



**Mandatory Parent Meetings January 8 & 9. See inside for details.**

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**Rehearsals  
 Resume  
 January 8  
 and 9.**

*It's Just Not Christmas Without...*

Grandma's pecan pie... Christmas Eve candlelight services...the annual children's pageant...

Many of us hold near to our hearts memories and traditions which make our Christmas experiences uniquely our own. Without these memories, our holidays might seem somewhat incomplete, as the tangible experiences remind us of our childhood, re-live some of our happiest memories, or put us in the mood to celebrate.

For those of us closely connected to the Chattanooga Boys Choir, our memories of Christmas are certainly unique! Constructing a large tree made entirely of steel, organizing long rows of boys for the opening processional, and transforming the Tivoli lobby into a holiday snapshot are just a few of the many items which occur each year to make the annual *Singing Christmas Tree* production come together. This year, all of these efforts helped to make for an amazing experience for the more than 5,000 people who attended the performances, as well as each of the boys in the choir and their families.

Every year, I am overwhelmed by the selfless and dedicated work of our parents and staff who work tirelessly in order to make for a safe, productive, and enjoyable experience for everyone involved in the production. Every task performed combines to make for an environment in which the boys are able to display their months of hard work for thousands of people. From producer Gene Wilbourn's brilliant orchestration of the entire program to Donnell Eady's jovial portrayal of Santa Claus, this year's tree was filled with talented people willing to help. Bill Lindgren's beautiful scenery painting, Diane Holekamp's organizing of ushers, the Robertsons' coordination of volunteers, Stephanie Randall's wonderful lobby decorations, and a countless host of other tasks performed by our parents have become some of my favorite memories of this Christmas.

It's good to note, though, that this important help does not stop once we leave the Tivoli. After this year's *Singing Christmas Tree*, the choir received help from parents at appearances in local nursing homes, a recording session with the Nashville Symphony of Ravel's *L'enfant et les sortilèges*, and holiday performances in Georgia, Tennessee, and Alabama.

Thank you for your part in creating wonderful new holiday memories. The work you do on behalf of the choir is valued and appreciated.

*Vic*

## An Appalachian Christmas

“The best ever!” “We’ve been for five years and this was by far the best!” “This program highlighted the boys very well.” These are just some of the many raving comments on the audience surveys, not to mention the comments made by parents, alumni, and other audience members, about the 44th Annual Singing Christmas Tree. The months of hard work put in by the boys, their families, and volunteers made this year’s performance spectacular! See the website for more photos.



## Caroling at Wellington Place

Members of the Mozart and Schubert choirs brought some holiday cheer to the residents of Wellington Place in early December. The residents enjoyed the carols and were delighted to see young, smiling faces!



## Calendar

### January

- 8 Rehearsals resume, second semester tuition due  
Parent Meeting
- 9 Parent Meeting
- 15 **No regular rehearsals**—Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day  
Sir Douglas Fir rehearsal at CSAS (Concert & Handel Choirs)
- 22 Sir Douglas Fir rehearsal at CSAS (Concert & Handel Choirs)
- 28 Sir Douglas Fir dress rehearsal at Tivoli (Concert & Handel Choirs)

### February

- 11 Simmons-O’Neal Memorial Concert (Concert Choir)
- 17 Wedding, UTC Patten Chapel (Concert Choir)
- 19 **No Rehearsals** (Presidents’ Day)

### March

- 10-12 Spring Tennessee Tour—Madisonville, Cookeville, Nashville (Concert Choir)
- 19-23 **No Rehearsals**—Spring Break

### April

- 2 Parent Meeting
- 3 Parent Meeting
- 9 Family & Friends Training Choir Recital rehearsal (Mozart, Schubert, Handel)
- 10 Family & Friends Training Choir Recital rehearsal (Mozart, Schubert, Handel)
- 15 **Family & Friends Training Choir Recital** (Mozart, Schubert, Handel)
- 19 Catering to the Boys Choir & Silent Auction

### May

- 21 *Finale!* Combined rehearsal (all choirs)
- 22 *Finale!* Dress rehearsal (all choirs)  
CBC alumni choir rehearsal
- 25 *Finale! Concert* (all choirs)

## CHATTANOOGA BOYS CHOIR

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

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## Notes from the Office

- **TUITION** – Please remember that all second semester tuition payments are due when rehearsals resume on January 8. If not received by January 15, they will be considered late and will incur late fees of \$15.
- **SCT COMMEMORATIVE MUGS** – Only 3 dozen left! Get yours while they last at only \$5 each.
- **LONG-SLEEVE LOGO SHIRTS** – We’ve got lots of these great looking long-sleeved shirts, with plenty of youth sizes available. They would make a great stocking-stuffer for your chorister! They look great on adults, too!
- **HOLIDAY OFFICE HOURS** - The CBC Office will be closed from December 21 through January 2. E-mail will be checked periodically, so feel free to contact us if necessary.
- **VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES** - Still need to work on getting in your hours? During the break, we file away all the music used in the fall and put together the new notebooks for January. Want to help? Contact Katie at [kwalters@cbchoir.org](mailto:kwalters@cbchoir.org).
- **WARDROBE** - Please help us keep your chorister looking and feeling good in his tuxedo attire. Check clothing (and shoes!) *well in advance* of any performances (2 weeks, minimum). We may not have his size in stock and it takes time to order new sizes.

## Simmons-O’Neal Memorial Concert

The annual Simmons-O’Neal Memorial Concert is coming up on Sunday, February 11th at 3:00pm at Olivet Baptist Church. This concert is a collaboration with the Chattanooga Choral Society for the Preservation of African-American Song honoring directors of both choirs: Edmonia Simmons and Everett O’Neal. One of the favorite concerts for both choirs, this performance is a fantastic display of talent. Though only Concert Choir is performing, all choristers are *strongly encouraged* to attend.

Everyone’s help will be needed to spread the word about this concert. Choristers will be bringing home posters to help put up around town. (restaurants, banks, churches, and other places of business) Keep some in your car and ask to put one up everywhere you go! It might not seem like you are doing much, but we know from our audience surveys that people attend CBC performances just from seeing a poster. And just ask your chorister—they would much rather perform for a full house!

## Thank you Board!

A huge thank you goes out to our Board of Directors for their contributions to the CBC this fall. Board members sold a total of 215 bags of nuts, 25 tickets to the Singing Christmas Tree, and \$1,450 in ads for the SCT program book! Travis Lytle, Sr. helped the CBC secure an Arts Builds Communities Grant from the Tennessee Arts Commission, Gene Wilbourn produced the Singing Christmas Tree, David Hale chaired the nut sales, and Sylvia Friedl has already started working as the Chair of the *Catering to the Boys Choir* committee! These folks have generously contributed their time and efforts to help this choir fulfill its mission and the choir is so grateful!

## Fairfield Glade Community Church

On November 12th the Concert Choir traveled to Crossville, Tennessee to take part in an annual memorial service at Fairfield Glade Community Church. Despite the warm sanctuary the Concert Choir gave a top notch performance to a full house.



## French anyone?

In mid-November the Chattanooga Boys Choir received an invitation to record the Ravel opera *L'enfant et les Sortilèges* with the Nashville Symphony on December 5th. A true testament to the choir family’s flexibility, over 30 choristers got together for two additional rehearsals, learned a little French, and performed well. It was a grueling evening with a conductor demanding perfection, but the boys came through. Mr. Oakes was truly pleased with the hard work and dedication these boys showed to make this a reality.

**Concert and Handel Choirs to have “The Journey of Sir Douglas Fir” video viewing on Tuesday, January 9th from 4:30-6:00. Please note the time change for January 9th**

## Happy Birthday!

Dani Perez	12/2	Seth Caudle	12/25
Sharone Tatum	12/4	Alec Chandler	12/31
Michael Shrouder	12/5	Noah Forrester	1/11
William Miller	12/10	Rudy Foster	1/18
Gus White	12/12	Noah Hooton	1/20
Jake Pendergrass	12/19	Hunter Brittingham	1/22
Christopher Randall	12/19	Jordan Epperson	1/22
Tyler Dockery	12/20	Thomas Santos	1/28

## It's Recruiting Time!

Springtime is recruiting time for the Chattanooga Boys Choir and your help is needed! The staff and Board of Directors has set a goal of auditioning 130 boys with 60 actually accepting the invitation and beginning next fall. This is an ambitious but attainable goal, especially with everyone pitching in. Open House Audition Days have been scheduled and can be found on the web for anyone who asks. There are a number of other ways that you can help:

- Directly submit contact information of interested boys—have your chorister's friends expressed an interest?
- Bring an information packet to the music teacher at your son's school. Follow up to make sure he/she has submitted their list to the CBC.
- Bring an information packet to music teachers at other schools that are not represented by current choristers.
- Encourage your chorister's teacher and/or church music director to attend Open House Night (more information to follow).
- Bring an information packet to the music director at your church. Follow and encourage him/her to submit a list to the CBC.

Word of mouth is the greatest resource, so be sure to talk to your friends about what the CBC has meant to your chorister and your family. For each chorister for which you submit contact information, and who auditions, you will receive 25 volunteer points. If they begin next fall you will receive 50 volunteer points at the beginning of the year!

## Summer Music Camp

Summer music camp will take place this year July 16-20, so mark your calendars now. Camp directors Galen & Peggy Bell will begin talking about camp at the Parents Meetings in January. Please make every effort to be at the meeting, especially if this will be your chorister's first time at Summer Music Camp.

## Pecan Update

Congratulations to the winners of the Pecan & Nut contest, announced at the Singing Christmas Tree dress rehearsal. These winners will all be invited to a special dinner at the home of Mr. & Mrs. Oakes. The top winner will have his camp fees waived! Thank you to everyone for their hard work and tremendous efforts for this year's Pecan & Nut sale. A special thank you to those parents who helped to keep the outlets serviced! Though we had a great sale, we came up short of our goal of 10,000 bags. If you have thoughts or suggestions on how we can do better next year, please contact the office. We still have many pecans and a few of the other nuts available.

<b>Overall Winner</b>	Austin Morgan
<b>Cantabile Winner</b>	Thomas Clemmons
<b>Concert Winner</b>	Graham Jones
<b>Handel Winners</b>	Quinn Flanagan/Jalen Ponder
<b>Schubert Winner</b>	Emerson Miller
<b>Mozart Winner</b>	Tyler Dockery



**Our goal is 10,000 bags**

**We've sold: 7,642 bags**

(as of printing on 12/18/06)



Members of Concert and Handel participated in *Sounds of the Seasons*, a holiday program at the Catoosa Colonnade organized by the Church at Catoosa.

### Mandatory Parents Meetings

The same material will be covered at both meetings.

**Monday, January 8 @ 5:30pm**

**Tuesday, January 9 @ 5:30pm**