

The Ensemble

Raising Young Voices In Song for 25 Years!

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Judy DuBose
Founder and Director

From the Director

Dear Parents and Singers:

What a December of concerts and wonderful experiences! As Little Orphan Annie might say, "Oh my goodness, Oh my goodness!" First, the Chamber Singers were invited to perform at the inauguration of the new mayor and alderpersons of Frederick City. After much discussion about what they would sing, it was decided on the Saturday morning prior to the Thursday inauguration ceremony that they would sing America the Beautiful. I sifted through the 10 or more arrangements of America the Beautiful I have and decided on one that was most appropriate. There was an instrumental solo included in the arrangement so I asked Matt Thomas to play trumpet, as well as sing bass. Of the 43 Chamber Singers, it's estimated that 37 actually were able to perform on Thursday, Dec. 10 at 1:00 p.m. Thank you parents for assisting the students with acquiring excused absences and transportation to the Weinberg Center. With just two rehearsals, the chorus was able to learn their music and memorize it. They made a very professional procession to the performance area provided for them, below the stage in front of the seats. Mary Miller took her place at the keyboard (thank you, Mary) and Matt Thomas had his trumpet part memorized. The group was directed by Ms. Lee. (Thank you to Mrs. Ekanger for taking care of Baby Riley). The chorus received an enthusiastic response for their efforts.



Austin and Ethan, for making us feel so welcome and for all your assistance at rehearsals and at the concert. It was a beautiful setting for the concert.



The next day, Sunday, Dec. 13, the Chamber Singers resumed rehearsals for The Messiah Sing-Along with our favorite Santa at the piano, Rob Freed. Good thing too, because the next Sunday's rehearsal was cancelled on account of 2 feet of snow falling the day before.

On Monday, Dec. 14 a small group of singers from our chorus were joined by 8 students from my elementary school to create a multi-aged, multi-cultural children's chorus for the Strathmore Music Center production of Take Joy! What an experience that turned into.



A cast of three child actors, five adult actors, an adult chorus, professional orchestra, and composer/conductor rehearsed from 6:00 until 10:00 p.m. Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday night, and until 11:00 p.m. Thursday night. We opened to a full house on Friday night, and sadly, the snowstorm cancelled the Saturday performance. But what a great performance they did on Friday. They received



great praise from all the performers, producers, directors, and the composer. There is a good chance we will be invited to do the show again next year. If so, I hope more of our singers of varied ages will apply to be selected. It was a rigorous schedule for parents and singers. All of the singers had to memorize their music before the



As most of you know, two days later, it was the day of the concert. With harpist and singers, pianists (Thank

you Alisa Jackson, Ed Bower and Mary Miller), and conductors too many to count, the children presented a marvelous performance at the new auditorium located on Old National Pike, not Ijamsville Rd. Thanks so much to Mr. Dye, father of

week of rehearsals with the cast, which they did with the guidance of Ms. Ion from 7:00 – 8:00 for five weeks on Tuesdays. There were numerous cues to remember and a lot of patience was required by singers and parents as the last week wore on. All of these singers deserve a huge Bravo!



And then it was time for The Messiah Sing-Along. I suppose only a few of you know about this event, because only the Chamber Singers are involved. Those children's chorus families with multiple children

eventually come to know about this event. In brief, our Chamber Singers perform sections of the great Christmas oratorio, Messiah, by Georg Friedrich Handel, with a professional orchestra, and four professional soloists, and the audience sings along. I get to conduct! This year, the soloists were all former children's chorus members: soprano, Ann DuBose (graduate of 1997) made her debut with the Messiah Sing-Along; Lee DuBose Fuhr (graduate



1999) returned to sing the mezzo soprano solos; tenor Daniel Buchanan (graduated 1998) flew up from Houston to join us in



this, his third performance with us; and Colin Dill (graduated 2002) came down from Philadelphia. This year's performance was determined to be a most outstanding evening by many who spoke to us

afterward. Soloists were stellar, the orchestra and especially the strings were really exceptional, the Chamber Singers sang beautifully, and the audience sang better than ever before. There were estimated to be about 50 FCC alumni singing in the audience. It was a fabulous evening. And finally, all the concerts were over until next December.

Someone asked me how I manage to do so much in December. My answer is simple. December is my Boston Marathon. I train all year, and conserve energy in anticipation of the month, which I love and wouldn't change in any way. It's gotten easier since it became possible to do all my Christmas shopping on line on December 19 and have everything arrive by Christmas Eve. Thanks to every parent and child who put forth so much effort to help with the many additional details. I hope you felt the glow of the reward as warmly I did.

Happy New Year Everyone!
Sincerely,

Mrs. D

News and Notes

Thank You Concert Volunteers!

Thank you to all the parents and families that allowed our December concert to go off without a hitch! So many of our committee chairs and committee members really stepped up and helped out in so many ways. We truly could not do it without all of you - thank you!!!

We'd also like to thank Music and Arts for sponsoring the guitar raffle. Congratulations to Lincoln Robisch and the Kulangara family on taking home the prizes! We look forward to hearing you play!

Concert CDs and DVDs

The CDs and DVDs that were ordered will be ready to be picked up at rehearsal on January 12. Please make sure to get yours and verify that your order is correct. If you chose to have your items shipped to you, we will be shipping them this month as well.



25th Anniversary Concert



Our spring concert will be a special one this year! For our 25th year, we will be having a Reunion Concert. We have confirmed the concert date as May 9, 2010 at 3:00 pm (Mother's Day). It will be held at The Weinberg Center for the Arts in Frederick, MD.

Help Us Prepare for Summer Camp

We are in need of metal bottle caps for a project we're planning for camp this summer. We are going to need A LOT of these caps so we'd like to start collecting them now! We will have a bucket at the attendance table where you can drop them off. These caps will be pounded flat and painted so the drink that they came from will not be advertised. Thanks for your help!



Concert Attendance

Please, please, please! be sure to put the concert dates on all your family calendars! This year's spring concert date is May 9. There is nothing more frustrating to our staff, and stressful to the other singers, than to find out after parts have been assigned and music is mostly learned that half the alto section "can't make it" to the concert. Even the loss of ONE VOICE can significantly alter to the balance of the voice parts as developed in rehearsals throughout the semester.

The Frederick Chamber Singers

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Regular Rehearsal Schedule

Chamber Singers Rehearsals in Trinity Chapel

Sunday: Rehearsal 4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Tuesday: Musicianship 201 6:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m.
in Trinity Chapel

Calendar of Events

January 2010

Please arrive 15 minutes early to each event.

If you arrive late, be sure to check in with the director at the end of the rehearsal. Bring all of your music to each rehearsal.

In case of treacherous weather, call the hotline at 301-845-2451 for cancelation confirmation.

Calendar of Events

Check the Calendar of Events every month for new events and mandatory rehearsals. Be sure to note these events with their times and locations on your family's calendar.

In the case of inclement weather, we may rehearse if the weather improves by late afternoon. If you are uncertain, please call our office number (301-845-2451) and check after 4pm on Tuesdays, and after 2pm on Sunday or check the bulletin board on the website.

2010

Event - Musicianship and Rehearsals Resume

Date: Tuesday, January 5th

Time: 6:00 - 7:00 Training Chorus - Social Hall

6:00 - 7:00 Musicianship Class - Chapel

7:15 - 8:30 Intermediate Chorus Rehearsal - Social Hall

7:15 - 9:00 Concert Chorus Rehearsal - Social Hall

Event - Little Music Makers Concert

Location: E&R UCC Sanctuary (15 W. Church Street)

Date: Tuesday, April 6th Time: 5:30 - 6:00pm

Volunteers will be needed at this concert. We'll need Chamber Singers to video the performance, pass out programs, take photos, etc.

Event - Spring Concert

Concert Date: Sunday, May 9th at 3:00pm

Location: Weinberg Center

Rehearsal Dates and Times: To Be Announced

Event - New Member Orientation

Date: Tuesday, May 11

Location: Social Hall

Times: 6:00-6:45 p.m. - Students currently in grades 2 and 3

7:00-7:45 p.m. - Students currently in grades 4 and 5

8:00-8:30 p.m. - Boys with changed (mature) or changing voices

Event - FCS Evaluations

Date: Sunday, May 16

Time: 3-6 pm (Individual times to be assigned)

Event - Summer Chorus Camp

June 28 - July 2 - Tuscarora Recreation Center

July 12 - July 16 - Oakdale Recreation Center

Happy Birthday in January!

Justin Whitmore	1/2/2001	Training Chorus
Aubrey Dearstine	1/3/2001	Training Chorus
Genevieve Lohr	1/3/1998	Concert Chorus
Kendall Gill	1/6/2001	Training Chorus
Natalie Sanino	1/8/1996	Concert Chorus
Grayson Huyck	1/11/1999	Training Chorus/
Lauren Wolf	1/17/1996	Concert Chorus
Michael Kim	1/19/1993	Chamber Singers
Kimberly Paz	1/19/1998	Training Chorus
Alexandra Clizbe	1/20/1997	Intermediate Chorus
Katherine Atwell	1/27/1998	Concert Chorus
Courtney Fussell	1/29/1994	Chamber Singers

If we've missed your birthday, please let us know so we can fix it! Thanks!!



OFFICE HELP NEEDED! The chorus staff is in need of help in our office in Woodsboro. We are looking for either one adult (not a singer, sorry!) who can commit to about 16 hours a week or two people who could commit to 8 hours each (daytime hours - not evenings). It could be a combination of either full or half days. We need people who are proficient with Microsoft Office products – especially Word and Excel. Tasks would include updating our member database, processing incoming payments, filing, making copies, and other general office activities.

This is a paying position. Please contact Lee at officemanager@fredcc.org if you are interested. Thank you!

FCS Winter/Spring Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27	28	29	30	31	1-JANUARY	2
3 - Resume FCS Rehearsals	4	5 - Rehearsal & FCC Music Pick-Up Musicianship Resumes!	6	7	8	9
10 - FCS 4-6	11	12 - Rehearsal/Musicianship Little Music Makers Resumes!	13	14	15	16
17 - FCS 4-6	18	19 - Rehearsal/Musicianship	20	21	22	23
24 - FCS 4-6	25	26 - Rehearsal /Musicianship	27	28	29	30
31 - FCS 4-6	1 - FEB	2 - Rehearsal /Musicianship	3	4	5	6
7 - FCS 4-6	8	9 - Rehearsal /Musicianship	10	11	12	13
14 - FCS 4-6	15	16 - Rehearsal /Musicianship	17	18	19	20
21 - FCS 4-6	22	23 - Rehearsal /Musicianship	24	25	26	27
28 - FCS 4-6	1-MARCH	2 - Rehearsal /Musicianship	3	4	5	6
7 - FCS 4-6	8	9 - Rehearsal /Musicianship	10	11	12	13
14 - FCS 4-6	15	16 - Rehearsal /Musicianship	17	18	19	20
21 - FCS 4-6	22	23 - Rehearsal /Musicianship	24	25	26	27
28 - FCS 4-6	29	30 - Rehearsal /Musicianship	31	1 - APRIL	2	3
4 - FCS 4-6	5	6 - Rehearsal /Musicianship Little Music Makers Concert 5:30-6:00pm	7	8	9	10
11 - FCS 4-6	12	13 - Rehearsal /Musicianship-	14	15	16	17
18 - FCS 4-6	19	20 - Rehearsal /Musicianship	21	22	23	24
25 - FCS 4-6	26	27 - Rehearsal /Musicianship	28	29	30	1- MAY
2 - FCS 4-6	3 - Mandatory Rehearsal	4 - Mandatory Rehearsal	5 - Mandatory Rehearsal	6 - Mandatory Rehearsal	7 - Mandatory Rehearsal	8 - Mandatory Rehearsal
9 - Spring Concert - 2:15 concert call 3:00 start time	10	11 - New Member Orientation	12	13	14	15
16 - FCS Evaluations	17	18 - FCC Evaluations	19	20	21	22