

CRESCENDO

DECEMBER 2004

VOLUME LXVII, NO. 4

NEWSLETTER OF THE PHILADELPHIA CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN GUILD OF ORGANISTS

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SEASONAL MEDITATION

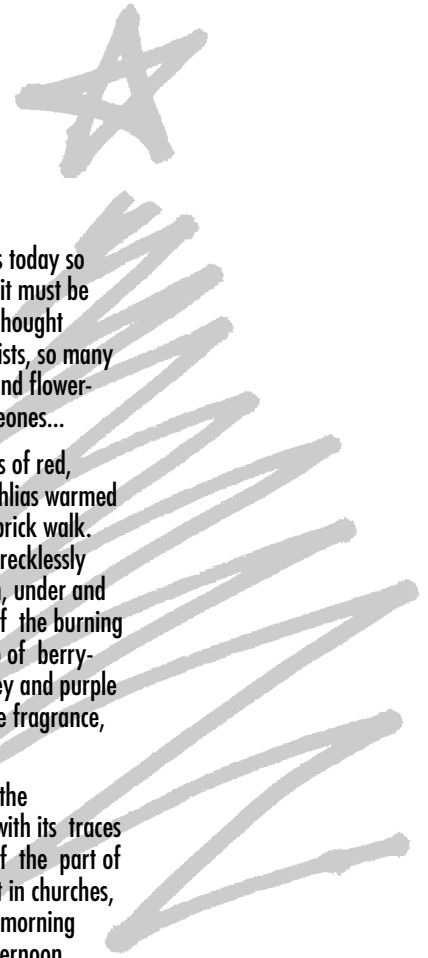
Dorothy Fulton, Chapter Member

My very ordinary garden is today so November-beautiful that it must be shared with someone. I thought perhaps my fellow organists, so many of whom are gardeners and flower-lovers, might be the someones...

Only a few flowers remain. Here and there, spots of red, white, and purple impatiens. Two luscious red dahlias warmed by sunlight reflected from stone foundation and brick walk. White and gold mums, almost spent, splayed out recklessly onto the lawn. Crunchy maple and oak leaves on, under and around every growing thing. Small rosy leaves of the burning bush sprinkled over still-green grass. A backdrop of berry-laden holly branches. The sun, through thick grey and purple clouds, not quite bright; the air, not quite cold; the fragrance, indescribable.

I was thinking of friends who, like myself, are in the November of their musical careers; the garden, with its traces of the season's glorious blooms, reminding me of the part of my life of my being an organist. The time spent in churches, not just at regular times of worship, but in early morning when blue light bathes the chancel, or during afternoon thundershowers when lightning cracks above the roof and wind roars through rafters, adding real drama to music being practiced in an empty sanctuary. The beauty of the worship spaces, the people I have met, the choir singers. The faith I have learned from so many sermons by so many preachers, from people of faith, from great hymns and choral music, from digging for the truth of the music. A true flower garden of riches!

Oh, yes, we complain about our pay, the hours, and lack of appreciation. Ah, but we are blessed in wonderful ways unique to our profession. Thanks be to God. And Happy Holidays!!



CRESCENDO, the official bulletin of the Philadelphia Chapter of the American Guild of Organists, is published monthly, September through June. All material for publication must reach the Editor by the 1st day of the month preceding the date of issue, i.e. November 1 for the December issue. This must be type written and e-mailed (text only in the body of the letter), or mailed. Submissions on electronic media (3.5" floppy disks) in IBM format are appreciated. A hard copy should be included. Submissions become the property of the Philadelphia Chapter of the AGO and will not be returned unless accompanied by a self-addressed and stamped envelope. **CRESCENDO** reserves the right to make editorial changes and to shorten articles to fit space limitations. Articles in *Crescendo* reflect the views of the writers and not necessarily those of the Guild. All advertising must be arranged through the Advertising Manager.

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Advertisements

James Batt
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The deadline for the next issue, January 2005, will be December 1, 2004.

D E A N ' S L E T T E R



Ethel Geist

December!! The emotional range goes from "It's the Most Wonderful Time of the Year" all the way to "Bah, Humbug!"

Looking ahead at the onslaught of coming events, we don't want to face all those rehearsals, performances, and services that are coming, usually piled one on top of another, with little time for preparation or recovery between them.

In spite of that feeling of dread in the pit of my stomach, it's this time of the year when I am so glad that I am a church musician! Services and concerts come and go, and some have a bit of an impact that lasts. But Christmas Eve affects people at an emotional level that is quite different from other occasions.

A year ago, our church was struggling with a dying organ that was puffing and wheezing its last. After the struggle of surviving our Christmas Eve services, I received a letter from one of our members who comes to church once or twice a year – you know the type. It was not a nice letter. He let me know in no uncertain terms that I had not created music to inspire him on this great event, and I had destroyed his Christmas. The chimes he missed so profoundly hadn't worked for 15 years (and he hadn't noticed for 14 of those years!), but now that I was left with almost nothing that worked, he noticed that the music had meant something to him. This year, with a new instrument, we will have a different scenario. I hope he comes back!

As we brace ourselves for December and prepare for the aching backs and sagging shoulders that go with the multiple services, think ahead to Christmas Eve. Do you remember the smiles and the expressions on faces as people sing their beloved carols? Look forward to the opportunity to create this year's Christmas Eve experience.

Usually by the last service, I am able to find my own little piece of Christmas, which becomes my "peace" of Christmas, and leads to the heart-felt "Merry Christmas" exchanges at the end of the evening. Remember that the gift of Christmas is also for musicians. And our special gift is the opportunity to add so much to so many lives as we share our skills and talents with others at this time of the year.

For those of us with different kinds of occupations and with different beliefs, the intrusive busy-ness of the Christmas season inflicts its pandemonium and frantic swirl of activity. May you be able to keep your focus and find your oasis of peace within the secular season that predominates in our culture at this time of the year.

May you all have a blessed holiday season, with an opportunity for your own enrichment as you enrich the lives of others!

Ethel

ANNUAL TWELFTH NIGHT CHAPTER PARTY.....

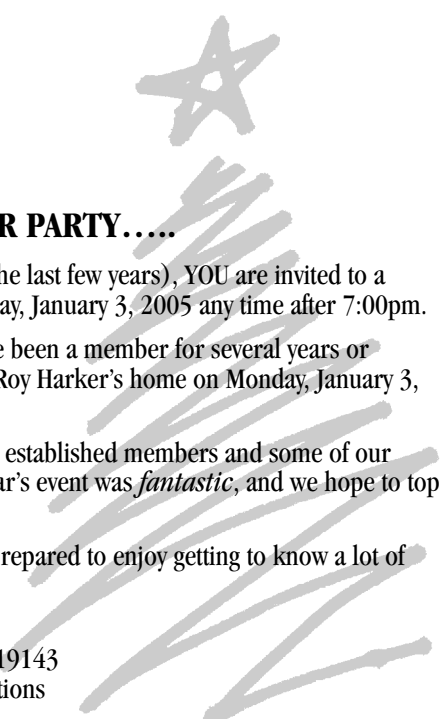
If you are a newer member of the chapter (within the last few years), YOU are invited to a "Tenth Night Party" at Roy Harker's home on Monday, January 3, 2005 any time after 7:00pm.

If you are a long-term member of the chapter (have been a member for several years or more), YOU are invited to a "Tenth Night Party" at Roy Harker's home on Monday, January 3, 2005 any time after 7:00pm.

We hope to provide an opportunity for some of our established members and some of our newer members to get to know each other. Last year's event was *fantastic*, and we hope to top it this year!

Bring a dessert or "munchie" to share, and come prepared to enjoy getting to know a lot of interesting people.

Roy Harker
4514 Chester Avenue • Philadelphia, PA 19143
215-222-3831 • ieh3@aol.com for directions



REGISTRAR'S CORNER

JOE LEWIS, REGISTRAR

NEW MEMBERS

Please welcome our two newest members, and add their names and addresses to your 2004 Directory:

Mr. Mark A. Cole SPC, 406 W. Mount Pleasant Ave., Apt. BC, Philadelphia, PA 19119 (h) 215-248-2244:
Marksgreyhound@yahoo.com
(Mark is a dual member with the Harrisburg, PA chapter)

Mr. Adam P. Koch, 336 N. 8th St., Allentown, PA 18102 (h) 610-351-6860, Adampkoch@aol.com

Be sure to greet them at all our upcoming events and make them feel at home.

TRANSFER

We wish the very best to our member Peter V. Young who is moving to Las Cruces NM in early December after thirty years in Ardmore, PA. He plans to transfer his AGO membership to the local NM chapter. We wish you and your family a safe trip. Come back and visit us when you can.

**2005 MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY
INFORMATION SUBMISSION DEADLINE: DECEMBER 15, 2004**

It is time to update all information for the newest edition of our membership directory for the 2004-2005 year. If you would like to update existing information regarding changes to address, phone, email or institutional affiliations, please contact me AS SOON AS POSSIBLE to ensure that the data are received before our new directory is assembled and printed. The easiest way to make contact is by email: spiele88@icdc.com or by phone at 610-935-0895. Since my answering machine does not always record messages clearly enough unless you speak loudly and distinctly at a slower pace, a quick note in the mail will insure that the information is accurately received.

I would appreciate input from the membership regarding what items to include in the 2004/2005 Directory that you deem beneficial to you and to your work. The '04 Directory included a preface, mission statement, Philadelphia Chapter officers, executive committee, appointed positions, Crescendo staff, National AGO Code of Ethics and Professional Standards, former deans of the Chapter, patrons, residential zip code lists, current convention information, examination dates and coordinators. Your input on including items that are helpful to you and on eliminating those that you don't use will save paper and printing costs.

CURRENT MEMBERSHIP

At press time, our total for the 2004-2005 year is currently 409 members of which there are 241 regular members, 93 special members, 15 full time students, 5 partners, 40 dual and 15 Chapter friends.

Respectfully submitted,

Joe Lewis
Registrar

...

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

JOSEPH LEWIS, REGISTRAR

Want to join the Philadelphia Chapter of the American Guild of Organists?
Need to report AGO Directory Changes on your current membership?

Contact our Registrar, Joe Lewis at: **49 North Spring Lane
Phoenixville, PA 19460
610-935-0895
spiele88@icdc.com**

PHILADELPHIA
CHAPTER
AMERICAN GUILD
OF ORGANISTS

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TREASURER Gerald Troy	610.626.5486
RECORDING SECRETARY Maria deJ. Ellis	610.896.6189
CORRESPONDING SECRETARY Sister Paula Napoli	215.637.3838
REGISTRAR Joe Lewis	610.935.0895

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Term ending 2005	
Kim Beamon	610.834.7639
Marcia Mau	610.692.5009
Catherine Robinson	610.626.4429
Bruce Shultz	215.729.3114
Term ending 2006	
James Batt	215.233.3970
Katherine Reier	215.517.4160
Yoshiko Seavey	610.688.6268
Phil Shade	215.723.7907
Term ending 2007	
Timothy Evers	215-348-4004, 117
Phil Gehman	215-643-7646
Loretta Hartnett	610-352-5441
Brad Winters	610-459-5538

APPOINTED POSITIONS

Chaplain Rev. Bruce Thorsen	215-230-8915
Chapter Telephone Catherine Robinson	610.626.4429
Competition Committee Chair Alan Morrison	215.735.8259
Education Chair Mib Campbell	610.917.0649
Examinations Coordinator Gary Garletts	610.853.8295
Pipe Organ Encounter Director Marcia Mau	610.692.5009
Placement Allen Popjoy	610-269-7069
<i>(Churches needing musicians; Musicians needing churches)</i>	
Professional Concerns Chair Judy Lang	610.623.8069
Endowment Committee Chair Mark Rippel	610.353.2763
TAO Articles Correspondent Marcia Mau	610.692.5009
Tuesday Noon Recitals Coordinator Andy Heller	610.789.0146
Vision Task Force Rae Ann Anderson	610.667.4921
David Furniss	215.699.6374
Volunteer Coordinator Loretta Hartnett	610.352.5441
Web Master Ken Anderson	kanderson6@comcast.net

REGIONAL/NATIONAL OFFICERS

AGO Region III Education Chair David Herman	302.733.0529
Director-National Convention Committee Dennis Elwell	610.658.2128

CHAPTER TELEPHONE NUMBER

215.727.2762

www.agophila.org

SUBSTITUTE LIST

ALLEN POJJOY, COORDINATOR

This list is published as a courtesy to the chapter membership. Only members of the Philadelphia AGO Chapter available for regularly-scheduled services are listed. Although the AGO assumes no responsibility for the musicianship or reliability of substitute organists, Guild certificates and other degree programs indicate preparation beyond the minimum.

Substitute	Location	Phone Number
John A. Bailey	Philadelphia	215-906-5208
Dr. David P. Beatty	Bel Air, MD	410-569-5159
Sharon Bertha-MacCabe	Royersford	610-948-9055
John W. Brooks	Lancaster	717-397-2181
Linda E. Carlson	Philadelphia	215-969-5412
David W. Christianson	Media	215-898-5714 (w)
Rosemary Colson	Philadelphia	215-848-1995
Doris J. Dabrowski	Philadelphia	215-387-6635
Holly Donato	Jenkintown	215-572-5988
Ralph E. Fisher	Philadelphia	215-732-1408
Robert Frederick	Philadelphia	215-755-7648
Peter Gowen	Philadelphia	267-531-2212
Ahreum Han	Philadelphia	215-523-5789
W. Franklin Hoxter, Jr.	Philadelphia	215-424-5406
James D. Ingles*	Ardmore	610-658-5813
Dorothy Jennings	Feasterville	215-357-1910
Bruce R. Marshall	Philadelphia	215-844-8343
John Melchiorre	Glen Mills	610-361-0143
Dr. Mardia Melroy	Maple Glen	215-646-1975
Dr. Kathleen Moyer	Drexel Hill	610-394-9682
Jason B. Noll	Broomall	610-355-0585
Joanne K. Owen	Pilesgrove, NJ	856-769-3212
Susan McRae Petura, SPC	Coatesville	610-380-5957
John W. Sankey, Jr.	Woodbury, NJ	856-848-3589
Nikola Sizgorich	Philadelphia	215-833-2247
Jane D. Smith	Haddonfield	856-428-5334
Harry S. Solomon, Jr.	Philadelphia	215-342-3448
Glenna M. Sprang	Boothwyn	610-497-4135
Janet L. Tebbel	Philadelphia	215-848-3915
Elaine Ellis Thomas	Bridgeport	610-272-9946
Dr. Karen L. Thomas	Yeadon	610-259-1043
Mary Louise Varricchione-Lyon	Doylestown	215-348-9507
Rev. Curt H. von Dornheim	New Hope	215-862-5479
Karen Whitney	Philadelphia	215-424-8450
Freda Zimmerman, SPC	Philadelphia	215-698-1331

* Organ only, no conducting

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CRESCENDO

TIMOTHY M. EVERS, COORDINATOR

Calendar of Events

Please include the following information when submitting items for inclusion in *Crescendo* or just copy and use this form. Calendar items are stored in a database so send them as early as you are able.

LOCATION INFORMATION:

Name _____

Address _____

Telephone # _____

Email address _____

Web site _____

EVENT INFORMATION:

Date _____

Time _____

Instrument _____

Name of Event (include performer, instrument, brief details)

Free Free-will offering \$ _____ Other _____

Location is handicapped accessible? YES NO

Child care provided during concert? YES NO

Concert location nearby which public transit lines: _____

Submitted by _____

Telephone # _____

...

CHAPTER EVENTS**Saturday Morning, January 15, 2005, 9:00 AM**

January JumpStart

Workshops for the church musician seeking new ideas for a new year

OVERBROOK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, PHILADELPHIA

Friday, February 18, 2005, 8:00 PM

Philadelphia Legends II

Celebrating the Legacy of Organ Culture in Philadelphia

JOHN BINSFELD / CHRIST CHURCH, PHILADELPHIA

Saturday Morning, March 5, 2005

Organ Crawl at the Dean's Church

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH, PERKASIE, PA: NEW REUTER ORGAN

Saturday Morning, April 16, 2005

Anthem Sharing Sessions

ST. ASAPH CHURCH, BALA CYNWYD, PA

Friday, May 13, 2005, 8:00 PM

David Hurd, Organist

ST. MARY EPISCOPAL CHURCH, WAYNE, PA

Sunday, June 12, 2005

Daniel Pinkham, Composer

...

Receive Crescendo by Email

All members who would prefer to receive Crescendo by email, instead of the traditional paper edition, please contact Dean Ethel Geist at 215-529-1603 or email at ethelgeist@comcast.net.

SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR PHILADELPHIA CHAPTER PATRONS FOR 2004-2005**ANGEL**

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BENEFACTOR

David P. Beatty

Stephanie Liem

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Norman J. Geist

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Henry H. Pemberton

Yoshiko M. Seavey

Michael H. Stairs

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David W. Christianson

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Glenna M. Sprang

Art Stewart

Harold J. Thompson

Isadore Timmons

George M. Todd

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Barbara L. Tull

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•••

NEWS FROM THE CHAPTER EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The Philadelphia Chapter Executive Committee met on Nov. 1 for its regularly-scheduled monthly meeting. The various reports yielded the following information of interest to members:

Membership concerns: As of Nov. 1, the membership stood at 409 members, including five honorary members. Registrar Joe Lewis is beginning work on the Chapter Directory, to be published in January; any changes on contact information should be sent in to him now.

Crescendo: As of the meeting, four persons have responded to the notice in the current Crescendo (p. 5) asking members who would prefer to receive Crescendo by email to notify the Dean. If you would like to try out this method of getting Crescendo, which could ultimately save the chapter significant funds now spent on printing and mailing costs, please notify Dean Ethel Geist at 215-529-1603 or at ethelgeist@comcast.net.

Programs and educational initiatives: The programs discussed at the October meeting (see p. 6 of the November Crescendo) were updated: the chapter competition (March 19, 2005; Alan Morrison), the Pipe Organ Encounter (June 26-29, 2006; Marcia Mau), and the Organ InfoDemo workshop, now tentatively planned for the fall of 2005 (Loretta Hartnett and Katherine Reier). Volunteer opportunities will be available to help with the educational programs. Future Crescendos will carry articles about these events.

Chapter organization: The nominating committee, headed by Glenna Sprang (610-497-4135) will start work soon.

The Executive Committee will next meet on January 3, 2005. Like last year, the meeting will be a Twelfth Night Party. Roy Harker will again be the host. All chapter members are invited to attend. Details are given elsewhere in this issue.

Maria deJ. Ellis

Recording Secretary

•••

NEW CHAPTER PROJECT PLANNED

The Philadelphia Chapter is undertaking an exciting new project, tentatively planned for late September or early October, 2005. You will be hearing more about it in the near future. Here's a quick sketch of what we hope to do. If you want details, the September issue of *The American Organist* had an article about it on page 62.

The complete title of the event is "DO YOU ENJOY PLAYING A KEYBOARD INSTRUMENT? YOU CAN PLAY THE PIPE ORGAN, TOO!" This is a "DemoInfo" developed by Wayne Leupold, targeting people who play keyboard instruments other than organ, or who are curious, even if they are beginners. He has worked out guidelines for chapters to follow to encourage as many people as possible who play piano or synthesizer, or who would like to be able to play, to come to a program that explains what the organ is, and what opportunities are available to learn to play it. At the conclusion of the event, those who are interested may take three group lessons at no cost other than purchasing a book at the appropriate level (cost is about \$25.00 for the book). At the conclusion of the three group lessons, each student decides whether to continue, either with the group teacher or with another teacher. That's it.

An example of this program is one held in Greensboro, NC. 53 children and adults attended. 37 signed up for the free group lessons. 19 took all three lessons, and 17 continued private lessons after the conclusion of the program. Just think – 17 new organists in a city of 200,000!

If something like this excites you, and if you would like more information or would like to be involved in it, contact Dean Ethel Geist (215.257.6801 during the day at church or 215.529.1603 at home) or by email at ethelgeist@comcast.net.

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TUESDAY NOON RECITALS



ANDREW HELLER, COORDINATOR

DECEMBER: Trinity Lutheran Church, Perkasie, PA.

(DIR.: north on 309; Perkasie exit; left on Lawn Avenue at top of exit ramp; right at light at Ridge Ave.; after 2 lights, right on Market St.; right at Fifth St. light; church on left)

- 7- John Charles
- 14- Vincent Ryan
- 21- William Fenimore
- 28- Stephen Schreiber

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Tuning Your Children's Choir

By Andrew Heller

When we begin working with the youngest singers, it is our responsibility to not just teach them the ways of worship and the traditions of our faith community, but to also begin the process of teaching them good vocal techniques that hopefully will last them through a lifetime of singing.

In the process, we have the opportunity to build voices and mold them. Fortunately, we have willing partners on the journey: your children themselves. I have found that children are very willing to demonstrate their singing—much more so than their adult counterparts, and they are very willing to accept instruction, as long as it is presented in a not-critical way.

"happy Birthday:" all children know it, and the octave jump in the song helps to move from the low to the high range.

A word here about having your children sing alone: they like to do it. It is kind of like reading aloud in class: everyone wants their turn. I always tell my choir that they can "pass," but they rarely will. Make a positive comment [I like the way you shape your mouth when you sing yoo-hoo, now let's try again and sail over the high note.] and go again. Do this with every singer, so that the problem singer doesn't think they are being singled out. These little sessions will strengthen both your weak and strong singers alike.

A word to the men in the audience: I have found that new singers have a problem realizing that they sing one octave higher than you. I think it is much better to model tone in their range in falsetto voice, or, if you cannot do this, ask strong older members of your choir to do it for you, than to sing an octave lower. Many insecure singers will go right down to where you are.

I will never forget a Chorister's Guild workshop with the great Helen Kemp, where she was able to get singers that were not singing on pitch to match pitch and sing in tune in one session. What I have learned from her, and others, I will try to convey now.

I will never forget a Chorister's Guild workshop with the great Helen Kemp, where she was able to get singers that were not singing on pitch to match pitch and sing in tune in one session. What I have learned from her, and others, I will try to convey now.

First and foremost, all children can match pitch. While exceptions to this rule exist, I can only think of one child I have had in a children's choir that I could not get to sing on pitch in the thirty or so years that I have been teaching. You must start with this premise—that the child sitting in front of you will sing, and sing on pitch, before you are done with him or her!

The first step for reluctant singers is to move their voices up and down. You can do many exercises, and make them fun. "Mr. Wiggle and Mr. Woggle" is one of my favorites: the live a far way apart, and the only way they can visit each other is to go up the hill and down the hill [use your hands to demonstrate, while your voice and theirs move up and down]. Once Mr. Wiggle and Mr. Woggle get together, of course they have to ride the roller coaster! Matching pitch on short phrases [combinations of 1-5-3 on yoo-hoo] are good. What I like to do is go right down the line of my choir, sing a short yoo-hoo to them, and have it repeated. If the singer has trouble matching your higher pitch, match theirs and try to move up a half step. A good song to do at this phase is

Once you have mastered matching simple pitch progressions, move on to vocal exercises and to songs. I'm sure you have many favorites: mine are ones to open up the upper range. A couple that I like are "Gloria in Excelsis Deo" from Angels We Have Heard on High; the first eight measures of "Alleluia" from Mozart's Exsultate Jubilate; the witches' song from Cinderella [salagadula menchikabula, bibbidi bobbidi boo—good for consonants], and rounds such as the Pachelbel Jubilate Deo. Again, do not be afraid to ask your children to sing alone, once they have learned the vocal exercise. [Again, say something that you liked about the singing; then say something that you would like to improve, and repeat the exercise].

When I am starting young singers on songs, I want them to concentrate on staying in the head voice. Once children have a concept of where pitch is, then you can just remind them, and occasionally model tone to get them back on pitch. Starting the song on doo-doo-doo will help. This way you can establish the pitch and phrasing. Singing the words in rhythm on one pitch is also helpful for isolating diction. When you are putting songs together, emphasize beauty of tone and pitch accuracy, not volume. When you ask singers who are still just finding their

Continued on page 10

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

TIMOTHY M. EVERS, COORDINATOR
215-348-4004, EXT. 117

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 3, 8:15 PM

World-renowned organist Stefan Engels in concert with saxophonist Anders Lundegard, identical Advent concerts in the historic Sanctuary of First Presbyterian Church. Free. First Presbyterian Church, 130 W Miner St, West Chester PA 610.696.0554

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 3, 9:15 PM

World-renowned organist Stefan Engels in concert with saxophonist Anders Lundegard, identical Advent concerts in the historic Sanctuary of First Presbyterian Church. Free. First Presbyterian Church, 130 W Miner St, West Chester PA 610.696.0554

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 4, 7:30 PM

G. F. Handel: Messiah. Wayne Oratorio Society. 200 voice choir, professional orchestra & soloists. Free will offering Wayne Presbyterian Church, 125 E. Lancaster Ave, Wayne PA 610.688.8700 www.waynepres.org

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 4, 8:00 PM

Philomusica Chorale Holiday Concert, Mardia Melroy, director. Admission: \$15. in advance, \$18. at door. Puccini's *Messa di Gloria* & holiday music. St. Peter's Lutheran Church, 3025 Church Road, Lafayette Hill, PA 215.646.1975

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 5, 3:30 PM

The 47th Annual Festival of Church Music, featuring Handel's "Messiah". Dorina Morrow, conductor, Theodore Thomas, Jr., accompanist, Gordon Turk, organ recitalist. Free-will offering to benefit the organ fund. Tindley Temple UMC, South Broad St, Phila, PA 215.424.8450

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 5, 4:00 PM

Choral Concert. Vaughan Williams' *Dona Nobis Pacem* with Randi Marrazzo and Robert Philips, soloists. Presbyterian Church of Chestnut Hill, 8855 Germantown Ave, Chestnut Hill PA 215.247.8855

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 5, 4:00 PM

The Many Moods of Christmas III. Choir, Orchestra, Handbells, Piano & Organ. H. Ray Hunsicker, Conductor. No admission charge. Childcare available. Shuttle service Reception Following Calvary Lutheran Church, Rosedale Ave & New St, West Chester PA 610.696.2475

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 5, 4:00 PM

The Providence Chamber Orchestra, F. Thomas Snyder, conductor. Works by Beethoven, Warlock, and Faure's "Elegie" for Cello and Orchestra, featuring cellist Pam Baxter. Free will offering. First Church of Christ Scientist, West Chester PA

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 5, 5:00 PM

An Advent Procession. The St. Martin's Choir, Ken Lovett, director. Works of Orlando di Lasso, Boris Ord, Mark Sirett, and Randall Thompson. Childcare provided. Church of St. Martin-in-the-Fields, Willow Grove Ave & St Martin's Ln, Chestnut Hill PA

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 5, 7:00 PM

Advent Lessons and Carols. Featuring St. Paul's Westminster Quartet. Free-will Offering St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 301 North Main Street, Doylestown PA 215.348.4004 x117 www.stpaulsdoyle.org

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 5, 7:00 PM

RING AND SING. The five ringing choirs of First Presbyterian Church present music of the season, and an informal carol-sing - over 150 bells and chimes. Free. First Presbyterian Church, 130 W Miner St, West Chester PA 610.696.0554

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 5, 7:30 PM

G. F. Handel: Messiah. Wayne Oratorio Society. 200 voice choir, professional orchestra & soloists. Free will offering Wayne Presbyterian Church, 125 E. Lancaster Ave, Wayne PA 610.688.8700 www.waynepres.org

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 5, 7:30 PM

Holiday Vespers, a service of lessons and carols. Choirs, Brass, Strings and Harp. Free admission, offering for homeless. No child care. Handicapped accessible. Valley Forge Military Academy and College, Chapel of St. Cornelius The Centurion, 1001 Eagle Rd., Wayne, Pa. 19087 610.989.1512 cbeatty@vfmac.edu

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 11, 8:00 PM

The Mastersingers in Concert. Britten, Ceremony of Carols, Rutter, Gloria, Carols of Douglas Coombs. Robert J. Reilley, Director, Cecilia Beatty, Organist, Donna Cooper, Harp. Free. No child care. Handicapped accessible. Paoli Presbyterian Church, 225 South Valley Road, Paoli, Pa 19301, 610.644.8250

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 12, 3:00 PM

Christmas Joy Concert, "What Shall We Bring to the Child?", presented by the 100 voice Chancel Choir and orchestra, Bob Morris, Director. Call or email for free tickets. Free will offering. Childcare provided. Westminster Presbyterian Church, 10 W Pleasant Grove Rd, West Chester PA 610.399.3377 www.westminsterpc.org

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 12, 3:45 PM

24th Annual Carol Service. St. Paul's Choir and soloists, harp, bells, cello. Richard Alexander, Organist and Choirmaster. Free-will offering. St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 22 E Chestnut Hill Ave, Philadelphia PA 215.242.2055 www.stpaulschestnuthill.org

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 12, 4:00 PM

Advent Lessons and Carols. St. Mary's Choir and soloists, Gordon Turk, organist and choirmaster. St. Mary's Episcopal Church, Lancaster & Louella Aves, Wayne PA 610.688.1313

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 12, 4:00 PM

Christmas By Candlelight. Oratorio Choir, Youth Choir, Children's Choir, handbells, traditional and non-traditional Christmas music. Free will offering. Abington Presbyterian Church, 1082 Old York Rd, Abington PA 215.887.4580 www.apcusa.org

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 12, 4:00 PM

Community Christmas Concert, featuring Zion's Choirs and the Souderton Alumni Men's Chorus. Zion Mennonite Church, Front St & Cherry Ln, Souderton PA 215.723.3592 www.zionmennonite.org

Continued on following page

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Continued from page 9

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 12, 4:00 PM

Messiah, pt. 1. Community choir and orchestra. Free-will offering. Sponsored by Doylestown Presbyterian Church and St. Paul's Lutheran Church. Clair Maxwell and Tim Evers, conducting. Doylestown Presbyterian Church, 132 East Court Street, Doylestown, PA 215.348.3531 www.dtownpc.org

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 12, 4:00 PM

The Overbrook Choir and Orchestra & the Episcopal Academy Girl's Choir. Benjamin Britten's Saint Nicolas. Dennis Elwell, Conductor, Brian Meneeley, Tenor. Free will offering. Infant child care. Parking on church grounds. Overbrook Presbyterian Church, 6376 City Ave, Philadelphia PA 215.877.2744

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 12, 4:00 PM

Vespers for Advent, featuring Benjamin Britten's Ceremony of Carols and other music of the season with the 30-voice Chamber Choir. Free. Marcia Mau, Conductor, Stefan Engels, Organist, Donna Cooper, Harp. First Presbyterian Church, 130 W Miner St, West Chester PA 610.696.0554 www.firstpreswc.com

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 12, 6:00 PM

Christmas Joy Concert, "What Shall We Bring to the Child?", presented by the 100 voice Chancel Choir and orchestra, Bob Morris, Director. Call or email for free tickets. Free will offering. Childcare provided. Westminster Presbyterian Church, 10 W Pleasant Grove Rd, West Chester PA 610.399.3377 www.westminsterpc.org

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 12, 7:00 PM

Christmas By Candlelight. Oratorio Choir, Youth Choir, Children's Choir, handbells, traditional and non-traditional Christmas music. Free will offering. Abington Presbyterian Church, 1082 Old York Rd, Abington PA 215.887.4580 www.apcusa.org

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 19, 7:00 PM

Festival of Lessons and Carols. The carol service as it is performed each Christmas Eve in King's College, Cambridge. The senior boys and girls choirs, joined by the adult choir. Free-will offering. St. Peter's Episcopal Church, 313 Pine St, Philadelphia PA 215.925.5968 www.stpetersphila.org

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*Tuning Your Children's Choir
Continued from page 8*

head voice to sing louder, they will start belting, and will never get into their head voices. If I want to have children sing louder, I ask them to visualize a person in the back of the church and sing to them. "Send your sound to the back of the church" works much better than "sing louder."

While I could get into breathing ["shoulders don't breathe"] and vowels/mouth shape ["imagine you are kissing your grandmother" is good for getting children to make a circle with their mouths] I think that those concepts might be for another article, or perhaps even another author. [Any takers out there?] I would like to leave you with one thought, however, and one question. The thought is, always expect every child in your choir to sing on pitch. If you expect it, you and they will work toward that goal. The question is [this is asked to your children's choir]: "What is the worst thing that the congregation can say to you?" The answer is "you look so cute up there." Why? Because they did not compliment you on your beautiful singing first! Make your children aware that beautiful singing is their goal, and it will become just that.

NOTE from Mib Campbell, Education Committee:

I continue to welcome timely articles such as Andy's article from chapter members on various topics of interest. If you have such an article that you would like to share with the general membership here in CRESCENDO, send to me at . . .

miblake@comcast.net.

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CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Last year our Dean asked us to read the Christmas story, Luke 2:1-20. We spend so much time preparing musically that it is easy to forget to prepare ourselves and our choirs spiritually. For Christians, Christmas is a festival, a celebration of God's Son, our Savior coming to earth.

It is a nice story, isn't it, but does it touch our hearts, souls and minds any more? There are so many unique things about this story:

- 1) Mary, a poor teenager, becomes pregnant by divine means;
- 2) A baby born in a stable becomes a Savior;
- 3) There were a couple of angels in the story talking to Mary, Joseph, and then to the shepherds and eventually to the magi, not quite an ordinary occurrence;
- 4) A Savior born to an unmarried teenager- what does the church say about this?;
- 5) The story of God sending his Son into the world out of love for all people.

When Handel wrote Messiah he was divinely inspired as are other hymn writers and composers in general. There is something awesome about the marriage of text and music, but what is it? As you prepare your music this Advent/Christmas season, prepare your hearts and the hearts of your singers and musicians to present this awesome marriage that the story may be told again.

True harmony in the group happens when all are focused on not only presenting the music, but on understanding the reason behind the music. The union of hearts, souls, and minds is a miraculous event, one that is often hard to explain. As ministers of music we are called to proclaim the "good news" that Jesus, our Lord and Savior, is born. There is something magical and mystical about Christmas Eve and so many who need to hear the "good news", but is it good news for us and our choirs or just a job?

Read the Christmas story again yourselves and then to each choir or group, no matter what age. Can you still find something unique about it? Can you hear the "good news" that Jesus came into this world for each of us because of God's great love for us? Even though time gets short, I believe the music will happen when our hearts, souls and minds are prepared too.

I wish each of you a blessed Christmas! May the story of God's sending His Son into the world become new again for you. May the celebration of God's love coming to earth on this mystical night continue to feed your heart, mind and soul so that we may all embody the "good news."

• • •

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