide scholarships to those choristers in need. As guests circulated to bid on enticing silent auction items, they were serenaded on violin and guitar by husband and wife duo Chad and Emily Leader. Interspersed throughout the Katzen Center were tables filled with delectable foods from the featured countries. Auctioneer Sherry Truhlar led a rousing live auction, challenging bidders to raise their bid cards high for fabulous vacation homes, a conductor's baton signed by Leonard Slatkin, and top quality wines.

A special highlight of the evening was the performance by two talented CCW alumni, Caitlin Miller ('96-'02), currently

pursuing a Masters in Musicology and Library Science at Catholic University, and Micah Hendler ('00-'03), a senior at Sidwell Friends School. Both Cait and Micah spoke passionately about the positive influence CCW has had on their lives and how it fed their passion for music. In reflecting on her tenure in CCW, Cait said "My experience with CCW wasn't just fun or educational, it truly laid the foundation for my love of music and fascination with music's powerful effect."

2007 Auction at Katzen Center



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