

What's Next?

Parents:

What a program! The wonderfully prepared boys, incredible artistic partners, and such supportive and helpful parents and volunteers at this year's Singing Christmas Tree made me wish that every night was "The Night Before Christmas." I really couldn't be happier with the success of this year's program – the boys hit a sure home run on all of the many musical details, and I continue to be amazed at how parents and volunteers make the rest of the many necessary details run so smoothly.

I always fear listing individuals' names in a list of appreciation, because I undoubtedly would mistakenly leave off several! The tree was so beautifully decorated, the choristers were so well managed, the Tivoli lobby was breathtaking, and the security lines for the boys seemed to work more smoothly than ever in order to ensure the safety of our boys. The school children and audience members were happily ushered in, the meals for the boys on the day of the school programs were promptly delivered, the tree loaders and stage hands never missed a cue...the list goes on!

FROM THE DIRECTOR

Like any undertaking of the magnitude, notoriety, and visibility of the SCT, the participation of everyone in all sorts of tasks large and small is absolutely critical. We often get caught up in the spirit and energy of the activity, and at the end of it, after a well-deserved break, often wonder "What's next?" but the hiatus between the holidays and the spring can cause our minds to wander and our well-intentioned energies to drift elsewhere. So, please allow me to give you a small sampling of what's next – how you can harness your enthusiasm and continue to help the choir and your chorister into the spring...

- Assist with the fun and entertaining Catering to the Boys scholarship fundraising event in the spring. From securing restaurants and donation items to planning the big party, there's always a fun task to undertake for this worthwhile event.
- Volunteer to usher an upcoming CBC event in the spring – enjoying the concerts from the audience is always nice, but anyone can help with the choir's preparations for a performance, and you get a rare view of "how the magic happens!"
- TELL OTHERS! Auditions for 2009-2010 will begin soon, so spread the word about what a great experience the CBC is for our boys. Classroom teachers, music teachers, and church choir directors are often great points of contact, but anyone can audition or recommend another person to audition! Feel free to pick up some information in the office that you can pass a long to potential new choir members.

Thank you again for all you do to support the work of the Chattanooga Boys Choir. I hope that you and your family enjoy a restful, peaceful, and safe holiday season.
 Vic

P.S. Several parents have contacted me about how their sons can send a note of thanks to Marcia Kling, our guest narrator for the SCT program. Thank you to all of those who can do this – her mailing address is:

ATTN: Marcia Kling
 WTVC-TV NewsChannel 9
 4279 Benton Dr.
 Chattanooga, TN 37406

Vic

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Here are some excerpts from letters the CBC has recently received:

Members of the CBC:

I can't thank you enough for having the Chattanooga Boys Choir perform at the Chattanooga Times Free Press Holiday Open House. They were absolutely wonderful! They performed beautifully, and their excellent manners are so refreshing to see in this day and age. I hope they had a good time and enjoyed the yummy food! Thanks again – the boys were the “big hit” of the evening.

Tanya Williamson
Chattanooga Times Free Press

Dear Choir:

This comes to thank you for the nicest Christmas present one could ask for – the opportunity to appear with you in the 2008 Singing Christmas Tree. From beginning to end (which came much too soon!), it was a delightful experience for me. You were so well prepared and professional, qualities I very much appreciate because they encourage me to do the best I can, as well.

So many people have told me how much they loved the program and enjoyed listening to you. Thank you for letting me join you this year, and thank you for the lovely gifts you gave me.

Gratefully,

Marcia Kling (WTVC's "Miss Marcia")

LETTERS TO THE CHOIR



Additional SCT pictures are available for viewing and for purchase at:
www.snazzshots.photorelect.com
password: cbcsc09

Pecan Winners

Congratulations to the following boys who were the top sellers in their choirs. Winners were based on sales through the Pre-Sale due date of October 28.

- Mozart - Dezman Holloway
- Schubert - Ben Higley
- Handel - Tyler Dockery
- Concert - Kyle Duckett
- Cantabile - Thomas Clemmons
- Overall - Michael Hicks

Mark Laster (Cantabile) was the accompanist for the 2008 Middle Tennessee Vocal Association (MTVA) Middle School Mass Choir, a chorus made up of over 200 voices in grades 6-8 from schools across the middle Tennessee area. Under the direction of CBC Director Vincent Oakes, the choir performed a wide variety of literature in a special performance at Lipscomb University in Nashville. Mark was also selected

ATTA BOY

as a member of the East Tennessee Vocal Association Honor Choir, a select group of singers chosen after a rigorous audition process. Mark also received a special recognition for garnering the highest score of all singers in his voice part from across the East TN region.

Tyler Giuliani and Jalen Ponder (Concert Choir) were selected to the All-East Vocal Association Freshmen Choir in Knoxville, Tennessee. Under the direction of Dr. Eva Floyd of Western Kentucky University, they prepared and performed literature with some of the most talented singers from across the state for a special concert of honor choirs.

Thank you!

November Volunteer Drawing Winner

Tim Peace

will receive a \$20 gift card to Panera Bread
Don't forget to turn in your volunteer record to be entered into next month's drawing!

RECRUITING TIME

Spring is the time of year when most of our recruiting takes place. Many parents have asked how they can get involved to “officially” spread the word about the choir. We kick off recruiting with a Music Educators Open House in late February, open to music educators in the greater Chattanooga area. Participants will tour our facilities, observe rehearsals, attend a Q&A with Mr. Oakes, visit our Single Octavo Library, and of course, enjoy wonderful food. We send invitations to music teachers, but the personal touch is always helpful. In mid-January we will have invitations that you can bring to the music teacher in your school.

Next, we need you to encourage those same music teachers to submit names to the choir. Names are due by the end of March, when we begin contacting families to invite them to explore the choir and audition. You can check with the office to be sure your school’s music teacher has submitted a list of names.

Whew!

Enjoy a little bit of a break after all of the hard work for the Singing Christmas Tree and other holiday performance. Be sure to check the calendar for dates when rehearsals resume!

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Catering to the Boys Choir & Silent Auction is the CBC’s annual fundraiser for which all proceeds go directly to the CBC Scholarship Fund. It is also the only opportunity, outside of designated contributions, for raising money for scholarships. Last year’s event was a tremendous success as it raised enough money to provide for the significant increase in the number of scholarship applicants this year.

CATERING TO THE BOYS CHOIR

The Planning Committee, consisting of several Board members and parents, has been hard at work this fall preparing for another fun event. The event will be held on Thursday, April 30th from 5:30-8:00pm at the International Towing & Recovery Museum in St. Elmo. The event will include a full meal provided by approxi-

mately 10 local caterers and restaurants and featuring Maestro Robert Bernhardt from the CSO as a keynote speaker. A Silent Auction is also included in the event. It is a fun evening out for adults - choir parents, friends, alumni, community members and other supporters of the CBC.

Your help is needed! Once again, the success of this event depends on the generous time and effort of the choir families. Detailed information about how you can help will be discussed at the parent meetings in January. Here are the many ways that you can help make this year’s event a success:

- **Ask caterers to participate** The office has a form letter with all of the details about the event. Keep several of these letters in your car and ask to speak with a manager when you go out to your favorite restaurant.
- **Corporate sponsors** The more costs that can be underwritten by corporate sponsors, the more proceeds will go to the Scholarship Fund. Ask your company to become a sponsor of the event. The office has information about the benefits the corporation can receive as a sponsor.
- **Silent Auction Items** We will need lots of items for the Silent Auction. Consider donating unwanted holiday gifts to the auction! The office has a request on letterhead that you can use to ask for donations everywhere - the grocery store, the salon, the florist, stores at the mall, etc. Don’t be shy! You’ll be surprised how willing businesses are to contribute.
- **Volunteer your time** In February volunteers will be needed to follow up on a letter sent to many businesses requesting donations of items for the auction. Volunteers will be needed to put together baskets for the auction, pick up auction items from businesses, pick up food from the caterers and restaurants, and help on the day of the event. Look for sign-up sheets in the Volunteer Opportunities Notebook in the office.

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CHECK YOUR SCHEDULES NOW

The calendar for the Spring Semester, including all special rehearsals and performances is online in the Members section of the website. Mark your calendars now and let us know of any conflicts you already have.

HOLIDAY PERFORMANCES

After such incredible Singing Christmas Tree performances, it is often hard to imagine that the choir undertakes several other performances during the holidays. Though we have reduced the 'normal' number of "post-Tree" performances this season, each one was significant and meaningful, as we were able to bring the talents of the boys to several audiences who could not make it to the Tivoli.

Tuesday, December 2 – Chattanooga Times Free Press Holiday Event (Handel, Concert)

Wednesday, December 10 – Holiday Carols program at Elmcroft Assisted Living Facility (Mozart, Schubert)

Sunday, December 14 – Palace Theater – Crossville, TN (Handel, Concert, Cantabile)

Wednesday, December 17 – St. Paul's Episcopal Church Advent Concert Series (Handel, Concert, Cantabile)

In addition, the Handel, Concert, and Cantabile choirs travel to Florida on January 8-11 for appearances in Tampa, Apopka, and Gainesville. Thanks to all these boys and their families who make these performances possible!



The Chattanooga Boys Choir consists of over 120 families with boys in five different ensembles with different rehearsal and performance schedules. The CBC staff does its best to ensure that choristers and their parents are informed. Here are all the ways you can keep up with CBC happenings:

- Weekly memos - memos are sent out via email weekly on Wednesdays. If you are not receiving these memos, please give the office your current email address.

ON COMMUNICATION

- These memos are also posted in the members section of the website and on the bulletin board.
- Monthly newsletters - newsletters are sent out via email during the first week of each month (with the exception of the December / January newsletter.) The newsletter is also posted in the members section of the website and on the bulletin board.
- Parent Meetings - are held twice a semester and review all upcoming events and provide information that parents need. The meetings last no longer than 30 minutes and there are two meetings to choose from. Please make every effort to attend - they are mandatory
- Website - The members section of the website (password: p3canz) contains all the information you need - the calendar, past memos, forms, maps, sound files, absence memos, tuxedo sizing information, tour information, and much, much more. If you have a question, this should be the first place that you look.



Tuition for the Spring Semester, and any remaining balance from the Fall is due on January 13.

CALENDAR

Happy Birthday!

December Birthdays

Cedric Fifer	12/8
Ransom McSunas	12/9
Rephael Congmon	12/15
Rudy Guinac	12/18
Christopher Randall	12/19
Tyler Dockery	12/20

January Birthdays

Micah Guffey	1/7
Will Melton	1/8
Burton Bell	1/11
Noah Forrester	1/11
Austin Ngo	1/19
Bradley Owens	1/19
Jordan Epperson	1/22
Bryson Harris	1/28

Parent Meetings

January 26 @ 5:00pm
January 27 @ 5:30pm

OFFICE HOURS

Monday	2:00-7:00pm
Tuesday	2:00-7:00pm
Wednesday	2:00-5:00pm
Thursday	9:30-12:30pm
Friday	Office Closed

January

- 4 Rehearsal - Handel, Concert Cantabile - 2:00-5:30pm
Tour meeting 5:30pm
- 5 Rehearsal - Handel, Concert Cantabile - 4:50-6:30pm
- 6 Rehearsal - Handel, Concert Cantabile - 4:50-6:30pm
- 8-11 Florida Mini-tour
- 12 Mozart Rehearsals resume
No Rehearsals for Handel or Concert
- 13 Schubert Rehearsals resume
No Rehearsals for Handel, Concert or Cantabile
- 19 NO REHEARSALS - Martin Luther King, Jr Day
- 26 Parent Meeting - 5:00pm
- 27 Parent Meeting - 5:30pm

February

- 8 Simmons-O'Neal Memorial Concert (Concert, Handel, Cant.)

March

- 16-17 NO REHEARSALS - Spring Break
- 23 Training choirs rehearsals - 4:30-6:00pm Hickory Valley
Community Church
- 24 Training choirs rehearsals - 4:30-6:00pm Hickory Valley
Community Church
- 29 Friends & Family Training Choirs Recital 3:00pm
(call time: 2:00pm) Mozart, Schubert, Handel
- 30 Parent Meeting - 5:00pm
- 31 Parent Meeting - 5:30pm

CHATTANOOGA BOYS CHOIR

Vincent Oakes.....	Executive / Artistic Director
Judy Brittingham	Mozart / Schubert Director
Cynda Holmes	Mozart / Schubert Director
Kristen Wiram	Handel / Concert Assistant Director
Merry Lee Wilson.....	Accompanist
Mark Laseter	Rehearsal Accompanist
Dawn Oakes	Administrative Director
Azusa Dance.....	Operations Manager