

Gathering Roses in Winter: Memory, Hope and Home



Saturday
December 15, 2007
3:00 pm

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LETTER FROM THE DIRECTORS

"Memories are the mind's way of gathering roses in winter" — attributed to J.M. Barrie

Throughout the semester, singers have been focusing on this quote. The ability of memories to help us in times of greatest need (our "winter") and generate hope where hope seems impossible ("gathering roses in winter") is quite powerful. We've learned, discussed, sung, and studied; in the process we've discovered things about ourselves and others.

As part of this process, MYC established a partnership with the Interfaith Hospitality Network (IHN) of Madison. Singers from MYC and IHN co-wrote a song with singer/songwriter/storyteller Stuart Stotts at an IHN breakfast event. MYC families learned about IHN's programs and ways they could volunteer to help. And today, MYC families brought items for a supply drive for IHN—donating the items families served by IHN need the most.

Throughout today's concert, you'll hear music describing the power of memory to help us in our greatest need—for some, those powerful memories are of home and the people that love them. But for many families, the power of memory is not enough. They need more—they need our understanding, our respect, and our help. During the concert you'll hear MYC singers talk about what it is like for some families to be without this power—without a home—and what IHN does for those families in greatest need.

Weaving together all of this—the music, the words, the stories—is a song by Ladysmith Black Mambazo's Joseph Shabalala. You'll hear the melody throughout the concert, and then finally, the entire song at the close of today's program. Thanks for joining us for "Gathering Roses in Winter—Memory, Hope, and Home".

Madison Youth Choirs is proud to be able to provide our singers with interesting, educational performance projects and

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LETTER FROM THE DIRECTORS

are grateful for the many "roses" who have provided financial support to make our winter concerts possible. MYC's 2007-2008 Season has been made possible with the generous support of the American Girl's Fund for Children and the Wisconsin Arts Board with funds from the State of Wisconsin. The winter concerts are funded in part by the grants from the Madison Arts Commission, with additional funds from the Wisconsin Arts Board, and the Dane County Cultural Affairs Commission, with additional funds from the Evjue Foundation, the Overture Foundation, and the American Girl's Fund for Children. Additionally, MYC would like to thank all of our donors, volunteers, parents, and staff who work tirelessly to provide our singers with excellent music education and performance opportunities throughout the year.

Mike Ross
Artistic Director

Emily Gruenewald
Executive Director



GATHERING ROSES IN WINTER: MEMORY, HOPE, AND HOME

Saturday, December 15, 2007, 3:00 p.m.

COMBINED CHOIRS

Wanting Memories

Ysaye M. Barnwell (b. 1946)

We open our concert with this beautiful song about the importance of memory and the lessons those memories can teach us. This song, first sung by the a cappella group Sweet Honey in the Rock, has been recorded and performed countless times.

CHORALIERS

Lisa Kjentvet, conductor
April Kang, piano

Art Thou Troubled?

George Frideric Handel (1685-1759)

Art Thou Troubled is a da capo aria from George Frideric Handel's opera *Rodelinda*, written for the Royal Academy of Music in 1725 when Handel was living in London. Jean Ashworth Bartle, director of the Toronto Children's Chorus, adapted the aria 'Dove sei, amato bene' with lyrics by W. G. Rothery. Our discussions about the text involved sharing various ways we might find comfort (gather roses) during troubled times (winter).

Hine mah tov

Hebrew Folk Song
Arranged by Henry Leck

(sung in Hebrew)

Behold, how good and pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in peace. Psalm 133:1

The *Hine mah tov* text has been set to many well-known melodies. Henry Leck, founder and artistic director of the Indianapolis Children's Choir, has arranged his favorite melody to give each voice part the opportunity to sing melody and harmony.

Mid-Winter

Bob Chilcott (b. 1955)

Mid-Winter is a setting of the poem *In the Bleak Midwinter* by English poet Christina Rossetti (1830-1894). Rossetti's poem became widely known after her death when it was set as a Christmas carol by Gustav Holst. Bob Chilcott's setting received its first performance on December 11, 1994, by the Toronto Children's Chorus. Formerly a singer and composer with The King's Singers, Chilcott is one of the most active composers and choral conductors in Britain today.

Ching-A-Ring Chaw

Traditional Minstrel Song
Arranged by Aaron Copland (1900-1990)

Ching-a-ring Chaw is an early minstrel tune included by Aaron Copland in his *Old American Songs*, a collection of folksong arrangements dating from 1950-1952. Copland found the upbeat tune and its nonsense refrain very appealing, but he carefully rewrote the original verses in order to create a more universal vision of a promised land. The title words imitate the sound of a banjo.

CON GIOIA

Heather Thorpe, conductor
Rachel Bittner, piano

Sing dem Herrn

Michale Praetorius (1571 – 1621)
Arranged by Wallace DePue

(sung in German)

Sing to the Lord! Alleluia!
Praise to the Lord.
Sing with timbrel and harp.

Praetorius is considered one of the most important German musicians in the transition from the Renaissance to the early Baroque period. This particular canon actually adorns a portrait of Praetorius at the age of 35 (1606). Canonic decoration in form or traits was a common practice from the late 15th through the 18th centuries. These 'dedicatory canons' form an untapped repository of small masterpieces.

Cliffs of Doneen

Traditional Irish Folk Song
Arranged by Heather Thorpe

This simple yet beautiful Irish folk song speaks of the love of country, home, and nostalgia for each.

Hope

Marjan Helms

Marjan Helms is composer-in-residence for Michigan State University where she also teaches composition and piano. Helms has taken this Emily Dickinson poem and treated it to a whimsical and rhythmic setting. This dance like piece moves along in 6/8 meter, with an occasional feeling of three or a 2/4 measure to throw it for just a moment; just as hope can be thrown in times of hardship and difficulty.

Like a Tree

Margaret P. Douroux
Arranged by Lon Beery

Arielle Mitchell, soloist

Douroux's catalog of over 200 gospel tunes has landed her in the Gospel Music Hall of Fame. She grew up in a family, neighborhood and time that left her with a deep respect for tradition and an ache for its losses. Dr. Douroux's life and ministry has been dedicated to sharing the rich heritage and legacy of Gospel music with the public.

CAPRICCIO

Lisa Kjentvet, conductor
April Kang, piano

Laudamus Te (from Gloria)

Antonio Vivaldi (1678-1741)

(sung in Latin)

We praise Thee. We bless Thee. We worship Thee. We glorify Thee.

The *Gloria* is undoubtedly one of Antonio Vivaldi's best-known works. It was written for the Ospedale della Pieta, the Venetian girls' orphanage where Vivaldi served as music instructor. *Laudamus te* is a joyful and passionate duet originally written for soprano and mezzo-soprano. The two voices imitate each other at first and then join together singing in thirds. A recurring instrumental refrain separates the vocal episodes.

Schlof Main Kind

(sung in Yiddish)

Allan E. Naplan (b. 1972)

*Sleep my child and rest.
Happy is the child with a mother
and a cradle to be rocked in.
All can be found
and all can be bought,
But without a mother you have
nothing in this world.
Let your troubles not be great
for you can always be cradled
in your mother's arms.*

Schlof Main Kind is a Yiddish Lullaby written by award-winning composer Allan Naplan, General Director of the Madison Opera. It was commissioned by the Ithaca College School of Music Women's Chorale in 1994. The timing of the commission coincided with the popular release of Stephen Spielberg's Oscar winning movie, *Schindler's List*. In the movie, special dramatic attention was focused on "the girl in red", an innocent child whose young life was ended due to the atrocities on the Holocaust. The image of "the girl in red" inspired much of this composition.

The Lake Isle of Innisfree

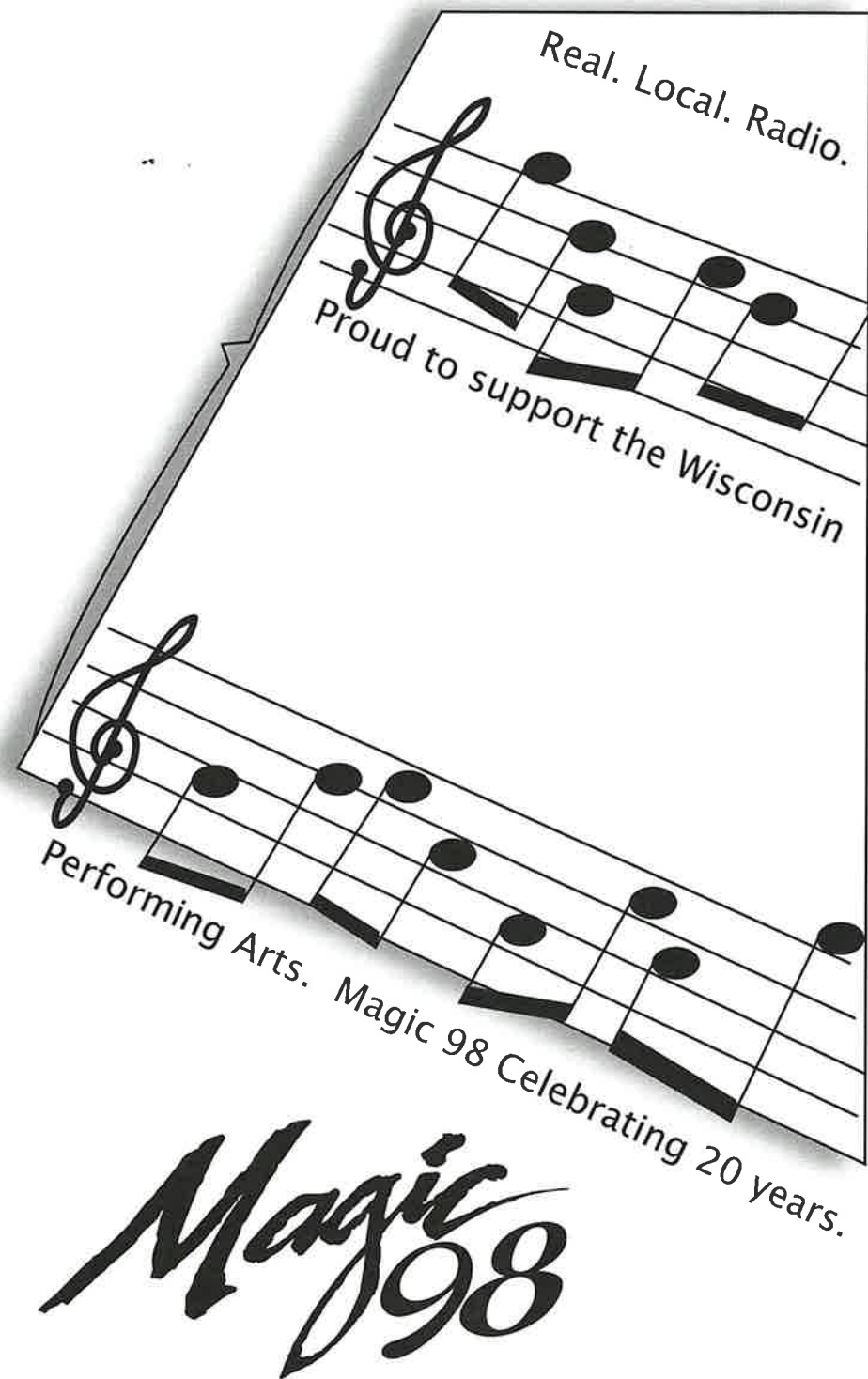
Eleanor Daley (b. 1955)

This delightful setting of a poem by Irish poet William Butler Yeats (1865-1939) embraces nature's beauty and the secret joy of solitude. The poet, living in the city, is longing to live alone in a peaceful lakeside cabin, listening to the buzz of bees in his well-tended garden and the lapping of the lake on the shore, and admiring the glimmer of the lake at midnight and a purple glow at noon. *The Lake Isle of Innisfree* was commissioned by St. Marys Children's Choir, Ontario, and their conductor, Eileen Baldwin, for the occasion of their 20th anniversary, June 2001.

The Storm is Passing Over

Charles Albert Tindley
Arranged by Barbara W. Baker

Charles Albert Tindley (1851-1933) is recognized as one of the founding fathers of American gospel music. The son of slaves, he saw the world as a battlefield with the forces of evil against the forces of good. *The Storm is Passing Over* reminds us to "have courage my soul and let us journey on. Though the night is dark...the morning light appears." This traditional gospel song celebrates the end of the storm and the triumph over difficult times.



CANTILENA

Marcia Russell, conductor
Rachel Bittner, piano

O Lovely Peace from *Judas Maccabaeus* George Frideric Handel (1685-1759)

Judas Maccabaeus focuses on the period of 170-160 BC when Judea was under Syrian control and the people were persecuted for practicing their faith. Much of Act I and Act II is filled with music that relates the despair of the people as their country is destroyed. *O Lovely Peace* appears at the end of Act III, when victory is at hand and hope is renewed. The pastoral melody itself is full of hope, constructed with consistent stepwise motion and stable harmony in thirds. The text revels in the simple joys of "fleecy flocks and wavy corn" after years of dearth and battle.

Nigra Sum Pablo Casals (1876-1973) (sung in Latin)

*I am dark, and beautiful, daughters of Jerusalem;
The King has rejoiced in me,
the King hath brought me into His very own chambers.
He spoke unto me: Rise up, my fair one, and come away.
Lo, for the winter is past and gone, and the rain is over and gone.
Flowers appear on the earth and the time of renewal is come.
Alleluia.*

Pablo Casals was a renowned cellist and conductor, and his setting of *Nigra Sum* features the female voice with a lush melody and rich harmonies. The text is a setting of verses from *Song of Solomon*, and refers to a young woman who lives outside of the palace, therefore tanned by the sun, but is noticed by the king for her beauty.

A Ceremony of Carols, (Op. 28) Benjamin Britten (1913-1976)

4b. Balulalow
5. As Dew in Aprile
6. This Little Babe

Karen Atz, harp
Kelly Tauschek, soprano

English composer Benjamin Britten composed *A Ceremony of Carols* while returning home via ship to Britain from the United States during World War II. The texts, taken from *The English Galaxy of Shorter Poems*, are mostly works by anonymous writers of the 15th and 16th Century about the birth of Jesus. The three movements performed today are a glimpse into Britten's compositional genius. In *Balulalow*, the listener will hear the lulling of a baby as the singers subtly change from major and minor chords. *As Dew in Aprile* creates the effect of light rain patter. And the battle between Satan and the Holy Child is masterfully portrayed in *This Little Babe*, which begins with a statement of the agitated melody over a relentless accompaniment, followed by a canon in two parts, then three. The sonorous resolution at the end is one of pure optimism and hope.

On The Sunny Side Of The Street Jimmy McHugh (1893-1969) Arranged by Ron Caviani

Labeling a song as a "jazz standard" implies that the tune is well known, widely performed and often recorded; *On The Sunny Side Of The Street* definitely fits this billing. Written in the 1930s, the tune has been recorded so many times, there are over 100 versions available to purchase on iTunes! The members of Cantilena have experimented with a bit of improvisation and scat singing to make this arrangement their own. To be successful, the singers needed to appreciate the tune as a sort of "home base". Embellishing this tune is only successful if the performer is familiar with the tune in its original form.

J'entends le Moulin French Folksong Arranged by Donald Patriquin (b. 1938)

*I hear the millwheel tique tique taque
My father is having a house built.
It is being built with three gables.
There are three carpenters building it.
The youngest is my darling.*

*What do you have in your apron?
It's a pie made of three pigeons.
Let's sit down and eat it.*

*While sitting down they all lept up,
Causing the sea and fish to tremble,
And the stones on the bottom of the sea.*

If "memory is the mind's way of gathering roses in winter", perhaps it can be said that the *sounds* and *songs* of our past add fragrance to the bouquet. Whether it be the speaking of a familiar phrase or the singing of a memorable tune, humans can be transported back in time and place via their memory. *J'entends le Moulin* is such a song. The text appears illogical and nonsensical, but it is a game of rhymes in which the final syllable of each line must rhyme with "tends" of "J'entends". Cantilena hopes their performance of this lively folk song will inspire the listener to recall favorite songs of youth and childhood.

COMBINED CHOIRS


Thula Klizeo
(sung in Zulu)

Joseph Shabalala (b. 1941)

Be still my heart, even here I am at home.


This song was written by Joseph Shabalala, leader of the South African group Ladysmith Black Mambazo. He wrote this song during a visit to New York, when he missed his family (and 14 children!) and was unsure if he would be able to see them again because of the Apartheid laws of the time. He was calmed by the text, which became the lyrics to this simple but powerful song.

Although memories of family, of music, of home, can provide hope in the midst of horrible times, memories alone are not enough. There are people in our world, our nation, our city that do not have a home; they don't have the basic things we can easily take for granted. As we close today's concert we hope you'll join us in helping those for whom memories are not enough. Volunteer, donate, help out, bring items to our supply drive, do what you can.



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PROGRAM NOTES

OUR CHOIRS

Choraliers is our youngest performing choir, for girls in grades three to five. It focuses on unison singing skills, beginning two-part singing, note reading, and rehearsal techniques.

Con Gioia (kawn-JOY-ah) means "with joy" in Italian and includes girls in grades five to seven. It further develops part-singing, vocal techniques, and sight-reading.

Capriccio offers girls in grades seven to nine a more advanced choir experience. Music from a variety of choral traditions is studied; Girls perform challenging two and three part literature in a variety of languages. Their name refers to a free-flowing and lively piece of music.

Cantilena (kahn-tih-LAY-nah) is an Italian term referring to a smooth flowing melody or vocal style. Girls in this choir are in grades nine to twelve and study and perform challenging three to four part literature in a variety of languages.

Cantabile (kahn-TAH-bee-lay) literally means "in a singing style" and is our most advanced treble choir, with girls in grades nine to twelve. Singers focus on advanced literature and vocal technique.

The Madison Boychoir for boys with unchanged voices maintains the centuries-old tradition of a treble boychoir through the study of a wide range of repertoire. It includes three performing choirs, all named after famous British composers:

Purcell (boys, grades 3-6)

Britten (boys, grades 5-8)

Holst (boys, grades 6-9), a select group of boys chosen for their skill and commitment. These boys have unchanged, changing and newly changed voices. The literature they sing varies with their vocal needs but they often sing SATB music.

Ragazzi (rah-GAH-tsee) literally means "guys" in Italian and is our choir for boys with changed voices. Singers explore a variety of musical styles and occasionally combine with Britten or Cantabile to present SATB literature.

And...

Tallis (TA-lihs) and *Colla Voce* (KO-la VO-chay) are our two introductory choirs; you might see some of those singers (who will join our performing choirs in the spring) here today.

FROZEN CUSTARD

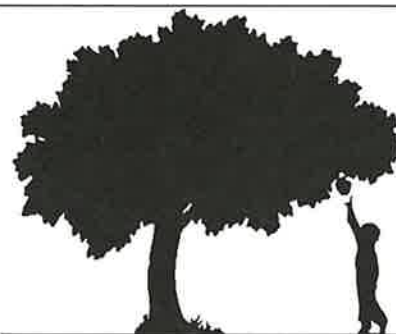


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Carolyn Raihala
Emily Schmidt
Sarah Statz
Emily Stephenson
Alice Jankowski Sullivan
Emma Traband
Sara Triggs
Claire Van Fossen

♩ MADISON YOUTH CHOIRS MEMBERS

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Margo Von Willey
Vivian Washington
Lauren Welton-Arndt
Cora Wiese
Sophie Wolbert
Samantha Yaeger
Angela Yu
Carly Jo Ziegler

Capriccio

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Cara Argus
Kelsey Breen
Meghan Butler
Addison Clearwood
Abigail Diamond
Sophia Foldvari
Abigail Frank-Taylor
Allison Gothard
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Alicia Olander
Anusha Ramaswami
Madeline Reilly
Kaya Rosenthal
Ivy Sanderfoot
Natalie Sarcona
Alannah Spencer

Sonia Urquidi
Samantha Webster
Kate Wellenstein
Hailey Wendt

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Abigail Cahill
Katherine Canon
Rachel Chisman
Kelsey Cochems
Lily Cornwell
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Claire Kim
Sarah Kretschmann
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Lia Rosenberg
Sasha Sigel
Elan Simpson
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Cantabile

Aarushi Agni
Cora Allen-Coleman
Rita Argus
Alison Best
Kythie Boyd
Fiona Cahill

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Maria Fuschino
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Gina Kim
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Megan Larkin
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Kristen Lucas
Marsha Danielle Mabie
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Nicole Waner
Jane Weesner
Hannah West
Alyssa Wirth
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Ragazzi

Aman Alem
Joey Borgwardt
Aaron Coleman
Stefan DeLong

Evan Elderbrock
Sam Factor
Daniel Girma
Neal Javenkoski
Douglas Kim
Jamie Kolden
Kyle Kretschmann
Tony Lattis
Conor Murphy
Ketan Ramakrishnan
Max Read
Kristoffer Sladky
Graham Stoddard
Kolin Walker
Matthew Weiss
Sun Yu

Purcell

Theodore Anders
Noah Argus
Gillis Benson-Scollon
Dane Christensen
Sam Cibula
Scott Close
Joshua Falkos
Anders Frank
Benjamin Hembel
Matthew Hembel
Barrett Karstens
Ben Killeen
Nathaniel Langlie
Caylan Landrie
YuLang Luo
Matthew Marsland
Ben Nesslar
Colman O'Connell
Ransom Rotering
K. Miguel Santos-Braceros
Noah Sauer
Jacob Paul Siegler
Will Sobol

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Will Zocher

Britten

Morgan Lee Alexander
Reid Annin
Noah Beavers
Oliver Cardona
Henry Elling
Adam Fischer
Benjamin Gellman
Joshua Allen Heimsoth
Nathan Hemming
Noah Holland
Adam Jumaleh
Matthew Kaiser
Mitchell Lattis
Andrew Liu
Nicholas Miller
Nate Nesslar
Mason Rather
Kellen Rice
Derek Rott
William Glen Sandvold
Abe Tapia
Andrew Turner
Simon Weaver
Jeremiah Webster
Ethan White

Holst

Chaitannya Agni
Gabriel Benton
Kyle Connors
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Thomas Heiner
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Anthony Olusina Schleicher
Patrick Sisson
Dane Skaar
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Roy Yarooh

Tallis

Christian Fischer
Albert Shoshany Glosser
Ellis Mayne
Daniel O'Connor
Caleb Randall
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Colla Voce

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Marissa Barbosa
Natalie Barrett
Lauren Bobeck
Coral Carlson
Talitha Cheeseman
Elizabeth Everitt
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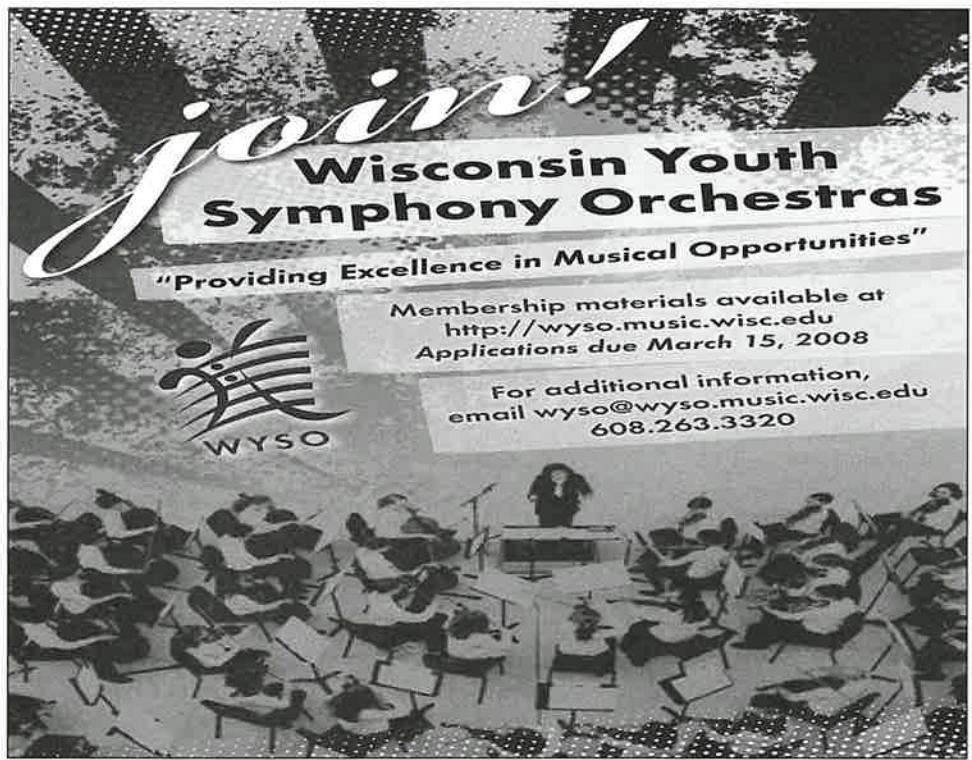
Michael (Mike) Ross, Artistic Director and Conductor of Cantabile and Ragazzi
Michael Ross is the first full-time Artistic Director of the Madison Youth Choirs. He was previously the Music Department Chair and Vocal Music Teacher at Madison West High School. Michael was the Tallis (training choir) instructor for the former Madison Boychoir for ten years. He has both Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Music Education from UW-Madison, where he studied with Robert Fountain, Beverly Taylor, Julia Koza, and Anthony Barresi. Michael has also taught at the University of Wisconsin-Madison Summer Music Clinic, conducted the University Chorus at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, and led the former Basso Continuo choir of the Madison Boychoir.

Michael has extensive accompanying and music directing experience, including having been accompanist for both the Madison Boychoir and Madison Children's Choir, department accompanist for the University of Wisconsin-Madison choral program, and music director for several University of Wisconsin-Madison Summer Theatre productions.

Michael has been active in state music organizations, having been the choral chair for the Wisconsin Music Educators Association, accompanist for the Wisconsin Choral Directors Association's Next Direction conference, and both section leader and accompanist for various WSMA and WCDA State Honors Choirs. Michael is a member of the Voice Care Network, and has been named several times to "Who's Who Among America's Teachers".

Margaret Jenks, Colla Voce, Tallis, Purcell and Holst conductor
Margaret Jenks graduated Magna Cum Laude from Lawrence University Conservatory of Music with degrees in Music Education and Vocal Performance. She has performed extensively as a choir member and soloist in the Milwaukee area. She has taught in Freiburg, Germany; Eagan, Minnesota, and most recently in Waukesha, Wisconsin. In 2001, she received the WCDA "Young Choral Director of the Year" award. Her teaching has ranged from young children through college students. She has also directed the adult and children's choirs at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Waukesha. Ms. Jenks has two young boys and is having fun exploring Madison with them after moving here in November 2004.

Lisa Kjenvet, Choraliens and Capriccio Conductor
Lisa conducted the Capriccio Choir of the Madison Children's Choir for three years and served as artistic director of MCC for two years. This year, she conducts the Choraliens choir and again is conductor of the Capriccio choir. She holds a Bachelor's



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BIOGRAPHIES

degree in General and Choral Music Education from UW-Madison.

As a teacher, Lisa has served as choral director at Kettle Moraine Middle School and Madison's Memorial High School, among other Madison schools, and has worked with community groups such as Children's Theater of Madison and Madison Theater Guild, as well as maintaining a private studio as a piano and voice instructor. Lisa has sung professionally with the Milwaukee Symphony Chorus and as a freelance musician.

Marcia Russell, Cantilena Conductor

Marcia Russell has taught choral music students in the Platteville School District since 1997, teaching seven years at Platteville High School before making the move to Platteville Middle School in 2004. She received a Bachelor of Music Degree in Voice Performance and Choral and General Music Education from Lawrence University in 1994. Marcy also directs the Choristers, a choir of 40 auditioned singers with the Platteville Children's Choir.

Ms. Russell is an active member of ACDA and MENC, and has held many leadership roles. She is the current Wisconsin School Music Association Middle Level Honors Choir Alto Coach, and served the WSMA High School Honors Project as Treble Choir Soprano 1 Coach in 2000 and 2001, and again as Treble Choir Coordinator and Alto 2 Coach in 2002 and 2003. She is the past chair for *NextDirection: The National Conference for High School Students Considering Careers in Choral Music*, and has served two terms as the Southwest Representative to the Wisconsin Choral Directors Association. She is an active performer and soloist with the Platteville Chorale and the Heartland Singers, and has performed leading roles in numerous musical theatre productions with the UW-Platteville Heartland Festival, the Dubuque, Iowa Grand Opera House and the Pop Factory Players. She is a WSMA certified adjudicator and a member of Sigma Alpha Iota, Pi Kappa Lambda, Mortar Board and The VoiceCare Network.

Randal Swiggum, Britten and Holst Conductor

Besides conducting Britten and Holst, Randal Swiggum is in his ninth season as Music Director of the Elgin Youth Symphony Orchestra. He is also Associate Conductor for the Elgin Symphony Orchestra, creating and conducting their education concerts. He was Artistic Director of the Madison Children's Choir from 1996-2000, and has also taught at Whitefish Bay High School, UW-Milwaukee, and Lawrence University.

A frequent guest conductor of orchestral and choral festivals, he most recently conducted the first ever Pennsylvania All-State Junior High Choir, as well as the Singapore American Schools Choral Festival, MENC All-Northwest Honor Choir in Portland, American Mennonite Schools Orchestra Festival, Northern Arizona Honors Orchestra, and both the Wisconsin Middle Level Honors Choir and Orchestra. Next month, he

BIOGRAPHIES

will conduct the Mansfield (PA) University Choral Festival and the New York City Interscholar Choral Festival.

A passionate advocate for a richer learning experience in the rehearsal, Randy serves on the Wisconsin CMP (Comprehensive Musicianship through Performance) Project. He recently addressed the Pennsylvania MENC on "The Art of Rehearsing," as well as the Minnesota ACDA, Iowa ACDA, Maryland MENC, the ACDA North Central Division, the Texas Orchestra Directors Association, and MENC National Conventions in Phoenix and Kansas City.

Swiggum has led concert tours throughout Europe, Canada, and the Americas including the first international tour for Ragazzi and Cantabile to Brazil in 1998. He has music directed over thirty stage works including the 1991 premiere of the Theatre X opera, *Liberace*. He created the music for celebrated director Eric Simonsen's new production of *Moby Dick* for the Milwaukee Repertory Theatre, named by TIME magazine as one of the 10 Best Theatrical Productions of 2002. He is author of *Strategies for Teaching High School Chorus* (MENC 1998), and co-author of *Shaping Sound Musicians* (GIA 2003). He is currently a Ph.D. candidate in musicology at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Special Guests

Karen Beth Atz

Karen Beth Atz is Artist-in-Residence at the UW-Madison School of Music. She is principal harpist with the Madison Symphony Orchestra, a position she has held since 1976. Ms. Atz maintains a private teaching studio and presents more than 30 performances each year as a free-lance harpist. She offers expertise and experience in many styles, including classical, contemporary, folk, jazz, popular, ethnic, and Celtic music.

Ms. Atz is in demand as a harpist for orchestra, opera, ballet, chorus, small ensemble, and solo performances. She appears as guest artist with symphonies and in numerous programs such as Sunday Afternoon Live at the Elvehjem, Bach Dancing and Dynamite Society, UW faculty recitals, and community performances in many states. Ms. Atz has played harp for many dignitaries, including Wisconsin governors and President Jimmy Carter. She has been principal harpist with the Wisconsin Chamber Orchestra and several other orchestras throughout Wisconsin and Illinois.

Ms. Atz has taught at Edgewood College and for master classes at UW-Madison, UW-Stevens Point, and other locations in Wisconsin, UW-Madison Summer Music Clinic,

BIOGRAPHIES

the Chicago Youth Symphony Orchestra, and workshops for public schools. Karen Beth Atz is a graduate of the University of Wisconsin-Madison School of Music. She has studied with Mildred Dilling, Margaret Cooper, and other students of Grandjany, as well as the contrasting technique of Alice Chalifoux.

Accompanists

Rachel Bittner

Rachel Bittner is a native of St. Paul, Minnesota. She received music degrees from Lawrence University and the University of Wisconsin-Madison, where she studied with Anthony Padilla and Catherine Kautsky.

Rachel is an active piano teacher and accompanist in the Madison area. She has been a teacher at the Arboretum Music School since 2005 and is the pianist and accompanist for Crossroads United Methodist Church in Waunakee, WI.

April Kang

April Kang received the Bachelor of Music in piano performance from the University of Georgia in 2004, where she studied with Dr. Martha Thomas. She then received a Master of Music in piano performance from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 2006 after piano studies under Dr. Catherine Kautsky. She was the recital winner of Georgia Music Educators Association Piano Competition in 2003. In the summer of 2005, she participated Castelfranc Summer Piano School in France to study with French piano music expert, Paul Roberts. In addition, she worked with other prominent pianists as she participated in master classes with Anne Schein, Gilbert Kalish, Jeffrey Siegel and Angela Hewitt. While pursuing piano performance degrees, she also studied harpsichord, organ and choral conducting.

Throughout her high school and undergraduate years, she was an active choir member as an alto section leader, a piano accompanist and a student director. During her high school senior year, she was invited as a piano accompanist for Cumberland County's All County Middle School Choral Festival in North Carolina. She was also an official accompanist for MTNA Regional Competition in 2005.

Currently, she is a piano teacher around the Madison area and serves as a church organist at Lakeview Moravian Church in Madison.

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

Emily Gruenewald, Executive Director

Emily Gruenewald attended the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities where she received her Bachelor of Arts degree *cum laude* in Theatre Arts with a Business Administration minor. Emily began her career in arts administration with the newly formed University of Minnesota Guthrie Theater Bachelors of Fine Arts Actor Training Program and in 2002 returned to Madison to work with CTM Madison Family Theatre Company as Education and Community Involvement Director.

Emily joined the MYC staff in July 2004 as Executive Director and although she sings poorly herself, she is proud to be a part of an organization that provides exceptional music education for area youth from beginning singers to the accomplished.

Emily is a member of the Association of Fundraising Professionals and lives outside of Edgerton with her husband Dan and their two cats.

Dan Lyons, Membership Director

Holding piano performance degrees from DePaul University and a doctoral performance degree from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, Daniel Lyons has performed in solo, chamber and concerto performances throughout the Midwest. His teachers include Dmitry Paperno, Howard Karp and Mary Sauer.

Dan is a member of Con Vivo Chamber Group, performing in and around Madison. He was also the founder of Madison Academy of Music, a private music studio in Madison that provides private instrumental instruction along with one of the country's largest and most successful Kindermusik programs. He serves on the faculty of the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater Summer Piano Clinic and continues to perform as a soloist and accompanist.

In his spare time, he tries to brush up on his limited Mandarin Chinese, and enjoys teaching his children and their friends how to play Chicago-style 16-inch softball – the kind without the mitt. He lives in Madison with his wife, Monica, and three children, Kenny, Tatiana and Alexander.

Michelle Stellner, Marketing and Development Manager

Michelle Stellner has over thirty years of sales, marketing, customer service and quality improvement experience in the corporate world.

Michelle has always been an active community volunteer through her sons' schools, in her neighborhood, and with local nonprofit and professional development associations. She studied business and marketing education at the University of Wisconsin-LaCrosse and Western Wisconsin Technical Institute and is currently a member of the Association of Fundraising Professionals.

Michelle is the parent of a former Madison Boychoir singer. She served on their Board as President and was on the Madison Youth Choir Advisory Board from 1997 to 2007. Her two sons are grown and she lives in Madison with her husband, Jim.

STAFF

Michael Ross, *artistic director, conductor*
Margaret Jenks, *conductor*
Lisa Kjentvet, *conductor*
Marcia Russell, *conductor*
Randal Swiggum, *conductor*
Heather Thorpe, *conductor*

Rachel Bitner, *accompanist*
April Kang, *accompanist*

Emily Gruenewald, *executive director*
Daniel Lyons, *membership director*
Michelle Stellner, *marketing and
development manager*

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