



Upcoming Events

- * December 5, 2009: Christmas in Candy Cane Land
- * December 5, 2009: Bells of Christmas by Bel' VOICI
- * December 6, 2009: Canton Children's Choir Christmas Concert
- * December 11,12, and 13, 2009: A Renaissance Christmas
- * March 21, 2010: The Works of John Rutter
- * May 1, 2010: Spring Ring by Bel'VOICI
- * May 14,15 and 16 2010: Encore...A Tribute to 70 years of Opera to Broadway
- * May 16, 2010: Canton Children's Choir Spring Concert
- * May 19, 2010: VOICI Women's Committee Scholarship Luncheon

VOICI Announcements: September 22 , 2009

By Loren Veigel, Artistic Director

We "caused," Dear Friendsmany to enjoy our "songs!" You should be proud of your success. I was very impressed with the music of the night, with your style of working through the concert evening, and with the tremendous effect of this important event. It's great to express your talent and passion, using it to help others!

I think everyone noticed the difference in the second concert. So many little details, as well as the general comfort level, made the first run (although very nice) far below the level of the second run.

Do you suspect, as I do, that it's a product of not having worked since a week ago? We'll try to fix this concern with more warm-up next year, giving ourselves the time to re-coup some of those details and raise that comfort level.

I realize, at this particular event, that an earlier call will pressure some of our working folks, but I think it will help if we all get together as early as possible.

It is a great joy watching you grow. Your music was beautiful last night.

Loren



ENSEMBLE CALLS ONLY...

VERY IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT:

Below, you see the list of ensembles Loren has assigned to sing during the pre-show at our Renaissance Christmas concert in December. These ensembles are the ONLY VOICI members called for rehearsal on Tuesday, Sept. 22, 2009. All others are on a one-week post-concert hiatus. THANKS!!

Loren

The Monks of St. Basso

- Dan Strohl - T
- Daryl Robinson - T
- Chris Pfendler - T
- Alan Irvin - T2/B1
- Tom Smith - T2/B1
- John Bragg - B

- Terry Fearn - B
- Bartev Sakadjian - B

The Wenches of Wobblytone

- Erin Byrne S1
- Melissa Frutschy - S1
- Becki Strait - S1
- Jackie Ferrel - S2
- Anney Jeandrevin - S2
- Terry Everett - A1
- Erin Mengue - A1
- Julie Fairless - A2
- Jenn Smithhisler - A2

The monks and wenches will rehearse from 7:00 - 8:00 p.m.

The Singers of Melisma Manor

- Patty Carmola - S
- Aleta Killian - S
- Marlene Sell - S
- Jennifer Nelson Maurer - A
- Maxine Hegnauer - A
- Bob Ballinger - T
- Dray Snyder - T
- Roger Sell - B
- Andy Smithhisler - B

Entertainers from The Tub and Pitchpipe

- JoAnn Smith - S
- Nicole Shaffner - S
- Allison Thompson - A
- Priscilla Leonhardt - A
- Carolyn Collins - A

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Michael Allen – T
 Dray Snyder – T
 David Everett – B
 Chris Dewald – B

The Manor and Pub Singers will
 rehearse from 8:00 – 9:00 p.m.

BACK TO WORK

Full rehearsals resume on Tuesday, September 29, 2009, at 7:00 p.m. in Cable Hall. Please continue to strengthen our choir by adhering closely to attendance policies, monitoring behavior and focus in rehearsal, and practicing between rehearsals.

Plan to begin sitting that night in the prescribed seating chart.



Loren's been giving permission already for a number of singers to perform only part of the Renaissance Christmas run.

It's a very busy season, and it is understandable that the weekend before Christmas may have significant conflicting events.

We must concern ourselves with the

added Sunday matinee, since it conflicts with the Massillon "Messiah" in which a number of our valued VOICI voices normally sing. If there are more conflicts on Sunday, we may need to adjust.

Here's the solution. On Tuesday, Sept. 29th, we will provide a clipboard with each performance: Friday, Dec. 11 evening, Saturday, Dec. 12 evening, and Sunday, Dec. 13 afternoon listed.

Please check your schedule NOW, so you will be prepared to commit to all three performances or report a conflict with one or two, requesting permission to do a partial run.

Remember, too, that all leaves must be approved in writing, with reason presented, by the Board. THANKS!

CONTACTS

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A GOOD WORD

Here's a copy of the email text Loren received from the revered and respected local musician, W. Robert Morrison, dean of local church musicians.

"Well, it bore the usual hallmarks of a Veigel program: worthwhile literature, fast-paced, marching in, dispersing around the room. To this you added the charitable touch - and especially moving since you mentioned your own father's bout with the disease: quite a sobering touch indeed. The choir sounded so well prepared and I imagine, after longer exposure to your methods, will have even taller "oo" vowels (like your Old Man River guy.

Robert Shaw is reputed to have said, when asked to define a phrase: "It is inevitable." And that's what kept things moving along so well tonight at your presentation.

The second soprano notes in the opening of Kern were rich and powerful - I imagine it's something

you wrote in - gave such a full effect. The range of expression soft to loud was splendid: I still [tell] my choir what a NY Times reviewer is supposed to have said about an opera singer who ran the gamut of emotions from A to B.

I was well aware of the work of Clyde Dengler when I studied voice in Philadelphia in 1944 (he was a major force there), but you probably know more about him than I do. At any rate, you are making the Veigel imprint on this group, and it's a defining moment for them. All best wishes for your continued success. You have developed a formula that works well.

It seemed to me that your beat in the final number exactly matched the up and down waving of the blanket by the Alzheimer's patient on the screen--a remarkable coordination!" — W. Robert Morrison.

How nice to hear such stuff from this wonderful man!

Who's Clyde Dengler?

Bob's mention of Dengler brings to mind that several folks have asked me to tell again the interesting and ironic

story of Loren's connection to our National Anthem arrangement. Indeed, the irony grows, since I did not know Bob Morrison had ever met Dengler, either. But here's the story, in a nutshell

1989 - Dr. Peter Jarjisian and the Ohio University Singers hosted by Loren at Lancaster Senior High School. They sing the arrangement - Loren loves it - asks Peter. He's given the unpublished arrangement, since Peter says it was arranged by his high school choir director in eastern Pennsylvania.

1991-2006 - Loren uses the arrangement for Massillon Advanced Choir. It is sung at many events, in four European tours, and once each season in Tiger Stadium during pre-game. Folks love it.

In several spring tours, the Massillon Choir sings the arrangement at MLB games in Pittsburgh, Chicago, Philadelphia, and Cleveland. In 2004, en route to Philadelphia, Massillon visits O.U. Loren tells Peter that he is still using Dengler's beautiful

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arrangement, to be sung in several days for the Phillies. Peter replies that Dengler may well be there, since he lives, retired, in northern Maryland, and is a season ticket holder. After singing for the Phillies, Loren returns to the seats, and students point out an elderly gentleman who wants to speak – Clyde Dengler came to find us.

And ... here's the clincher. Dengler had no idea we would be there. As we appeared on the jumbotron singing, his wife said "Massillon, Ohio – isn't that where Red Bird came from?" Dengler replied, "Yes, and I think they are singing MY arrangement!"

Dengler had met Red Bird, founder of the Tiger Swing Band, after he left Massillon and worked in Pennsylvania. Clyde loved Bird's band arrangement so much that he arranged it for his high school choir!

So, after 20 years of use, Loren found out that the Massillon choir, singing an arrangement from eastern Pennsylvania given to them by the director at OU, was actually singing a Tiger Swing Band arrangement! (Basses, you're the tubas!) Cue the Twilight Zone music!

**Costumes!**

From Anney Jeandrevin:

Helpers are needed Tuesday evening 9/22 to organize costumes. If you can come early or stay late it would be most appreciated.

VOCI members: For the rehearsal on September 22, please plan to come early or stay late to be fitted for a costume

Candy Cane Helpers!

VOCI helpers (men and women) are needed at the Christmas in Candy Cane land performances held Saturday, December at 11 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. in the Great Court of the Cultural Center for the Arts. Helpers need to learn three simple songs.

This is VOCI's holiday outreach program for young children, recommended ages preschool to age 8. Sign up sheets will be available at rehearsals September 22 and 29. Come join us for a day of fun and frolic!

