

Earlier this year, the choir garnered a very prestigious invitation to perform for a conference that took place here in Chattanooga. This gathering, which took place on September 12, was for the biennial convention of the National Assembly of State Arts Agencies, a group made up of arts leaders from all fifty states in the country. The people in attendance at this event are in positions of leadership in the areas of advocacy, publicity, support, and funding for programs and opportunities in music, performing arts, visual arts, dance, theater, and all other arts disciplines. The keynote speaker for the session on which we performed was Dana Gioia, the highly esteemed Chairman of the National Endowment for the Arts.

While I remember feeling very honored by the invitation and what this meant for our organization, I remember the sense of shock and concern that soon followed when I realized for whom this performance would be given. I couldn't help but feel a little intimidated when I considered that the audience would be comprised entirely of people who "do arts" for a living. The prospect of performing for this group seemed especially daunting, as I wondered how differently we might be perceived by sets of ears that were immersed in the arts on a much more frequent basis than our "average" concertgoer. From selecting the pieces to preparing the literature in rehearsal, I agonized over how we could make the best impression, while showcasing the boys as a shining example of why Chattanooga was chosen to host this prominent event in the first place.

However, soon after our performance was completed, and with incredibly able assistance from CBC alums Ben Van Winkle (cello) and Corey Oxendine (sign language), I was reminded of the universal and timeless quality of singing and music. The audience was transfixed on the boys, captivated by their sound and mesmerized by their message. In a moment of clarity, I realized that the people in attendance actually appreciated the choir in a different way than the aforementioned "average" concertgoer. This audience understood not only the artistic value of the boys' offering, but also had a more thorough understanding of the incredible effort it took to assemble this group of impressive young men in harmony. The people in attendance are on the front lines every day of what it takes to make art offerings available, sustainable, accessible, and thriving throughout our country despite a renewed focus on the individual, multiple events fighting for our time and attention, and tough economic times.

I mention this as an affirmation to the many things that you - parents and supporters of our choir members - do to help our choristers in innumerable ways as they do incredible work. Most of these things - selling pecans, driving the car pool, preparing with necessary performance details - all deflect the spotlight so that it shines brighter on our boys. Thanks for your care and support, and know that we appreciate all that you do.

FROM THE DIRECTOR

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Vic

On September 12 members of Handel and Concert Choirs opened up the morning session of the National Assembly of State Arts Agencies Convention with a stellar performance. Singing in front of an assembly of 500, with only a few short weeks of rehearsal under their belts, the boys performance was polished and inspiring. While the performance took place during breakfast, there was not a fork and plate clanking as the room fell into silence and

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF STATE ARTS AGENCIES



the participants enjoyed the program. Included in the performance were two CBC alum, Ben van Winkle playing the cello and Corey Oxendine doing sign language interpretation. The choristers represented the Chattanooga Boys Choir, Chattanooga, and the state of Tennessee very well!

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Earlier in the summer the Chattanooga Boys Choir was asked to record background vocals for the Contemporary Christian group Casting Crowns for a Christmas album to be released in October. The recording session included lead vocalist Mark Hall, a producer, and a sound engineer and was incredibly intense. Mr. Oakes was the only person with headphones listening to the music and he directed the boys to enter at the right moment

I HEARD THE BELLS

on pitch! What a challenge! After several hours of recording the boys left not knowing how it would turn out. Well, after several months of waiting, the final product is about to be released on CD October 7th and it sounds amazing! The vocals truly added a beautiful sound and texture to the song "I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day." The song can be heard on the website of Casting Crowns - www.castingcrowns.com - and on the CD.

Opportunities like this are rare, though they are happening more frequently as of late. In December of 2006 the CBC recorded with the Nashville Symphony the opera "L'enfant et les Sortilèges" to be included on an album due to be released this fall. The requests often come with very little time to plan or rehearse and require an intense commitment of time and effort from the boys and families to make it happen. These are such tremendous experiences for the boys and we thank you for your commitment to help make these opportunities happen!

October 6, 2008

Singing Christmas Tree Volunteer
Sign-Up Book available in office

Read descriptions and requirements before signing up - some jobs require participation at a particular rehearsal **and** performance.

Thank you!

August Volunteer Drawing Winner
Melanie Doss

September Volunteer Drawing Winner
Cindy Coulter

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

PICTURES

Don't forget picture days are coming up! Group photos will be taken of all choirs, and individual pictures will be taken for those who preorder pictures or who have **turned in** a family ad form and would like a photo included.



Order forms for individual and group pictures are available in the office.

On their scheduled picture day, choristers should arrive at rehearsal wearing concert attire. If you are unsure of what concert attire is, see the wardrobe page in the 2008-2009 CBC Handbook. Cantabile should

Mozart & Concert	Monday, October 20
Schubert & Handel	Tuesday, October 21
Cantabile	Tuesday, October 28

Tour Meeting

There will be an informational tour meeting for Handel, Concert, and Cantabile parents on Monday, October 20th at 6:00pm in the McFerrin room. We will be reviewing the details of both the January and the June trip, including cost and payment schedules.



Traditionally, the Mozart Choir performs choreography to several of the songs that the older choirs sing during the Singing Christmas Tree. This year, each Mozart chorister will need costumes for two pieces. One group of choristers will be in an oversized red sweatshirt with a pillow underneath (think Santa) and a Santa hat. The other group of choristers will be in "food" costumes. Finally, all choristers will be in oversized T-shirts (think Alvin & the Chipmunks.) As of this printing, we do not know which boys will be in which group, so we need everyone to submit

MOZART COSTUMES

sizes larger than normal so that they hang nearly to the knees. Please submit these sizes to the office no later than October 21 (this is a correction to the date on the memo). Also, we are still in need of many food costumes...we'd rather not have to purchase 15 costumes. Please ask family and friends if they have any we can borrow!

t-shirt and sweatshirt sizes. The sweatshirt sizes should be about 1 size larger than normal - big enough to fit a small pillow for a belly. The t-shirt sizes should be about 2



PARENT MEETINGS

The next Parent Meetings are November 3 at 5:00pm and November 4 at 5:30pm. Both meetings will be held in the McFerrin room downstairs and the same material will be covered at both meetings, so just attend the one that is most convenient for you. Please make every effort to attend one of the meetings as we will be going over important information pertaining to Singing Christmas Tree week. There are some changes from the past, so even if you are an experienced "SCTer," plan to attend.



Caleb Smith (Cantabile) received his Eagle Scout award. This is the highest award a Boy Scout can receive.

Aaron Smith (Concert) received his God and Church award and Communications Merit Badge through Boy Scouts.

Spencer Peck (Mozart) attained 50 AR (accelerated reading) points at Normal Park Elementary after only 3 weeks back to school.

ATTA BOY!

The Pecan & Nut Sale is off to a great start! A number of boys have already turned in well over the minimum amount of bags - way to go! This year's goal is 8,200 bags, just slightly over last year's total of 7920 bags sold. As of the printing of this newsletter (9/30/08) we have sold 824 bags. While it seems like we have

NUTS! a long way to go, only 29 of 134 choristers have turned in orders AND we typically sell about 25% of our bags AFTER the nuts come in when the boys begin distributing them. So, remember that all orders are due October 28th, and we'll have no problem attaining this year's goal!

It's Time To Go Nuts!

- Preorders are due October 28
- All families are required to sell 48 bags by the preorder date
- Turn in orders *each week* by summarizing your order on a Quick Nut Order Form
- Money must be turned in with orders
- Incentive prizes are based on sales through October 28 and will be announced at the SCT dress rehearsal
- Nuts will arrive around the first week of November
- Plenty extra nuts are ordered - people tend to ask for more once you start delivering

TOP SELLERS		
Mozart	Dezman Holloway	84 bags
Schubert	Matthew Taylor	39 bags
Handel	Josh Davis	73 bags
Concert	Noah Forrester	34 bags
Cantabile	Gentry Bell	25 bags

Singing Christmas Tree Program Ads are vital to the performance, as they help to offset the difference between the cost of the production and the ticket revenue. We ask that each family sell \$100 in ads for the program. The CBC staff can design ads for no extra charge to a business, and pictures can be included in family ads. You can pick up a copy of last year's program to bring with you to show the professional nature of the program - let businesses know that we anticipate an audience of close to 2000 and it's a great way for them to show their support of the community. Thank you for your efforts!

PROGRAM ADS



LOOK!

Concert & Handel Choirs
 Private Engagement
 Stonefort Inn
 Saturday, November 8
 Time TBA

Mozart Choreography
 Rehearsal
 originally scheduled for November 1
has been canceled!!

CALENDAR

Happy Birthday!

October Birthdays

Donovan Cook	10/13
Braden Bush	10/14
Tyler Sivels	10/15
Noah Genovesi	10/16
Graham Jones	10/25
Trey Foshee	10/27

Parent Meetings October 20 & 21

SCT Ads due October 17

Nut Orders due October 28

OFFICE HOURS

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

October

- 4 Barbershop Harmony Convention Performance
Concert & Handel Choirs - 1:00-3:00pm
- 13-14 Fall Break - No Treble Rehearsals
- 14 Cantabile Rehearsal - 6:45-8:30pm
- 20 Pictures - Mozart / Concert
- 20 Tour Meeting - Concert, Handel, Cantabile parents
- 21 Pictures - Schubert / Handel
- 17 SCT program book ads due
- 28 Nut Preorders due
- 28 Cantabile Rehearsal - 6:45-8:30pm
Cantabile Pictures

November

- 3 Parent Meeting - 5:00pm
- 4 Parent Meeting - 5:30pm
- 4 Cantabile Rehearsal - 5:15-7:15pm
- 11 Cantabile Rehearsal - 6:45-8:30pm
- 18 Cantabile Rehearsal - 6:45-8:30pm
- 25 Thanksgiving Break - No Rehearsals

Please visit the calendar in the members section of the website for December dates - start making necessary arrangements now for Singing Christmas Tree rehearsals and performance.

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 Laster	Rehearsal Accompanist
Dawn Oakes	Administrative Director
Azusa Dance.....	Operations Manager