

Friends:

A student's recent project in my Music & Society class at school attempted to capture the contributions of the Beatles to popular music of today (of course, this history is still being made!). Understandably, it was difficult for this student to contain his work to just the musical contributions of John, Ringo, George, and Paul. Invariably, so much of their music and musical careers were tied to social, political, and other causes of their time that the band – or many of its members in their respective solo work – found important.

Unfortunately, we probably won't realize what could have been the full impact of John Lennon's contributions in this area due to his untimely death in 1980. Paul McCartney, however, continues to undertake musical projects influenced by his philanthropic ideals, including his passion for music education, animal rights, and assisting impoverished countries. Naturally, this same effort has led McCartney to become quite active in the choral genre. In

FROM THE DIRECTOR

2000, McCartney released *A Garland for Linda*, a choral tribute album with works by John Rutter, John Taverner, and others designed to raise funds for The Garland Appeal, a fund to aid cancer patients. In 2006, McCartney completed his landmark choral-orchestral work *Ecco Cor Meum* (Behold My Heart), for SATB choir, boychoir, and orchestra.

Given all of this context, and as we continue to raise the importance of the choir-as-team framework in a solo-centric world, I wanted to share with you the following quote from McCartney:

I love to hear a choir. I love the humanity... to see the faces of real people devoting themselves to a piece of music. I like the teamwork. It makes me feel optimistic about the human race when I see them cooperating like that.

For someone who has earned so many personal and individual accolades, it is a remarkable thing that McCartney makes this observation about choirs. Moreover, it is no coincidence that someone who feels this way about choirs also makes such a strong personal connection to philanthropic ventures. Being a part of a choir inherently includes a giving of one's self to the group. Singing in a choir does require us to sing well, but it also demands that we listen even more. These are skills which are absolutely necessary in choir, but are also essential skills for life.

Many Thanks,

Vic

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Thank you so much to the many CBC families who have been so generously volunteering their time to Catering to the Boys Choir, the CBC's scholarship fundraiser being held at the end of April. Volunteers have helped to find caterers and restaurants willing to contribute food, make phone calls to businesses requesting items for the Silent Auction, and driving all over Chattanooga to pick up items from businesses. Despite the tough economy, businesses have been truly generous and this year's event is shaping up to be a lot of fun.

We still need lots of help to make the event a success. Here's how you can help:

CATERING TO THE BOYS CHOIR

- Sign up in the Volunteer Notebook to volunteer on the day of the event. We will need help during the day for set-up and at the event for everything from serving, to ticket taking and cleaning up. Volunteer slots are no longer than one hour so that you may enjoy the event. Volunteers do need to purchase a volunteer ticket at the reduced rate of \$10 if they plan to remain beyond their scheduled volunteer time.
- Pick up items from businesses. Keep an eye on your email for other items that need to be picked up
- Contribute items to the Choir Baskets (see sidebar below).
- Consider items that you can contribute to the auction. Do you have items waiting to be "regifted"? We're going to have a "Regift Basket!" Do you own a business or have a special talent or hobby? Consider contributing a handcrafted item, lessons, a few hours of gardening, etc.
- We're still in need of corporate sponsors to underwrite the event. In return, businesses receive tickets to the event, the Singing Christmas Tree, and can have their logo on our camp / tour t-shirts. Contact Dawn for additional information. Earn 100 volunteer points for bringing a corporate sponsor!

Traditionally, members of each choir put together a themed basket (or two) for the auction. The themes for this year's Choir baskets are below. Items should be brought to the office by March 31.

Mozart Choir - Gardening Basket. Bring in tools, pots, seeds, gloves, watering cans, certificates to nurseries, etc. All the things needed to spruce up the yard.

Schubert Choir - Rainy Day In Basket - books, movies, coffee, tea, blanket, mugs, cookies, etc. All the things you'd want if you had the house to yourself on a rainy day.

Handel Choir - Chocolate Lovers Basket - do we really need to explain?!

Concert Choir - Cook's Basket - cookbooks, utensils, muffin / cookie mixes, apron, tea towels, etc.

Do you have something that would be perfect for a different choir's basket? No problem! Bring it in and we'll put it in the appropriate basket. Don't forget to fill out a volunteer form when you bring an item in so that you will get credit - be sure to include the item and its approximate retail value.

ATTA BOY

Graham Jones (Concert) made Blue Band 1st chair percussion at the All Hamilton County Honor Band

Carter Wine got nominated for the Junior National Young Leaders Conference in Washington D.C. He will be representing his school and the state of Tennessee

Tyler Giuliani (Concert) tried out for America's Got Talent in Atlanta

Mathew Davis (Mozart) got the lead part of the stowaway in the 3rd grade play *Pirates! The Musical*, at Bright School

Austin Ngo (Concert) Austin won first place at the Cleveland Middle School (sixth through eighth) Spelling Bee on February 10th

Mark Laseter (Cantabile) was the winner of the 15th annual Chattanooga Symphony & Opera Guild Vocal Competition held on February 1

TRAINING CHOIRS RECITAL

The Friends and Family Training Choir Recital is a special performance to showcase the hard work and talents of the 3 training choirs - Mozart, Schubert, and Handel. Each of the choirs perform a few pieces in succession and the progression and growth of the boys is ever apparent as each of the ensembles performs. One of the highlights of the season, be sure to mark your calendars for this event. Choristers will bring home invitations to distribute to friends, family, teachers, and anyone else they would like to invite. Additional invitations will be available in the office.

Please be aware that during the week of the performance choristers in all three training choirs will be rehearsing together at Hickory Valley Community Church (2201 Hickory Valley Road) on BOTH Monday and Tuesday from 4:30-6:00pm.

Concert Details

When: Sunday, March 29

Where: Hickory Valley Community Church

Call time: 2:00pm

Concert time: 3:00pm

Attire: performance attire
- see handbook

COMMUNITY HYMN FESTIVAL

In 2005 the Chattanooga Boys Choir hosted the first Community Hymn Festival. With a goal of 100 singers in the mass choir, the CBC was overwhelmed with the response - over 200 singers - and the request to make it an annual event. In 2007 the second Community Hymn Festival was presented and it has now become an every other year tradition in Chattanooga. The Festival will occur in the afternoon of Sunday, October 11th at First Baptist Church and everyone in Chattanooga is invited to participate. Invitations will be mailed to churches shortly, and if you believe your church choir would be interested in participating please notify the CBC office with contact information by March 31. Mr. Oakes will be holding rehearsals for adults who are not members of a church choir, or those whose church choir is unable to participate. Additional information and a deadline to express interest will be posted shortly. Parents, this is a fantastic opportunity to sing with your son!

OPEN HOUSE

You may have noticed some visitors roaming the hallways and in rehearsals at the end of February when the CBC hosted its annual Music Educators Open House. The Open House gives area music teachers the opportunity to learn more about the choir and its programs, as well as to get an inside look at how it runs. Though the CBC has been around for 55 years, not all of the area music teachers are familiar with the program, and it is our goal to demonstrate what a great program it is for their students.

In March and April the CBC will be hosting Open House Audition Nights, which many of you came to yourself before joining the Chattanooga Boys Choir. Open House Audition Nights give prospective CBC members a chance to learn more about the choir, tour our facilities, check out the computer lab, ask questions, and audition all in the same night.

Chattanooga area teachers send us their lists of boys whom they recommend to the choir, though any boy in grades 2-6 is welcome to audition. If you know of someone who enjoys music and would benefit from our program, give their contact information to the office and let them know about the Open House Audition Nights (see the website for dates.) We will need some parents to serve as greeters on those evenings as well, so if you are available, sign up in the office.

Thank you!

March Drawing Winner

Liz Heitmueller

will receive a \$20 gift card
to Walmart

Don't forget to turn in your
volunteer record to be
entered into next month's
drawing!

CALENDAR

Happy Birthday!

March Birthdays

Darius Worbington	3/3
Michael Hicks	3/4
Sam Maudlin-Raley	3/6
David Donan	3/8
Douglass Turner	3/11
Cade Ghaffari	3/12
Isaac Bird	3/13
AJ Morgan	3/28
Matthew Davis	3/30

Parent Meetings

April 6 @ 5:00pm

April 7 @ 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

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

April

- 6 Parent Meeting - 5:00pm
- 7 Parent Meeting - 5:30pm
- 12 Cantabile Dress Rehearsal - UTC Roland Hayes - 6:30-8:00pm
- 13 Cantabile Performance with UTC Percussion Ensemble
- 24 Concert with American Boychoir - Signal Mountain Presbyterian Church - Concert, Handel
- 26 Tennessee Order of Eastern Star Vesper Service - Handel & Concert
- 30 *Catering to the Boys Choir* scholarship fundraiser - International Towing & Recovery Museum

May

- 4 Finale rehearsal - all choirs
- 5 Finale rehearsl - all choirs
- 9 Finale! Spring Concert - all choirs - 7:00pm

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

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www.chattanoogaaboyschoir.org