



Finale! Spring Concert is Friday, May 25th at 7:00pm at Brainerd United Methodist Church.

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Friends,

This past month saw the passing of American novelist Kurt Vonnegut, who passed away on April 11 at the age of 84. Known for his satirical novels, short stories, and essays which conveyed a multitude of opinions on society and espoused the principles of humanism, some of his best known works included *Slaughterhouse-Five*, *Cat's Cradle*, and *Breakfast of Champions*. Though controversial and perhaps even divisive in his day, he stands as one of the most influential figures in contemporary American literature and society.

I recall this for you because of an interesting quote from Vonnegut on one of his favorite subjects - music. In a blog entry from about three years ago, the author wrote:

"What's it like to be this old? I can't parallel park anymore. Please don't watch when I try to do it. But no matter how bad things may get for me, the music will still be wonderful. My epitaph, should I ever need one, should read: "The only proof he ever needed of the existence of God was music."

Music has, as Vonnegut points out, imaginative and transcendent qualities which, although they are hard to identify or explain, are at the same time admired and essential. For this author to espouse such a lofty opinion of this art form is a testament of music's power to bridge communities and cultures like no other medium. When looking around, one can identify a multitude of items in our musical landscape. One need only to notice the differences in music coming from car stereos or the contrast in music playing in a large department store versus a retailer of clothing designed for teens. Many churches continue to struggle with what music should be employed in services of worship.

Vonnegut's quote reminds us that there is more about music which unites us than divides us. The music skills which CBC members learn do not just enable us to perform in our 30+ concerts annually. These are skills which prepare us for a lifetime of music-making, and sharing in this art which is at once incredible and indescribable. Thank you for your help in making this music possible for the Chattanooga Boys Choir.

Vic

What A Night!

The eighteenth annual *Catering to the Boys Choir* was truly a success! The Creative Discovery Museum provided a wonderful venue for the event - the tent outside was lined with the silent auction and desserts, and *Olta* provided authentic Celtic music for attendees chatting over their food on the terrace. Inside, restaurants served up heaps of delicious food including taco salad from Golly Whoppers, sandwiches and scones from The English Rose, scrumptious sweets from Elegant Embellishments, chicken salad sandwiches from Out of the Blue Café and Kites, and much, much more! After dinner coffee, cappuccino and lattes were provided by Don Glass from MaxLife Systems, LLC. Cantabile entertained attendees with a 20 set of favorites.

There are several other reasons to celebrate the success of this year's **Catering to the Boys Choir** event. Attendance from last year was up and there were a lot more unfamiliar faces! Thank you to parents and Board Members who invited friends and colleagues to the party! In addition, a review of the top Silent Auction bidders shows that 71% of the dollars spent on Silent Auction items came from non-parents! That's really something to celebrate, as one of the goals of this year's Catering Committee was to make the support of this event less dependent on CBC parents.

Thank you so much to all of the parents and Board Members who helped to make this event successful - from being on the Catering Committee, to contributing items to the auction, to setting up and helping with the auction close - it would not have been possible without your help!

Camp Time!

During the April Parent Meetings significant time was spent on the change made to the camp format. One important point was the drop-off and pick-up procedure. Campers will be required to check in at two points when they arrive (at the car when they are dropped off and in the assembly room). Prior to camp, parents must return to the office a list of adults who have permission to pick-up their chorister from camp. Only people on that list will be permitted to sign choristers out. Detailed information regarding pick-up and drop-off will be mailed in June, along with a health form, maps, list of what to bring, sign-out permission forms, and all other details you will need to know prior to camp.

Don't forget that the \$75 deposit for camp is due on May 1st, with the balance due on July 1st. Please let the office know as soon as possible if your chorister is not planning to attend camp (attendance is required to continue with the CBC next year).

Snacks are needed for camp. Please see the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board for a list of needs. Remember, due to allergies **brands do matter!**

Calendar

May

- 1 Open House Audition 6-7pm
- 8 Open House Audition 6-7pm
- 12 Open House Audition 10am-11am
- 14 Open House Audition 6-7pm
- 21 *Finale!* Combined rehearsal (all choirs)
- 21 Final Tour Meeting with Witte Travel (5:30pm)
- 22 *Finale!* Dress rehearsal (all choirs)
CBC alumni choir rehearsal
- 25 **Finale! Concert** (all choirs)
- 29-31 Tour rehearsals

June

- 4-11 Summer Tour

July

- 16-20 2007 Annual Summer Music Camp

August

- 16 New Chorister Orientation - 7:00pm
- 20 Rehearsals resume

October

- 7 Community Hymn Festival (Concert and Cantabile Choirs)
- 20 Fall Family Picnic

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

PHONE: (423) 622-3033 FAX: (423) 622-1182
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Notes from the Office

- Volunteer points are updated on the website and in the volunteer notebook. It is imperative that you complete the 120 point requirement - check the bulletin board and volunteer notebook for opportunities.
- A non-refundable deposit of \$75 is due by May 1st to reserve a spot for camp. If you know at this time that you will not be attending camp (attendance is mandatory to continue next season) please let the office know ASAP as we will be ordering music in a few weeks.

Returning Clothing

Handel and Concert Choir members have performance clothing that was checked out at the beginning of the year, including tux pants, tux shirt, tux shoes and possibly a gray polo shirt (which should have already be turned in). In order to help the office process returned clothing accurately and mail clothing deposit refunds promptly, those not going on tour should be prepared to turn in clothing on the night of the Spring Concert. Bring a change of clothes to change into following the concert and bring your concert attire to the Wardrobe Room. It is very important that you are patient and allow Katie to accurately mark which pieces of clothing are being returned - **DO NOT DROP OFF YOUR CLOTHES** (or leave them anywhere) without Katie acknowledging (and marking in her book) that the clothes have been returned. Failure to do so could result in a charge against clothing deposits for clothing not turned in.

Those going on tour will be instructed, on the last day of tour, to pack all checked-out clothing, in their garment bag. Garment bags (which will have name tags on them) will remain at the CBC office so that clothing can be processed. The office will send out a notification when you can come to pick up garment bags and clothing deposit refunds.

Finale! Spring Concert

The annual *Finale!* Spring Concert will be held on Friday, May 25th at 7:00pm. ALL CHOIRS will have rehearsal on Monday, May 21 and Tuesday, May 22nd. Please watch the weekly memo for the rehearsal times. Volunteers are needed to serve as ushers and chaperones and to bring goodies for the reception following the performance. Sign-up sheets are on the bulletin board. If you need a few more volunteer points this year, be sure to sign up!

Training Choir Recital

When people in the Chattanooga community, or around the country, speak of the Chattanooga Boys Choir, often they are speaking of the Concert Choir. Four years ago the Chattanooga Boys Choir started an annual concert that highlighted the training choirs: Mozart, Schubert, and Handel. It is a special concert that shows the tremendous progress that choristers make over the course of the three years in the training choirs. This year, what has become known as the Family & Friends Training Choir Recital, was held on Sunday, April 15th at Hickory Valley Community Church. Mozart's set included a funny song titled "I've Lost My Homework" in which they sang about every excuse imaginable! The Schubert Choir sang three pieces including "Dancin' Round the Mountain," a song which demonstrated their expansion into two part music. The Handel Choir presented a song in French, one of many languages that choristers learn to sing while in the Chattanooga Boys Choir. The concert concluded with "Blessed is He Who Comes" by the combined Mozart, Schubert, and Handel Choirs, and the Hickory Valley Community Church Adult Choir.



Mozart Choir



Schubert Choir



Handel Choir



Combined Choirs

Happy Birthday!

Angel Salinas	5/5
Clay Oliver	5/7
Armon Bell	5/9
Tyler Edrington	5/10
Austin McElvain	5/15
Ben Hackett	5/16
Gentry Bell	5/22
Carson Brackett	5/24
Nick Akins	5/26



Atta Boy!

Tyler Giuliani (Concert) made the honor roll and was inducted into the Beta Club.

Mark Laseter (Concert) will be a Choo-Choo Kid at CCA in the fall.

Taylor Brittingham (Cantabile) received a scholarship for a summer music program from the Music Teachers National Association's Chattanooga Chapter. He also received a superior rating in piano at an adjudicated festival.

Parents - don't forget to send us your Atta Boys! We love to share what cho-risters are doing outside of the CBC!



Volunteer Staff Positions

You may not know that the Volunteer Coordinator and Summer Camp Director positions are termed "Volunteer Staff" positions because they have specific job descriptions and come with a full tuition abatement. Glen and Karen Robertson and Galen and Peggy Bell have served wonderfully in both of these positions for the past three years. At the comments and urging of two grant review panels (outside professionals who review all of our scholarship programs), the Board of Directors has decided that these positions should carry a term limit of two years. While the CBC will be sad to lose great families in these positions, it is most appropriate to allow other families the opportunity for these positions. It should be noted that these *are not need based* positions and are open to anyone who is interested.

The office has job descriptions for review, and if you might be interested upon reviewing the job duties please let Dawn know. Both of these jobs may be shared amongst two families, however the tuition abatement would also be shared in that case. If you have questions, just call or email Dawn.

Alumni Choir

Do you know someone who was in the Chattanooga Boys Choir? If so, please be sure to tell them that the Alumni Choir is participating in the Spring Concert and we would love to have them participate! If they are already on our mailing list they will be receiving a postcard with information about the rehearsal and performance. If they are not on the mailing list they can find information (and join the mailing list!) on the CBC website.

Lookouts Game

It was a little wet, windy, and cold, but members of the Handel and Concert Choirs performed the National Anthem at the Chattanooga Lookouts game on April 13th. An annual event for the CBC in recent years, singing at the Lookouts games is always a fun time for choir families. Many families stuck around for the whole game, which unfortunately, the Lookouts lost in the 11th inning.



They Said It...

"The choir brought me to New York for the first time in 1964 for the World's Fair. It is now my home. The choir gave me my love of music and the early training that set me on this path. That's of no small consequence."

- Allan Lieb
CBC, 1962-1966