

Friends,

Perhaps you saw the recent 60 Minutes segment on the resurgence of choral singing in America. The news item espoused the findings of a 2009 study by Chorus America which found that an estimated 32.5 million adults in our country regularly sing in choruses, including community, church, civic, and other groups. When children are added to the total, this number reaches nearly 43 million people – this is a particularly impressive feat given the number of music and arts programs that have been brazenly cut from school curricula around the country. In all, there are over 270,000 choruses in America, and according to the survey, More than 1 in 5 households have at least one singing family member, making choral singing the most popular form of participation in the performing arts for both adults and children.

What was most impressive to me about this survey, however, was not just the numbers related to the quantity of singers. The survey went on to reveal that choral singing is “strongly correlated with qualities that are associated with success throughout life, including greater civic involvement, discipline, and teamwork.”

According to the study,

- Choral singers are almost 3 times more likely to be officers or committee members of local organizations such as the PTA and community service clubs.
- 78 percent of choral singers indicated they “at least sometimes” volunteer their time in their community, while only 50% of the general public say the same.
- 4 percent of choral singers agree or strongly agree that singing in a chorus has helped them become better team leaders or team participants in other areas of their lives.
- 62 percent agree or strongly agree that being in a chorus has helped them socialize better in other areas of their lives.
- Choral singers donate 2.5 times more money to philanthropic organizations than the general public.
- Ninety-six percent of choral singers surveyed who are eligible voters said they vote regularly in national and local elections; compared to only 70% of the general public.

FROM THE DIRECTOR

Of course, there’s a “chicken-and-egg” question to be asked in this situation – do chorus members become more civic-minded as a result of their participation in choirs, or do more civic-minded individuals seem to participate in choirs? Either way the question is asked, the end results are undeniable, and the reasons for this understanding are clearly evident. Choral singing makes people more keenly aware of the group of people around them, as well as their abilities, strengths, and needs. As a result, choir members are constantly listening, shifting, changing, and working to make the end result a product that is truly greater than the sum of its parts. Singing in a choir demands much from them individually for the betterment of not just themselves, but of the community of which they are a part.

A torrent of music-brain research flooded the parenting and educational circles in the 1990s, promoting the benefits of music in everything from brain synapse activity to math comprehension (remember the “Mozart Effect”?). Who knew there is also a great civics lesson to be learned from participating in choir?

For more information or to download a copy of the study, visit http://www.chorusamerica.org/about_choralsinging.cfm

Many Thanks,

Vic

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On September 11 members of Handel and Concert Choirs performed for a special group of employees from BlueCross BlueShield of Tennessee. The choir was invited to perform as part of a luncheon for employees who have been with the company for more than 30 years. Being so close to the beginning of the season, Handel and Concert Choir members worked hard to prepare twenty minutes of music for attendees, and they did a fantastic job. In addition to getting out of school for a few hours, the boys were thrilled with the delicious meal provided for them at the Broad Street Grill!

BlueCross BlueShield Luncheon

FALL BREAK OCTOBER 19 & 20 NO REHEARSALS

Activity is happening at our new offices at Second Presbyterian Church! Walls have been repaired and prepped for paint, carpet has been removed, floors have been prepped for new carpet, and old shelving has been removed. Thank you to all of the parents who have volunteered their time to make all of this happen. A very special thank you to George Randall and Travis Lytle, CBC parents and Board Members, who have been instrumental in coordinating all of the renovations.

RELOCATION UPDATE

There is still a lot of work to be done before we can move in. Painting will be happening on Saturday, October 10 from 9am-12pm. We choose this date because Handel, Concert, and Cantabile members will be rehearsing for the Hymn Festival just down the road at First Baptist Church, making it convenient for those parents. (Of course, all parents are welcome to help!) Please bring brushes and rollers if you have them.

Once the rooms are painted, and the new carpet is installed, we will begin packing up and moving. We anticipate that during rehearsals in November we will use parent volunteer help to pack up and move. Please drop by the office to find out what you can pack up, load into your car, and unload at Second Presbyterian Church. By using parent volunteer help, we'll save the cost of hiring movers and a moving truck, a potentially large cost. Since you'll already be down here for rehearsals, we hope this makes helping us convenient.

October 5, 2009

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

Melissa Kolben

September Volunteer Drawing Winner

Jessica Puryear

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 wear khaki pants and a solid sweater.

Mozart	Monday, October 12
Schubert Handel, Concert	Tuesday, October 13
Cantabile	Tuesday, October 13

Traditionally, the Mozart Choir performs choreography to several of the songs that the older choirs sing during the Singing Christmas Tree. This year, the boys will be performing choreography for two songs,

MOZART COSTUMES

need an oversized plaid shirt and oversized boots - think little lumberjack. We hope that you will find these items in Dad's closet. If you have items that you would be willing to share with other boys, please we will get the word out.

Please bring these items to the first rehearsal at the Tivoli Theatre on Wednesday, December 2. The items should be labeled with you son's name.

and will need a few items to complete their costume. To complete their costume, the boys will need a few items to complete their costume. To complete their costume, the boys will need a few items to complete their costume.



atre on Wednesday, December

PARENT MEETINGS

The next Parent Meetings are November 2 at 5:00pm and November 3 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 AND the drop-off, pick-up, and parking procedures at Second Presbyterian Church.

ATTA BOY!

Benjamin Dale (Concert) has completed the fourth semester of Intermediate Chinese through the Johns Hopkins Center for Talented Youth with all A's
Travis Lytle (Concert) was inducted into the National Junior Honor Society

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 (10/6/09) we have sold 1572 bags. While it seems like we have

NUTS! a long way to go, only 46 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 27th, and we'll have no problem attaining this year's goal!

It's Time To Go Nuts!

- Preorders are due October 27
- 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 27 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	Jacob Davenport	109 bags
Schubert	Tamblin Papendorp	62 bags
Handel	Tristan Holt	66 bags
Concert	Jacob Lindsey	56 bags
Cantabile	Mark Laseter	37 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



Concert & Handel Choirs
 Private Engagement
 Stonefort Inn
 Saturday, October 25
 Time TBA

Come paint our new offices!
 Saturday, October 10
 9am-12pm
 bring brushes / rollers if you
 have them

CALENDAR

Happy Birthday!

October Birthdays

Hunter Adams	10/4
Hayden Daniel	10/12
Donovan Cook	10/13
Tyler Sivels	10/15
Noah Genovesi	10/16
Graham Jones	10/25
Trey Foshee	10/27
Jacob Rader	10/27

Parent Meetings November 2 & 3

SCT Ads due October 16

Nut Orders due October 27

October

- 7 Hymn Festival Rehearsal - Cantabile - 7-9pm
- 10 Hymn Festival Rehearsal - Handel, Concert, Cantabile
8:30am-12:00pm
- 11 Hymn Festival - Handel, Concert, Cantabile
2:15pm call time
- 12 Mozart Pictures
- 13 Schubert, Handel, Concert, Cantabile Pictures
Cantabile Rehearsal - 6:50-8:45
- 16 SCT Ads due
- 19-20 NO REHEARSALS - FALL BREAK
- 25 Private Event - Handel, Concert
- 27 Cantabile Rehearsal - 5:45-8:00pm
Nut Pre-orders due

November

- 2 Parent Meeting - 5:00pm
- 3 Parent Meeting - 5:30pm
Cantabile Rehearsal - 6:50-8:45pm
- 17 Cantabile Rehearsal - 6:50-8:45pm
- 24 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 Laseter	Rehearsal Accompanist
Dawn Oakes	Administrative Director
Azusa Dance.....	Operations Manager