



CALLS FOR RENAISSANCE CHRISTMAS 2009

Prior to curtain:

60 minutes: choir call

55 minutes: warm-up on stage in Cable Hall

45 minutes: comments/notes from Amy

35 minutes: comments/notes from Loren

30 minutes: questions, final concerns from performers

20 minutes: choir free, final checks, troubleshooting.

10 minutes: places

Curtain: Friday, Saturday, 7:00 p.m. Sunday: 2:00 p.m.

Member Announcements December 8

From the Director

A beautiful experience, Dear Friends...will occur this week as our Renaissance Christmas Concerts hit the stage! Your dedication and hard work have resulted in a well-prepared concert that promises to be absolutely beautiful as it is shared with our audiences. Thank you for all you've done, and will do this week: don't forget to enjoy yourselves! We sing for many reasons, but most certainly because we share a passion for singing and choral music, and what it can mean to others. Surely, this week, you (we) have a wonderfully expressive and lovely gift which you will share with the community at large. Everyone thinks of music at Christmastide, and especially choral music: yours will be a satisfying moment for all who hear you, including myself.

Thank you, again.



Truly, many gifts may be given this season, but none are more important or meaningful than the sharing of oneself: and that's what you do when you sing in VOICI. You are to be congratulated for your success, admired for your sharing, and - for me - loved for your beautiful musical contribution to our choir.

Best wishes for a great concert week!

Loren

PERFORMANCE WEEK

Please find your final instructions for dress rehearsal and concert week attached to this newsletter.

Copies will be available at rehearsals on Sunday and Tuesday.

DON'T MISS THE PARTY!

As VOICI members get to know one another better, everyone seems to express their heightened feeling of belonging and enjoyment of our group.

Please join us for our Christmas party, where you can enjoy the company of your fellow singers and share some holiday cheer. A good time is guaranteed!

Remember the details:

Tuesday, December 15, 2009
6:30-9:00 p.m., St. Michael's Church, Whipple and Fulton, for VOICI Members and Guest

Bring: Sweets and/or Finger Foods; BYOB Beer/Wine; VOICI providing Paper Products, Punch and Coffee

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REQUIEM, BY JOHN RUTTER

VOCI's next concert project is an exciting afternoon of music from one of the world's best and most-loved living composers, John Rutter. We will be joined by the Canton Children's Chorus and Bel'VOCI at Christ Presbyterian Church in downtown Canton. The concert is scheduled for 3:00 p.m. on Sunday, March 21, 2010.

The choral scores will be available to you soon. You will sign out your score, and erase all pencil marks prior to its return to the VOCI library. Scores are also available for purchase, at the cost of \$8.00 each. The VOCI budget is helped by every one of you who purchase your own score.

However, please make it part of your personal library, so it is available in the future, when we sing separate movements from the work. Procure your score and make use of the lead time over the holidays, familiarizing yourself with the work. It's wonderful! Numerous performances of the work are available online and in commercial recordings (including Rutter's own with his Cambridge Singers). Do a search on YouTube, and you'll find plenty. Visit cyberbass.com and search for the Rutter Requiem. There, you'll find each of your parts in

Rutter Requiem books are here! If you would like to purchase your score (optional), they will cost \$8.

FREE practice recordings, as well as the tutti score. Loren will provide language coaching materials, as well as background information.

If you've not sung this work before, you will be greatly changed by its eloquence and beauty: as it challenges our musicianship, we will grow and learn.

COLUMBUS TOUR

Remember, Loren really needs your response regarding the June Columbus weekend. Sufficient membership has registered for the trip to allow him to book one motorcoach, so The tour is ON! However, the rest of you must soon respond, so Loren knows whether or not a second motorcoach will be necessary.

CHECK IT OUT!....

Someone sent this link to me, and I suggest you all follow it - Wow! Even those of us who aren't into barbershop can certainly appreciate the highly-skilled, finely-tuned, perfect-diction showmanship of these guys!! Go to ... YouTube - Ambassadors of Harmony - 2009 International Barbershop



Chorus Champions. You will really enjoy this!

Loren

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

This will be the final newsletter until rehearsals resume after the holidays on Tuesday, January 5, 2010. Loren, along with the VOCI staff - Paula, Maxine, Mindy, and Amy - all wish every one of our excellent chorus members a most blessed and beautiful holiday season - and, a very happy New Year!

SETUP COMMITTEE

Thank you to the 10 people who came last Saturday who decorated the Great Court for Renaissance Christmas. We still have some finishing work to do! The set committee needs your help at 3:30 pm on Sunday (1 hour before our 4:30 rehearsal) to complete the decorating, set up tents, move some Christmas trees, and get our space ready for the show!

Please help!

SINGING POINTS

Singers All!

Concert week is almost upon us. Your work continues to be of excellent caliber, and we are approaching the level of full preparation. I think it's going to be one of the best concerts we've sung together. Thank you, in advance, for the beauty next week will bring. We have thoroughly discussed the musical interpretation. Based on last evening's rehearsal, I would like to remind you of these final thoughts:

1). Diction has shown VAST improvement. However, stronger consonants betray flaws in precision. PLEASE do all you can to watch the gesture very carefully; there are so many moments remaining when consonants do not happen together.

2). Remember, compound consonants (i.e. ChrisTCHild) and sibilants (s especially) must be DELAYED: they occur precisely when moving to the next syllable and function as the initial part of the new pulse/beat.

3). Dynamic range has shown VAST improvement. However, we must constantly monitor it so we don't destroy dramatic moments, oversing or bore the audience. The FULL dynamic



range must appear in the concert, and piano singing can be gorgeous when energized and alive.

4). Facial involvement in your singing is essential: it's NOT an option!

5). Are you conscious of all you are doing as you sing? Supportive body position; engaged muscles; deep, free breath; mouth shaping for focus and tonal beauty; emotional content conveyed in sound and vision; and, musical phrasing and expression. All of these affect your performance, and our conglomerate success as a choir.

Are you excited, yet? I certainly am! I think it's going to be a wonderful week, and my wonderful choir is going to give the greatest gift possible this season: a beautiful, emotional, inspiring Christmas concert! (That's not to forget the fun and frolic or the pre-show) This show is a smorgasbord of entertainment and Christmas joy - sure to be a great success - thanks to YOU!

COOKIE BAKERS!

The Food Committee would like to answer some frequently-asked questions about the ginger cookies and thank you in advance for your help:

How many batches should I make?

Just one, which should yield approximately 60 cookies if you drop walnut-sized balls of dough.

What's this decorating sugar, and what if I can't find it?

The pieces of sugar are a little larger and sparklier, and typically grocery stores carry it this time of year for baking. I just found it at the Fulton Rd. Fishers. However, if you can't find it or don't want to pay extra for the pretty stuff, just use regular sugar.

When should I bring my cookies?

Either at the Tuesday or Thursday rehearsals! Thanks!

Did I sign up to bake?

If in doubt, check the sign up list. It was left with other sign-up sheets at this week's practice. If you're not sure, please bring extra cookies! Depending on ticket sales, perhaps attendees will be able to have two instead of one.



MATH FROM MAX

Renaissance Ticket Sales:

Friday: 139 sold

Saturday: 89 sold

Sunday: 94 sold

Capacity (Cable Hall): 220

How many more tickets must we sell for 3 sold out performances?

UPCOMING!

Bel'VOCI Christmas Concert

Saturday December 5 at 7:30 p.m. at St. Michael's Church. Tickets are \$10 at the door.

Canton Children's Chorus Christmas Concert

Sunday, December 6 at 3:00 p.m. at the Arts and Education Center. Tickets are \$10 at the door.