

Rehearsals resume on Monday, January 7th.  
 Parent meetings are January 14th & 15th.



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Rehearsals  
 resume on  
 January 7th.  
 Happy  
 Holidays!

Friends,

Whew! Another holiday season come and gone! By the time you read this, members of the CBC will have performed four presentations of the Singing Christmas Tree and appeared in seven additional holiday performances around the area.

I'm grateful to you for all that you have done to make these performances possible. Driving the rehearsal car pool, checking endless strands of Christmas lights, helping with lobby decorations, and managing chorister wardrobe are just a few of the myriad tasks which were performed in order to make the boys really shine this Christmas.

I wanted to draw your attention to one instance from this year's Singing Christmas Tree that really spoke volumes about the choir organization as a whole. At the second Friday school performance, the Tivoli was absolutely packed with kids from several elementary schools. The boys were singing one of their favorite pieces, Victor Johnson's "African Noel," which features Jordan Epperson expertly accompanying the choir on his djembe (an African drum). In their excitement, the kids from the audience started to clap along! You can imagine the scene – over 1800 school children clapping along to this highly rhythmic piece. The faces of the boys on stage lit up with this unexpected – but very cool – development!

However, after just a few moments, the clapping of the kids strayed considerably with the rhythm of the boys on stage! Jordan's complex rhythms, when juxtaposed with the choir's steady cadence, threw the crowd of children off, and the cacophony of sound made for a very awkward situation! The boys' faces now displayed a motley mixture of confusion, excitement, and uncertainty, and I could hear the hesitancy and worry in their voices! Almost immediately, though, the exact thing that any director would want to happen occurred – the boys raised their eyebrows, sharpened their eyes, and focused their attention on the director. After just a few seconds, we were back together, singing proudly and confidently, and to my great pleasure, we finished the song with more gusto, vigor, and enthusiasm than we had in any rehearsal or performance this season!

The moral of the story? I feel that the demands of each new CBC season, every new group of members and families which join the choir, and the constantly changing Chattanooga community have a wonderfully profound effect on the CBC organization each year. I am grateful for the solid foundation and fundamentals upon which this choir is built so that we can deal with any such changes in the way which best benefits our boys. Each season is never the same, and the stable base with which we operate actually allows us better flexibility to be open to new ideas, new opportunities, and new experiences for our members and their families.

Thank you for your role in contributing to this wonderful organization, and for all that you do to keep us in rhythm together! I hope your holidays are safe, healthy, and happy...

All Best,  
 Vic

## Atta Boy!

**Hunter Brittingham** (Concert) sang the soprano solo in the performance of the Chichester Psalms with Choral Arts in October

**Tyler Waite** (Mozart) earned straight A's on his report card from Bess T. Shepherd


**Drew Craig** (Concert) will be singing a trio with his mom and dad at the Living Christmas Tree at Abba's House in Hixson on December 15 & 16 at 7:00pm

**Tyler Edrington** (Cantabile) was voted "Most Talented" in the senior class at Ooltewah High School

**Rudy Foster** (Cantabile) earned the highest score for 1st Tenor in East Tennessee and he made All-State

**Jason Varghese** (Mozart) made the Star Honor Roll

**Joel Varghese** (Concert) made the Honor Roll



Thank you so much for the surprise diaper shower! What a surprise and a fantastic idea! You have saved Daddy from many diaper runs! We had just as much fun tossing diaper packs upstairs into the baby's room - what a sight that was! Your thoughtfulness and generosity truly touched our hearts. We are so excited to bring Brandon into this wonderful choir family! We are so grateful.

- Dawn & Vic

## Hansel & Gretel

Members of the Handel Choir will be participating in the Chattanooga Symphony & Opera's production of *Hansel and Gretel* in January and February. Please see the schedule below for the rehearsal and performance schedule. Let the office know immediately if there are conflicts with any of these dates.

TUES Jan 22	7-10pm*	Music / Staging Rehearsal
THURS Jan 24	7-10pm*	Music / Staging Rehearsal
FRI Jan 25	7-10pm*	Music / Staging Rehearsal
SAT Jan 26	12-3pm	Music / Staging Rehearsal
SUN Jan 27	7-10:30pm	Dress Rehearsal #1
MON Jan 28	7-10:30pm	Dress Rehearsal #2 / "Operatunity"
TUES Jan 29	10am & 12pm	School Performances (9am call time)
THU Jan 31	8pm	Main Stage Performance #1 (7pm call time)
SAT Feb 2	8pm	Main Stage Performance #2 (7pm call time)

\* The opera and staging directors have assured us that these rehearsals will be scheduled so that the children's participation will be as limited and compact as possible. More exact pick-up times will be given as these rehearsals draw nearer.

## Crossville

On December 9th the Handel, Concert, and Cantabile choirs traveled to Crossville, Tennessee for a performance at the historic Palace Theatre. The Theatre, originally opened in 1938, was restored in the early '90's and has tremendous character and charm. The theatre hosts movies, concerts of all kinds, events and trade shows. The boys were warmly welcomed by a nearly full house of patrons from around the Cumberland County area and they enjoyed performing in such a historic venue. The choir looks forward to a return trip in the future.



## Many Thanks

On December 9th, members of the Handel and Concert choirs sang with the Brainerd United Methodist Church choir as part of their service. Here is an excerpt from a letter the choir received:

*It was indeed a special occasion and a delightful morning for the chancel choir and congregation of Brainerd United Methodist Church to have had you and the Chattanooga Boys Choir participating in our service of Christmas music on December 9th. The boys sang beautifully alone and with our choir, as well. There were many complimentary remarks from all who were there and heard the boys sing.*

Great job boys!

## Pecan Winners

We had a very successful campaign this year, thanks to everyone who pitched! While we did not meet our stretch goal, we did meet the goal for our operating budget, which is most important. Congratulations to the top sellers in each choir: Cole Johnson, Michael Hicks, Tyler Dockery, Travis Lytle, and Graham Jones. Congratulations to **Kyle Duckett**, the overall top seller!

## Singing Christmas Tree a Success!

The 45th Annual Singing Christmas Tree was a success in every aspect from the grueling assembly of the tree, to the spectacular performance by the boys, to the tear down at the end. The office has received only praise for the tremendous job the boys did and the Mozart choreography was a hit! Thank you so much to every choir family. It is not easy to dedicate so much time and effort to a production such as this when there are so many other things going on at this time of year. Without the hundreds of volunteer hours contributed by the entire choir family, (nearly 1600 at last count!) the program would not have run nearly as smoothly. Congratulations to everyone on a job well done!



## Caroling at Elmcroft

On Thursday, December 6th members of the Mozart and Schubert Choirs met to bring holiday cheer to the residents at Elmcroft Assisted Living. Dressed in their bowties and singing holiday songs, the boys lifted spirits and ushered in the holiday season.



## Calendar

### December

21 Grace Episcopal Church Advent Series (Concert & Handel)

### January

- 7 Rehearsals resume
- 14 Parents Meetings (4:30pm & 5:30pm)
- 13 Cantabile Rehearsal 3:00-5:30pm @ Baylor
- 15 Parents Meeting (5:30pm)
- 21 No Rehearsals—Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday
- 22 Hansel & Gretel staging rehearsal at Tivoli (Handel) 7-10pm
- 24 Hansel & Gretel staging rehearsal at Tivoli (Handel) 7-10pm
- 25 Hansel & Gretel staging rehearsal at Tivoli (Handel) 7-10pm
- 26 Hansel & Gretel staging rehearsal at Tivoli (Handel) 12-3pm
- 27 Hansel & Gretel Dress Rehearsal (Handel) 7-10:30pm
- 28 Hansel & Gretel Dress Rehearsal (Handel) 7-10:30pm
- 29 Hansel & Gretel School Performances (Handel) 9:00am call time
- 31 Hansel & Gretel Mainstage Performance (Handel) 7:00pm call time

### February

- 2 Hansel & Gretel Mainstage Performance (Handel) 7:00pm call time
- 10 Simmons-O’Neal Memorial Concert (Concert, Cantabile)
- 18 No Rehearsals - President’s Day
- 26 Music Educators Open House

### March

17-21 No Rehearsals - Spring Break

## CHATTANOOGA BOYS CHOIR

- Vincent Oakes ..... Artistic / Executive Director
- Merry Lee Wilson ..... Accompanist
- Judy Brittingham ..... Instructor
- Cynda Holmes ..... Instructor
- Dawn Oakes..... Administrative Director
- Katie Walters..... Business Manager
- Daniel Varnell ..... UTC Artistic Intern

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## Happy Birthday!

Dani Perez	12/2	Burton Bell	1/11
King Jemison	12/4	Noah Forrester	1/11
Sharone Tatum	12/4	Niko Blanks	1/15
Brighton Courts	12/5	Rudy Foster	1/18
Donovan Thomas	12/6	Austin Ngo	1/19
Cedric Fifer	12/8	Hunter Brittingham	1/22
Rudy Guinac	12/18	Jordan Epperson	1/22
Jake Pendergrass	12/19	Will Schatzman	1/22
Christopher Randall	12/19	Thomas Santos	1/28
Tyler Dockery	12/20		
Seth Caudle	12/25		

## Notes From the Office

- The office will be closed from December 24-January 4. Office hours during the rest of December are irregular. Please call ahead to be sure someone will be in, or set up an appointment ahead of time. Thank you!
- Tuition for the second semester is due upon rehearsals resuming on January 7.
- The second Summer Tour payment is due. Please let the office know if you plan to make payments on a different schedule.
- Each chorister should have received a SCT ornament at the December 3rd rehearsal. If you were not able to attend, please be sure to pick up your ornament from the office.
- All music should be turned in to the office at this time. If you still have a notebook out, please return it ASAP.

## Mandatory Parent Meetings

Monday, January 14 at 4:30 & 5:30pm  
 Tuesday, January 15 at 5:30pm

McFerrin Room (downstairs)  
 content at all meetings will be the same

## 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 a significant increase in the number of scholarship applicants this year.



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 24th from 5:30-8:00pm at the International Towing & Recovery Museum in St. Elmo. The event will include a sampling of food from 15-20 local caterers and restaurants, entertainment by the Dismembered Tennesseans and Cantabile, as well as a Silent Auction. 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 restaurants 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.