ARKANSAS CHAMBER SINGERS

1099 to

PROF. JOHN'EDIN 1999 -

HISTORIAN

TANDREW PLEVES

tapioca. 4E

(Clockwise from top)

Arkansas Symphony.

Jeannine Wagar, new conductor of

Miles Hoffman will be the viola

soloist with the North Arkansas

Wendell Evanson conducts the

Little Rock Wind Symphony.

Diane Bucchianeri, cello:

Derry Deane, violin -

of Little Rock.

Anna Norberg, plano; and

open the season for the Chamber Music Society

Trio Tulsa — (from left)

the Fayetteville-based North

Symphony on Nov. 6.

Arkansas sounds great for 1999-2000.

George Gershwin will be the "honoree" for pops programs by the Arkansas Symphony in February and the Fort Smith Symphony

in April.

BY ERIC E. HARRISON ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE

Arkansas' musical organizations are looking Bach — and Handel, and Beethoven, and Mozart, and Gershwin, among many others - over the music of a millennium for the 1999-2000 season.

Several Little Rock concerts marking the 250th anniversary of the death of Baroque giant Johann Sebastian Bach

Arts organizations from

schedules for the

across the state submitted

Democrat-Gazette's annual

listings appear this week on

"miscellanea" series listings

season roundup. Music

Page 2E, with theater listings running Aug. 29 and dance, fine arts, film and

appearing Sept. 5.

form a cornerstone of the musical season across the state, which will include everything from intimate chamber performances to massive choral-orchestral works.

The Arkansas Bach Chorus will mark Bach's July 1750 demise with a two-part (afternoon and evening) performance of Bach's B minor Mass in July 2000. Several local organists will play half-hour

lunchtime recitals at Trinity Episcopal Cathedral

downtown. The Arkansas Chamber Singers, in the midst of a conductor search (music direc-tor emeritus Rosella Duerksen will return to conduct the choir's first concert in October), will perform Bach's St. John Passion in March.

Speaking of big Baroque choral works, holiday performances of Handel's oratorio Messiah will take place in Little Rock the Arkansas Choral Society's annual (since 1930); at Henderson State University in Arkadelphia; and, courtesy of the South Arkansas Symphony, soloists and south Ar-kansas singers, in El Dorado and Magno-

The Fort Smith Symphony will perform Beethoven's Ninth Symphony, complete with choral finale, Oct. 2. The North Arkansas Symphony, under the baton of effervescent new conductor Jeannine Wa-See MUSIC, Page 6E

Music

. Continued from Page 1E

gar, will take on Carl Orff's colossal Carmina Burana — with singers from across Northwest Arkansas - in Fayetteville in March. Miles Hoffman, violist, music director of the American Chamber Players and National Public Radio commentator, will join the orchestra for the Telemann Viola Concerto in G major and Berlioz' Harold in Italy on Nov. 6. The Arkansas Symphony Or-

chestra will put on a concert version of Puccini's opera La Boheme (in Italian with English supertitles) in February. It follows the success of a concert version of Puccini's

Tosca two years ago.
Other Arkansas Symphony Mas-terworks highlights include the return of cello superstar Janos Starker to kick off the season Sept. 18-19; the Audience Choice concert Oct. 16-17 (orchestra subscribers voted for works by Copland, Beethoven and Rimsky-Korsakov; and pianist Navah Perlman, daughter of violinist Itzhak, playing the Schumann Piano Concerto

utes Feb. 12 as part of its Pops! Live Series; the Fort Smith Symphony will do the other April 29.

Amateur groups are continu-ing to grow. The artists formerly known as the Conway Civic Orchestra now call themselves the Conway Symphony Orchestra. John Roscigno will be on the podium for an ambitious fiveconcert season that will feature Dvorak's "New World" Symphony and Beethoven's Third Piano Concerto (with pianist Neil Rutman, who plays just about everywhere in Arkansas this season) Sept. 28 and a 100th birthday American music tribute to Aaron Copland on May 1.

The University of Arkansas at Little Rock Community Orchestra, seeking musicians (especially string players) for its second season, will give concerts in December and May. The Little Rock Wind Symphony has a full slate of seasonal concerts plus the annual Flag Day Celebration at the Arkansas Arts Center Decorative Arts Museum in June.

The Arkansas Symphony's chamber music series, which enjoyed a surprising sell-out resurrection last season, will return for four concerts at the Little Rock



Rosella Duerksen, former music director of the Arkansas Chamber Singers, returns to the podium for the group's first concert while it searches for a new conductor.

Music Society of Little Rock's five concerts: the return of Trio Tulsa on Oct. 14 and a Nov. 4 concert by the Lanier Trio, a joint project Jan. 15-16, 2000.

The orchestra will give one of the state's two big Gershwin tribwork by UALR composer-in-

Opera continues to thrive in the Ozarks; the summer of 2000 marks the 50th season of Opera in the Ozarks at the Inspiration Point Fine Arts Colony, west of Eureka Springs with Verdi's La Traviata, Mozart's The Marriage of



visit to kick off the Masterworks season for the Arkansas Symphony Or-

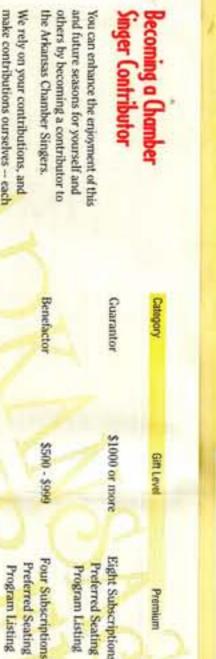
Figuro and Britten's A Midsummer

Night's Dream.
Meanwhile, at the Wildwood Park for the Performing Arts west of Little Rock, the 10th Wildwood Festival will grow by a week and focus on Vienna. The festival's three opera offerings: Die Fledermaus by Johann Strauss Jr., Mozart's rarely performed La Finta Giardinera and Engelbert Humperdinck's Hansel and Gretel. The Duke Ellington Orchestra, Branford Marsalis and Diane Shuur will provide the jazz for the festival finale.



The Chester String Quartet — (from left) Eric Kutz, cello; David Harding, viola; and Kathryn Votapek and Aaron Berofsky, violins - will be the Chamber Music Main Library, Among the Chamber Society of Little Rock's guests in April 2000. (See music schedule, Page 2E.)





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\$100 - \$24



and Passion of Song.

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for the Love, Joy and Passion of Song.

THE 1999-2000 SEASON WILL STEAL YOUR HEART.



Audrey Reeves 5706 La Mirado Drive N. Little Rock, AR72118

Fortheliterational interest and the literature of the literature o

Signature Print name as appears on card, Charge to: Visa Mastercard Card No. Check enclosed for \$ (Make checks payable to Arkansas Chamber Singers), or Home Phone Address Sponsor \$100 - \$249 (1 subscription) Contributing \$25 - \$99 All levels include program listing \$999 (A subscriptions / preferred seating) Patron \$\$250 - \$499 (2 subscriptions / preferred seating) @ Gift giving level of: 🔲 Guarantor \$1000+(8 subscriptions / preferred seating) 🔲 Benefactor \$500 -I would like to make the following contribution: \$ Pulaski Heights Methodist Church, 4900 Sunday, December 14th, will be given at The second performance of Gaudete (Joy), Total ticket order 5 St. John Passion (Friday, March 31) season will be performed at St. Mark's 10. x student / senior All Priday night concerts in the 1999-2000 Gaudete (Joy) (Friday, Dec. 3 and 5) (Priday, Oct. 15) noinse \ Inabuta x '01 A Celebration of Love, Infinite and Mortal Single tickets: for the 1999-2000 Season.

student / senior 28, x x '01'S Season subscription(s) Season subscriptions - all three performances:

Infinite and



Love in a lighter vein is featured in Liebeslieder Walzer, by Johannes Brahms; Frostiana, by Randall Thompson; and A Jubilant Song, by Norman Dello Joio. EXPECT WONDERFUL MUSIC WITH GREAT CONTRASTS! Infinite love is celebrated with three 20th century settings of the l0th century antiphon *Ubi Caritas* (by Maurice Durufle, John Leavitt, and Jean Langlais) and by selections from Samuel Barber's *Prayers of Kierkegaard*.

Friday, October 15, 1999

Little Rock, Arkansas 72221

Arkansas Chamber Singers

\$15 adult, \$10 student / senior -

Guarantor, Benefactor, or Patron. contributors with a giving level of open seating with the exception of \$40 adult, \$28 student / senior -

P.O. Box 21002

open seating

Single tickets:

Season subscription:

Concert time is 3:00 p.m.

Concert time is 8:00 p.m. Evergreen Streets, in Little Rock,

501.377.1121

Woodlawn Street in Little Rock.

Episcopal Church, at Mississippi and

Clip and mail this panel or call

Please Reserve My Tickets

Sunday, December 5, 1999 Friday, December 3, 1999

Mark your calendar to open the holiday season with The Arkansas Chamber Singers. There will be two performances of holiday music. There will be a spirited mix of classic and modern settings of songs and carols for the season. Join us in this joyful seasonal expression.



John Passion



Friday, March 31, 2000

Soloists from the Chorus. Orchestral Ensemble (approx: 16 pieces)

For the spring concert, the Arkansas Chamber Singers will proudly present the St. John Passion. It is one of Johann Sebastian Bach's masterpieces. It includes some of music's most stately chorales, ravishingly beautiful arias, and monumental and dramatic choruses.

Printing of this prochure is sponsored by St. Victoria

The Second Press

Second Presbyterian Church Little Rock, Arkansas 72227 Office: (501) 227-0000; FAX and Care & Concern: (501) 227-6117

ARKANSAS CHAMBER SINGERS

"A Celebration of Love, Infinite and Mortal" is the theme of the first concert by the Arkansas Chamber Singers for the 1999-2000 season, to be presented at 8:00 PM on Friday, Oct. 15, at St. Mark's Episcopal Church, 1000 N. Mississippi Avenue.

Having served as Music Director of the Chamber Singers from 1981 to 1995, Dr. Rosella Duerksen is returning to the podium for this concert only to facilitate the selection of a new permanent director.

Included in the concert program will be three 20th century settings of the 10th century hymn "Ubi Caritas" (Where there is love, God is there); The Prayers of Kirkegaard by renowned American composer Samuel Barber; Frostians by Randall Thompson; and the Lubeslieder Walzer by Brahms.

Members of the Second Presbyterian Church choir who are also members of the Chamber Singers are Linda Eifling and Renee Griffin, soprano; Barbara Stanitski and Joan Wallace, alto; Gene Baxter and Keith Moore, tenor; and Jeremiah Griffin, Robert McQuade, and Conrad Stanitski, bass. Tickets may be purchased from members or reserved by calling 377-1121.

Arkansas Chamber Singers celebrate love

The Arkansas Chamber Singers will perform a concert entitled "A Celebration of Love, Infinite and Mortal," featuring music from baroque to modern, at 8 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 15, in St. Mark's Episcopal Church, Mississippi and Evergreen in Little Rock. Tickets are \$15 for adults, \$10 for students and seniors. For reservations call 377-1121.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 16, 1999 . 3B

Calling back Duerksen smart move for Singers

BY ERIC E. HARRISON

Bringing back Music Director Emeritus Rosella Duerksen for the Arkansas Chamber Singers' season opener was a stroke of genius.

Duerksen not only remains very popular with audiences but also dug through her library for some wonderful pieces for which there is little likelihood local listeners otherwise would ever get to hear.

Duerksen, on the podium Friday night at St. Mark's Episcopal Church to fill in between recently departed director John Yarrington and new director John Erwin, built a program she called "A Celebration of Love, Infinite and Mortal" by adding some sparkling sacred pieces on Yarrington's original secular concept.

Three 20th century settings — by Maurice Durufle, John Leavitt and Jean Langlais — of Ubi Cantas, a 10th century liturgical plainchant, gave the singers a chance to show off the things they have always done best — precise diction, close harmony and great command of dynamics. Soprano Carolyn Setliff had a nice solo in the Langlais setting.

Soprano Renee Griffin's solo

Music revie

in the rarely heard Prayers of Kierkegaard by Samuel Barber, was particularly touching, the choir was in fine form in the choralelike final hymn. Len Bobo, the Chamber Singers' former accompanist, dropped back in from Mississippi to play the discordant organ part Rob Wheeler contributed some percussion.

Still. it was the secular pieces that were most enjoyable. Frostiana, four poems of Robert Frost set to music by Randall Thompson, were an enormous hit. Especially enjoyable were "A Girl's Garden," a romp for women's voices, and "Stopping By Woods on a Snowy Evening," a superb blend of men's voices where Thompson musically evokes falling snow, wistful daydreams and a certain dark nostalgia.

It took the first couple of songs in Johannes Brahms' Liebeslieder Waltzes for the choir and two pianists — Bobo and the group's current accompanist, Tanya Andronikova — to synchronize, but once they did, things went swimmingly.

Duets between soprano Susan Crosby and alto Marcey Schaller Berry and soprano Diana Holzhauser and mezzo-soprano Kathleen Meredith were especially lovely; tenors Keith Moore and R. Gene Baxter and baritones Warren Stringer and Charles Schock made a nice quartet.

Holzhauser again soloed in "A Jubilant Song" by Norman Dello Joio, which closed the concert, well, jubiliantly.

ARKANSAS TIMES • OCTOBER 22, 1999 111

Singers pay tribute

to love, Frost

Thirty-eight beautiful voices with piano, organ and drum echoed from the walls of St. Mark's Episcopal Church Oct. 15, as The Arkansas Chamber Singers performed "A Celebration of Love: Infinite and Mortal."

The singers, obviously well-loved by the crowd that gathered in the church, sang an assortment of songs that demonstrated versatility as well as talent.

Perhaps the most entertaining part of the concert was a four-song tribute to Robert Frost, written by Randall Thompson. This included "Stopping By Woods On A Snowy Evening," which was sung as a somber melody with an accompaniment widely varied in pitch, and "Chose Something Like A Star," which kept a slow, sample harmony to show off the vocal range of the group. The Chamber Singers also sang "Liebeslieder Walzer, Opus 52" by Johannes Brahms.

The audience was enthusiastic, especially for the guest conductor. Dr. Rosella Duerksen, directing the group for the first time since 1995, received almost unending appliance and a bouquet of flowers at the end of the performance. The singers received a standing ovation.

The Chamber Singers, now in their 21st season, will perform again on Friday, Dec. 3, and Sunday, Dec. 5.





It's CONCERT TIME

The music's arrived, singers have been contacted, our guest conductor is on board, and rehearsals are in full swing for the first concert of our 1999-2000 season. It's a delightful program — A Celebration of Love - Infinite and Mortal. You're bound to enjoy four songs from Randall Thompson's Frostiana;

three settings of *Ubi Caritas* by Durufle, Leavitt and Langlais; Samuel Barber's Prayers of Kierkegaard; Liebeslieder Walzer, Opus 52 by Johannes Brahms; and a rousing concert closing selection by Dello Joio entitled A Jubilant Song.

Dr. Rosella Duerksen is returning to the podium for this concert which will be held on Friday, October 15, at 8PM, in the sanctuary at St. Mark's Episcopal Church, Mississippi & Evergreen in Little Rock. A reception will be held following the concert in the Church Hall.

Season tickets are now available for the 3-concert series for \$40 (\$28 seniors and students); or one-concert tickets can be purchased for \$15 (\$10 seniors and students). Call 501.377.1121 today to order your tickets.

OFF TO EUROPE

Members of the European tour group heading for Vienna and Prague are anxiously awaiting November 15 when they will be leaving for their

eight days of adventure in these two exciting cities. Mary Morton, a member of the ACS Board of Directors, is making all the trip arrangements. Give her a call on 821.2083 or 688.2416. In the event someone from the tour group might have to cancel out, you might still be able to sign on and be part of this memorable tour.

A PUBLICATION OF THE ARKANSAS CHAMBER SINGERS

IN TRANSITION

John Yarrington to Houston

Ending his 4-year tenure as Music Director of the Arkansas Chamber Singers, Dr. Yarrington bid farewell to the chorus and its audiences on June 27 as he led them in the annual Summer Sing. It has been an exciting four years for Chamber Singers under John's leadership as the chorus presented a wide variety of choral works, from the classics to the contemporary, culminating in the commissioning of a work — The Golden Harp — by the well-known composer, Dr. Gwyneth Walker, which was performed at Dr. Yarrington's final concert with the Arkansas Chamber Singers.

Dr. Yarrington has accepted a position at Houston Baptist University as professor of choral work.

The best wishes of all — the singers, the Board of Directors, our audiences — are extended to John in his new venture.

Search Committee at work When John Yarrington announced his

plans to leave Little Rock and his role as Music Director of ACS, the Board of Directors appointed a search committee, chaired by Richard Hixson, to seek out a new Music Director. Other members of the committee are Stephen Edds, Clyde Glover, Christine Mayo, Kathleen Meredith, Keith Straughn and Jackie Wright. These folks have had a busy summer, making inquiries, placing ads, and interviewing applicants to determine just the right person to become the fourth by presenting professional quality performances that convey the joy of music; leader in the life of Arkansas Chamber Singers. Keep watching for news of who and to developing that will be.

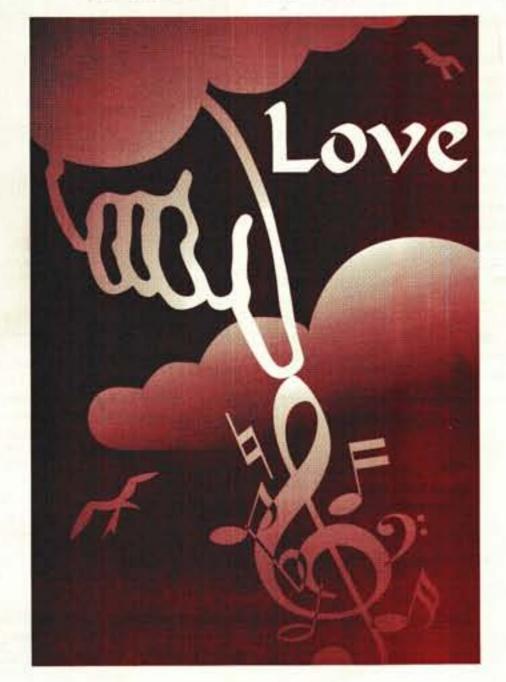
> As plans were being put in place for the 1999-2000 concert season, the Board of

Directors contacted Dr. Rosella Duerksen to request that she come as Guest Music Director for the opening concert on October 15. She graciously accepted and is busy working with the chorus while the search committee is seeking a permanent Director. Rosella is no stranger to ACS singers and audiences; she directed the chorus for 14 seasons before retiring from that post in 1995. We welcome you, Rosella, to your return engagement with us.

A Celebration of Love, Infinite and Mortal

an expanded audience through education,

creative programm and the promotion choral music.





Friday, October 15, 1999 8 p.m.

St. Mark's Episcopal Church Little Rock, Arkansas

Chamber Singers director named

UCA professor of music to take baton after choir's Oct. 15 concert

John Erwin rehearses the University of

Central Arkansas Concert Choir in 1996.

and away the best musician and

Erwin said he applied for the

who had the best record as far as

Chamber Singers position because

"I missed working with adults, and

these are adults highly motivated

to do well." He does not envision

his new position conflicting with

his conducting and teaching duties

tions of the past, while at the same

time increasing the visage of us

"I want to build on the tradi-

his choir getting awards."

at UCA.

BY ERIC E. HARRISON

John M. Erwin, director of choral activities and associate professor of music at the University of Central Arkansas, will be the new director of the Arkansas Chamber

Erwin, 55, will be the 20-year-old choir's fourth director, replacing John Yarrington, who left Arkansas this summer to become director of choral activities at Houston Baptist University in Texas.

Yarrington took over the choir in 1995 from Rosella Duerksen, who retired after 14 years as music director and conductor. Duerksen agreed to conduct the group's first concert Oct. 15 while the search for a new director was in

Erwin will take the baton after that concert - the first rehearsal will be Oct. 19 - and will make his first public appearance on the Chamber Singers podium for concerts Dec. 3 and 5.

Richard Hixson, chairman of the Chamber Singers board's search committee, said the panel considered nine applicants, most of them from central and southern Arkansas, one from Houston and one from Memphis. Facing an early October deadline, they narrowed the choice down to four candidates for interviews.

"All of those people could have done a good job," he says. "We picked the person we felt was far across the state and region," he said. "Ultimately. I want this to be a first-rate, nationally recognized choral group - that's my goal.

"I want every concert [to] succeed a little more toward the goal of perfection, knowing that we will never achieve absolute perfection unless, perhaps, we become a choir of angels.

Erwin said he doesn't plan to forsake the standard repertoire. But he wants to expand the choir's repertoire back into the Renaissance, an area most local choirs have neglected, and forward into the late 20th century, including pieces by Estonian and other Eastern European composers that Erwin described as being "on the cutting edge" of choral music.

Where Yarrington skewed the choir's programming more toward cappella performance. Erwin said he wants to maintain "a good balance in every concert" between cappella and accompanied

Erwin, who has been on the faculty at UCA since 1975, holds bachelor's and master's degrees from Arkansas State University and a doctor of musical arts degree from the University of Illinois. He also has studied with Robert Shaw. Helmuth Rilling and Howard

Barbara Levy founded the Chamber Singers in 1979. Duerksen took over the ensemble in the

Holiday music will fill the air in December concert flurry

Also on Friday, the Arkansas Chamber Singers will perform the first of two holiday concerts - the second will be in Hot Springs on Sunday. Friday's concert will begin at 8 p.m. at St. Mark's Episcopal Church at Mississippi and Evergreen in Little Rock. Tickets are \$15 and \$10. Call

Arkansas Chamber Singers holiday concerts, 8 tonight at St. Mark's Episcopal Church, Little Rock; 3 p.m. Dec. 5 at St. Luke's Episcopal Church, Hot Springs, Call (501) 377-1121.



Start your holiday season with the Arkansas Chamber Singers

Friday, December 3, 8 p.m. at St. Mark's Episcopal Church, Mississippi and Evergreen, Little Rock, Arkansas

> Sunday, December 5, 3 p.m. at St. Luke's Episcopal Church, 228 Spring Street, Hot Springs, Arkansas (this is a change in location)

The concert will be a joyful presentation of music in many languages - Latin, Spanish, English, Russian, French, Chinese, and German. The music is drawn from several musical eras.

The music represents Medieval, Renaissance, Romantic, and the 20th Century periods. Many of the hymns are timeless.

The group will be accompanied by Ivanka Driankova. Soloists include the Trio Con Brio: Carolyn Brown, flute; Beth Wheeler, oboe; and Susan Leon, bassoon. Robert Holden will be a featured baritone.

Following each concert, a wine and cheese reception will be held in the Parish Hall

Tickets are \$ 15 for adults, and \$ 10 for students and seniors. Reservations may be made today by calling 501-377-1121.

Friday, December 3, 1999

Arkansas Democrat-Gazette

Multi-lingual shows on singers' agenda

BY ERIC E. HARRISON

The Arkansas Chamber Singers will celebrate Christmas in two Arkansas cities this weekend with seasonal songs spanning nearly six centuries and in at least six lan-

John Erwin, director of choral activities at the University of Central Arkansas at Conway, debuts as the Chamber Singers' music director in concerts tonight in Little Rock and Sunday afternoon in Hot

In Latin: "Gaudete," an anonymous English carol; Gloria by 15th-century composer Guillaume Dufay: four motel settings - "O Magnum Mysterium," "Quem videstes pastores dicite," "Videntes stellam" and "Hodie Christus natus est" - by Francis Poulenc; and three settings of "Ave Maria," by Anton Bruckner, Igor Stravinsky and Javier Busto. A fourth sett of that hymn to the Virgin Mary, by Sergei Rachmaninoff, will be in

In Spanish: Canciones y Villanescus Espirituales, three Christmas carols by Renaissance compos-



John Erwin rehearses the Arkansas Chamber Singers for the group's

Christmas concert. er Francisco Guerrero. In German: "Josef, Lieber Josef Mein" by Renaissance composer Leonhart Schroter, arranged by James McKelvy.

■ In Chinese: "Pengyou, Ting!" arranged by Carolyn Jennings. In English: "Behold a Star From Jacob Shining" from the oratorio Christus by Felix

Mendelssohn: Fantasia on Christmas Carols by Ralph Vaughan Williams; "The Angel Gabriel" by Chester L. Alwes; three Carols of Nativity -- "Pat-a-pan," "Coventry Carol" and "Il est ne le divin Enfant" - arranged by Alwes (the latter carol will be partly in French); little tree, a setting of an

e.e. cummings poem by Steven

Heitzeg, "Sweet Was the Song,"

arranged by Rene Clausen; and "Go Where I Send Thee," a gospel standard arranged by Paul Canlwell and Sean Ivory. Pianist Ivanka Driankova will be

the accompanist. The Trio Con Brio Carolyn Brown, flute; Beth Wheeler, oboe; and Susan Leon, bassoon - will join in on "The Angel Gabriel" and the "II est ne le divin Enfant." Brown will play for "It's quite a mixture of eras and

styles," Erwin says. "We'll see if we can dance from one to the other." Erwin admitted he had to make an adjustment from his col-

Arkansas Chamber Singers 8 p.m. today, St. Mark's Episcopal Church, 1000 N. Mississippi

3 p.m. Sunday, St. Luke's Episcopal Church, 228 Spring St., Hot

Springs Admission: \$15, \$10 students and senior citizens. A wine and cheese reception will follow each concert (501) 377-1121

'We actually cut out quite of bit of what we were going to do," he says. "I'm still on the learning curve on how much we can accom-

Erwin, 55, is the 20-year-old choir's fourth director, replacing John Yarrington.

Hot Springs Village Voice - November 17, 1999

Arkansas Chamber Singers to perform holiday concert in Hot Springs

The Arkansas Chamber Singers will perform a holiday concert in Hot Springs at 3 p.m. on Sunday. December 5 at St. Luke's Episcopal Church. The concert will be a joyful presentation of music in many languages-Latin, Spanish. English, Russian, French, Chinese and German. The music is drawn from several musical eras. It represents medieval, renaissance, romantic and the 20th century periods. Many of them are timeless.

The group will be accompanied featured baritone.

Mary Watermann of Hot in HSV. Watermann is also a member of ing from a variety of central Ar- the Parish Hall.



Prof. John M. Erwin by Ivanka Driankova. Soloists the Hot Springs Music Festival include the Trio Con Brio: Board of Directors and the Festibassoon. Robert Holden will be a Board of Directors and is also in- Central Arkansas. volved in a number of activities

kansas towns and from diverse musical backgrounds, from vocal music educator to church musician. Many of them represent other vocations-doctors, lawyers, computer programmers and agency department heads. The ensemble is dedicated to enriching the lives of singers, audiences and the community at large by presenting performances that convey the joy of music. Their goal is to develop an expanded audience through education, creative programming, and the general promotion of choral music.

The director of the Arkansas Carolyn Brown, flute: Beth val Chorus. Joan Wallace is on Chamber Singers is Prof. John M. Wheeler, oboe; and Susan Leon, the Arkansas Chamber Singers Erwin from the University of

The concert begins at 3 p.m. in the sanctuary at St. Luke's Epis-Springs and Joan Wallace of HSV The Arkansas Chamber Sing- copal Church, 228 Spring Street. are members of the Arkansas ers, numbering 46, is an audi- Following the concert, a wine and Chamber Singers. Mary tioned adult vocal ensemble com- cheese reception will be held in

6E The Sentinel-Record, Sunday, November 28, 1999

Arts, etc.

Arkansas Chamber Singers give first Spa concert

The Arkansas Chamber Singers will perform a holiday concert at 3 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 5, in the sanctuary at St. Luke's Episcopal Church

The concert will be a joyful presentation of music in many languages: Latin, Spanish, English, Russian, French, Chinese and German.

The music is drawn from several musical eras representing Medieval, Renaissance, Romantic and the 20th-century peri-

Many of the works are time-

This is the 21st season of the Chamber Singers and their first performance in Hot Springs

The singers, numbering 46, are an auditioned adult vocal ensemble coming from a variety of central Arkansas towns and from diverse musical backgrounds from vocal music education to church musician

Based in Little Rock, the group has performed in various venues around the state including the spring concert series in

tral Arkansas, the group is accompanied by Ivanka Driankova Helena.

Soloists include the Trio Con
Directed by Professor John
Brio: Carolyn Brown, flute; Beth
Erwin of the University of Cen
Wheeler, oboe; and Susan Leon,

Wheeler, oboe; and Susan Leon,

Springs Village are members of directors and the Festival Chothe Parish Hall.

bassoon, Robert Holder is a fea- the Arkansas Chamber Singers. rus, Wallace is actively involved

After the concert, a wine and \students.

Watermann, a 15- year mem- in music activities in the village are \$15 and \$10 for seniors and

the general promotion of choral music. Special to The Sentinel-Record

THE ARKANSAS CHAM-

ed to enriching the lives of

singers, audiences and the

community at large by pre-

senting performances that

develop an expanded audience through education.

creative programming and

convey the joy of music. The singers' goal is to

BER SINGERS are dedicat-

For information, call Mary Watermann, 623-9175.

in concert Professor John Erwin, Director

Sunday, December 5 3:00 pm St. Lukes Episcopal Church 228 Spring Street **Hot Springs**

Wine & Cheese reception to follow Tickets are \$15 for Adults \$10 for Students & Seniors Available at the door

For additional information call 623-9175

Chamber Singers to perform Dec. 5

The Arkansas Chamber Singers will perform a holiday concert in Hot Springs at 3 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 5, at St. Luke's Episcopal Church. The concert will be a joyful presentation of music in many languages -Latin, Spanish English, Russian. French, Chinese, and German. The music is drawn from several musical eras. It represents Medieval, Renaissance. Romantic, and the 20th Century periods. Many of them are time-

The group will be accompa-nied by Ivanka Driankova. Soloists include the Trio Con Brio: Carolyn Brown, flute; Beth Wheeler, oboe; and Susan Leon. bassoon. Robert Holden will be a featured baritone.

About the Director:

Prof. John M. Erwin from the University of Central Arkansas, is the new director of the Arkansas Chamber Singers. He began his work with the chorus in October in preparation for the December concerts.

Choral Activities/Associate City Professor of Music at the University of Central Arkansas in Conway. Ark. Under his leadership, the UCA Concert Choir and the UCA Chamber Singers have each earned national and international recognition for their excellence. In addition, Prof. Erwin is a national leader in the standards and repertoire for colleges and universities.

Erwin was raised and educated in Arkansas, carning a Bachelor of Music Education from Arkansas State University in 1966 where he was named Outstanding Graduate of the University. He received his



Prof. John M. Erwin

represent other vocations -

doctors, lawyers, computer pro-

grammers and agency depart-

ment heads. The ensemble is

dedicated to enriching the lives

of singers, audiences and the

community at large by present-

Master of Music Education from Arkansas State University in 1968. Studies at other institutions include A.B.D. for Doctor of Musical Arts, University of Illinois and graduate work at the Prof. Erwin is the Director of University of Missouri-Kansas

> Erwin also studied with Robert Shaw, Frieder Bernius, Helmuth Rilling, Harold Decker, Weston Noble, Alfred Skoog and Howard Swan. His first performance with the Arkansas Chamber Singers will be at their holiday concerts in December.

About the singers:

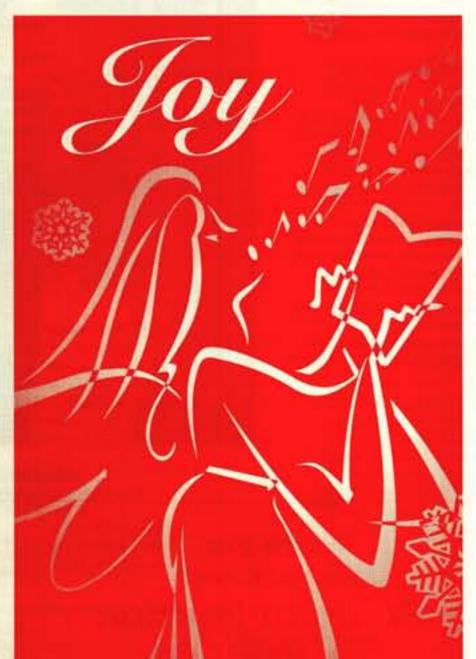
The Arkansas Chamber Singers, numbering 46, is an auditioned adult vocal ensemble coming from a variety of central Arkansas towns and from diverse musical backgrounds. ing performances that convey the from vocal music educator to church musician. Many of them joy of music. Their goal is to

develop an expanded audience through education, creative programming and the general promotion of choral music

Mary Watermann of Hot Springs, and Joan Wallace of Hot Springs Village are members of The Arkansas Chamber Singers. Mary Watermann is also a member of the Hot Springs Music Festival Board of Directors and the Festival Chorus, Joan Wallace is on the Arkansas Chamber Singers Board of Directors and is also involved in a number of activities in Hot Springs Village.

The concert begins at 3 p.m. in the sanctuary at St. Luke's a Episcopal Church, 228 Spring Street. Following the concert, a wine and cheese reception will be held in the Parish Hall.

Gaudete (Joy)





Friday, December 3, 1999, 8 p.m.

St. Mark's Episcopal Church Little Rock, Arkansas

Sunday, December 5, 1999, 3 p.m.

St. Luke's Episcopal Church Hot Springs, Arkansas



Erwin's debut program obscure but wonderful

BY ERIC E. HARRISON

John Erwin could not have made a more auspicious debut as the new music director of the Arkansas Chamber Singers than with the choir's Christmas concert Friday night at St. Mark's Episcopal Church.

Erwin was trimming his program even after it was printed the two survivors of what was originally to have been Quatre Moter settings by Francis Poulenc never materialized, and several other pieces Erwin had planned had already fallen by the wayside.

Still, he presented a glorious array of obscure and wonderful songs for the season, spanning nearly six centuries and in at least six languages.

Where else, for example, would you hear a carol in Chinese, a Russian setting of the "Ave Maria" (by Rachmaninoff) and a musical paean to a Christmas tree ("little tree," a setting by Steven Heitzeg of an e.e. cum-

mings poem)? Judging from the choir's per-formance. Erwin is maintaining and maybe even building its strengths - precise diction, superb tone, excellent balance and controlled dynamics. Among the high points:

Behold a Star From Jacob Shining" from the oratorio Christus by Felix Mendelssohn, with a strong trio of kings (tenor Keith Moore, baritone Warren Stringer and bass George Mayo).

Baritone Robert Holden's glo-

rious voice in Ralph Vaughan

Music review

Williams' Fantasia on Christmas Carols, as well as the chorus' pi anissimo finale.

■ The absolutely gorgeous, won-derfully blended sound the a cappella choir produced in Anton Bruckner's setting of the "A

The fine sounds produced by the choir and members of the Trio Con Brio - Carolyn Brown, flute; Beth Wheeler, oboe; and Susan Leon, bassoon - in "The Angel Gabriel" by Chester L. Alwes and Alwes' arrangements of three Cor ols of Nativity - "Pat-a-pan" (slightly overwhelmed by the fife and-drum accompaniments.
"Coventry Carol" and the particu-larly delightful "Il est ne le divin

Enfant. The Chinese carol "Pengyou, Ting!" in which versatile accompanist Ivanka Driankova, who more than carned her salt throughout the evening, abandoned the piano for the finger cymbals.

Erwin ended the evening with a bluesy, cut-down version of the gospel standard "Go Where I Send Thee," which sent the audience - who also had a chance to sing out themselves in three carols - into the night with consid erable pep in their steps.

Erwin, the Chamber Singers et al. will repeat the program at 2 p.m. Sunday at St. Luke's Episcopal Church. 228 Spring St., Hat

Ticket information may be obtained by calling (501) 377-

Night of music to aid singers

Opera arias and Broadway show Sondheim songs, a duet from tunes are on the program for Music in the Night, a benefit for the Arkansas Chamber Singers, at 6:30 p.m. today at the Little Rock Club, atop the Regions Bank building, West Capitol Avenue and Broad-

The event features hors d'oeuvres and a cash bar, dinner with wine and dessert buffet, along with stein's A Quiet Place. She now is musical entertainment by soprano Christine Donahue, mezzo-soprano Diane Kesling and bass-baritone William Higgins — as the Musical Stars — with pianist Barbara Richards.

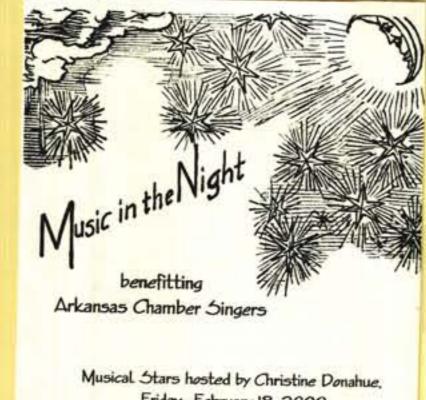
Tickets are \$75, \$50 of which represents a tax-deductible contribution to the Chamber Singers. Call (501) 377-1121.

The program will include two

Rossini's The Italian Girl in Algiers. and a trio from Mozart's Cosi fun tutte, as well as songs from Broadway shows and favorite opera arias.

Kesling, now dividing her time between New York and Hot Springs, has performed at the Metropolitan Opera and debuted the role of Dinah in Leonard Bernguest instructor of voice at Henderson State University in Arkadelphia, where Higgins also teaches

Donahue has performed with opera companies across North America, including the Opera Theatre at Wildwood Park for the Performing Arts and its predecessor. the Arkansas Opera Theatre. She lives in Conway.



Friday, February 18, 2000 Little Rock Club

\$75 per person

ROBERT MONDAYI COASTAL WINES ICED TEA COFFEE AND DECAFFEINATED COFFEE

CLEESECAKE WITH STRAWBERRY TOPPING FRENCH SILK PIE DESSERT TABLE

FRESH HOT BAKED ROLLS AND BUTTER WLD RICE PILAF ASPARAGUS WITH HOLLANDAISE BREAST OF BOURBON PRALINE PECAN CLICKEN

ENTREE

ITALIAN DRESSING MIXED LETTUCE SEASONAL GREENS, GARDEN VEGETABLES

DAJAS

BELGIAN ENDIVE STUFFED IVITU CRAB MOUSSE FRESH FRUITS, BERRIES, AND DOMESTIC CLIEESES

APPETIZERS

MENN



Music in the Night

a benefit for the

Arkansas Chamber Singers

Musical Stars

hosted by Christine Donahue Friday, February 18, 2000 at The Little Rock Club Regions Bank Building

Sponsored by the ACS Board of Directors Development Committee

Christine Donahue, Chair Cristi Amatangelo R. Gene Baxter

Dr. Richard Llicson Mary Morton

Robert McQuade

PROGRAM

Barcarolle TALES OF LIOFFMANN Offenbach Count's Aria MARRIAGE OF FIGARO Mozart Perichole's Aria LA PERICHOLE Offenbach Duet L'ITALIANA IN ALGERI Rossini

Ain't It a Pretty Night SUSANNALI Floyd I'm Just a Girl Who Cain't Say No OKLALIOMA Rogers & Llammerstein Take Me to Your World Sondheim Being Alive COMPANY Sondheim Skylark Mercer/Carmichael

Trio COSI FAN TUTTE Mozart

Musical Stars

Christine Donahue, soprano, is the host for the program. She Lives in Conway, Arkansas, and is well known in Arkansas for her stunning performances at Wildwood last summer. Her interpretation of "Violetta" in La Traviata was exquisite. She has graced the stages of opera houses all over the United States and Canada.

Diane Kesling, mezzo-soprano, a resident of New York City and Llot Springs, Arkansas, is a guest instructor of voice at Llenderson State University. She performed major roles in a number of Metropolitan Opera Company productions, and was chosen by Leonard Bernstein to sing the role of Dinah in the premier production of his opera. A Quiet Place.

William Liggins, bass-baritone, is a member of the faculty at Llenderson State University. where he teaches voice. He sang with the Oklahoma City Philharmonic, the Canterbury Choral Society and was Music Director of the Pollard Theatre.

Barbara Richards, who lives in Llot Springs, is an accomplished pianist. She has a Master's Degree in vocal coaching and Accompanying from the Univ. of Illinois. She published three volumes of piano accompaniments for opera arias, and several more are currently in production.



First United Methodist Church Helena, Arkansas

A MEMORIAL SERVICE JUNE GAYLE HARAWAY

March 10, 2000

THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT IN PRAISE OF THE HOLT STIRLE Surely the Presence of the Lord

OUR ROLE MODEL

Every child should be lucky enough to have a role model like we did. Our big sister, June Gayle, taught us everything we needed to know from her lofty position as our elder of 5+ years. We learned patience from sharing a one-telephone household with a popular teenager who endlessly sought and gave advice to friends by phone. We learned bravery from being car-pooled by a novice driver. But mostly, we learned to make a friend and to be a friend, because that was her specialty. The whole town knew us as Brother and Sister, because that's what June Gayle called us.

Having loving parents to guide us in the right direction was good. But having an older sibling to set the example was powerful. She taught us to study hard, to be loyal, and to always smile. She gave us a sense of humor, a sense of duty and a sense of accomplishment. When we couldn't or didn't excel at things that seemed so easy for her, she explained to us scientifically that, as twins, we had not each received our total complement of genes.

June Gayle taught us to love each other, so we never really understood sibling rivalry. And in her illness, she taught us true courage, with a spirit that wouldn't stop. Being in her church today, where she directed choirs and needlepointed the chancel rail kneelers, and listening to her beloved Chamber Singers, we hear her voice.

Brother and Sister

Vance Montgomery Blanche Montgomery Moore

Arkansas Democrat & Gazette June Gayle Montgomery Haraway

Music lover enjoyed playing piano, singing

BY JULIA SILVERMAN

HELENA - June Gayle Montgomery Haraway's life was set to music. the clothes she made by hand, or on Sometimes, her instrument of choice was the piano, like the one for fear of getting any dirt or residue she sat at during her solo recital as a on her handiwork. student at Helena High School in the early 1950s.

Later, it was her voice, which soared high and clear during the last 10 years of her life, when she was a proud member of the Arkansas Chamber Singers.

The music she loved will echo at her funeral service today, at which the Arkansas Chamber Singers will perform, said her sister, Blanche Moore of Little Rock

Haraway died Wednesday after a four-year bout with colon cancer. She was 64.

The Montgomery siblings grew up in Helena, where their father owned the town drugstore on Cherry Street. The drugstore sold not just medicine but nearly everything else under the sun, from soda pop to sewing thread, and the preferred activity of the town's teen-agers was to cruise down Cherry Street and see

who was hanging out at the store. Growing up, June Haraway was a role model for her twin sister and younger brother. They looked up to the sister who made good grades and marched as a drum majorette, who led by example and yet was casy to relate to, who was calm enough to deflate any instance of sibling rivalry that might crop up and, as a novice driver, taught them courage by driving their car pool.

"All of our good points came from her," Moore said Wednesday. "It is so powerful to have a sibling that you can both relate to and admire."

Haraway could be difficult to emulate. She was such a perfectionist that when she sewed tiny stitches on needlepoint, she wore white gloves

"I always tried to do as she did. but I would just get frustrated." Moore said. "She would never leave anything with a mistake in it."

Haraway spent two years at the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville, then returned home to Helena to marry her high school sweetheart, Al Haraway Jr., now a retired cotton farmer. Together they had two children.

Even after her marriage, she continued to perform musically, first with Helena church and choir groups, from First United Methodist Church, where she directed the chancel and handbell choirs, to Temple Beth El in Helena, which asked for her services.

But her proudest accomplishment was being chosen for the Arkansas Chamber Singers, her sister said, a prestigious group that has performed all over. During the last 10 years of her life, Haraway kept an apartment in Little Rock and enjoyed coming up to the city to per-form with the chamber singers, developing close friendships with many others in the group.

And she never stopped trying to get the most out of life, her sister said. Just before Thanksgiving, for example, she joined the other chamber singers on a trip to Europe, postponing surgery until after the trip so that she could see Vienna and experience Prague.

"She loved life, and she taught us so much," Moore said. "We feel fortunate that we had her for so long."

Linda Eifling Diana Holzhauser Audrey Reeves Pat Scuras Carol Stringer

SOPRANOS

1956. She graduated from Central High School in Helena and attended the Uniersity of Arkansas at Fayetteville, where was a member of Chi Omega Frater-

nity. Active in community service, she was gast president of the Helena Aunior Auxil-sery. A longtime member of First United Methodist Church in Helena, she directed

te chancel and hand-bell choirs, was past

he also sang in choirs at Temple Beth El Helena and at Second Presbyterian

Church and Pulaski Heights United Methodist Church in Little Rock. For more than 10 years, she was a dedicated mem-

ber of Arkansas Chamber Singers. She was a 10 year employee of Dillard's De-

partment Stores.

She is survived by her husband, Al Haraway III of Little Rock and Kim Haraway of Houston, Texas: two grandchildren; a brother, Vance Montgomery of Helena; and a sister, Blanche Moore of Little Rock.

A memorial service, will be held at 2

A memorial service will be held at 2 p.m. on Friday, March 10, at First United Methodist Church in Helena. Memorials

may be sent to Arkansas Chamber Singers, P.O. Box 21002, Little Rock, AR 72221 or Maple Hill Cemetery Association, 430 Ohio St., Helena, AR 72342, Roller-Cit-izens Funeral Home in West Helena will di-rect, (870) 572-2571.

esident of the Women's Society of

tian Service, and was instrumental in

ALTOS

Ruth Hooper Elinor Royce Joan Wallace Mary Watermann Jacqueline Wright MEMORIAL SERVICE **PARTICIPANTS**

JUNE GAYLE HARAWAY

TENORS

R.Gene Baxter Marcey Berry Richard Hixson Harold Duerksen BASSES

Bob Johns Bob McQuade Warren Stringer Tyler Thompson Bob Stoubaugh

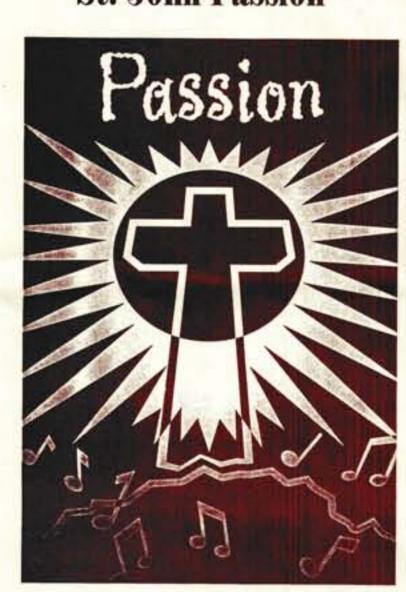
Accompanist: Carol Majors

Arkansas Chamber Singers presents: Johann Sebastian Bach's St. John Passion

Friday, March 31 2000

8 p.m.

St.Mark's **Episcopal** Church, Mississippi Evergreen



48 voice chorus

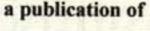
17 piece baroque orchestra

Tickets: \$15 adult, \$10 student/ senior



for information or reservations Call 501-377-1121







OUR NEW DIRECTOR. . .

The new Artistic Director of Arkansas Chamber Singers is no stranger to those who attended the holiday concert in December. John M. Erwin has added ACS to his musical agenda. Currently Professor Erwin is also the Director of Choral Studies and Associate Professor of Music at the University of Central Arkansas in Conway. His choral groups there have earned national and international recognition for their excellence in performance.

John Erwin was raised and educated in Arkansas. He earned his Bachelor and Master of Music Education degrees from Arkansas State University and has done further studies at the University of Illinois and the University of Missouri-Kansas City.

We feel fortunate to have one of John Erwin's background and experience take up the baton with us. Welcome, John!

.. Brings You Greetings

It is indeed an honor and privilege to work with such a dedicated and talented group of musicians as Arkansas Chamber Singers. This honor is enriched and underscored by the opportunity to work with great choral literature as our next program. This is a "Bach year" - J.S. Bach died in 1750, exactly 250 years ago. In celebrating this remarkable musician, we've been hard at work enjoying the preparation of his magnificent St. John Passion, truly an inspired creation. Our final rehearsal week will include working with a chamber orchestra of exceptional ability and soloists of true artistry. It is our wish that all will be uplifted by this superb composition and find that the art of choral music is alive and well in central Arkansas. Come join us for a rewarding experience.



SPRING CONCERT MARCH 31



Johann Sebastian Bach's masterwork, The Passion of our Lord according to St. John, will be performed by the Arkansas Chamber Singers on Friday, March 31 at 8 p.m. at St. Mark's Episcopal Church, Mississippi and Evergreen Streets in Little Rock. They will be accompanied by a 17-piece baroque orchestra. This presentation is a moving and appropriate theme for the Lenten season and is an auspicious first concert for the Millenium.

This acclaimed work by the famous 17th century composer contains some of his most beautiful choruses. The dramatic narrative and pleading arias make it a powerful and moving work. It has been said that "Bach is the beginning and end of all music."

The role of the Evangelist will be sung by the nationally known tenor, Dr. Stanley Warren, who is an accomplished interpreter of the works of Bach and Britten. He has sung the Evangelist role in the Bach Passions in England, New York, Boston, Louisville, Pittsburgh, Atlanta, and Rochester. He is frequently praised for his sensitivity, intelligence and grace. He is Associate Professor of Voice at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas.

Advance tickets may be purchased using the form in the enclosed brochure, or by phoning 501.377.1121 using your Visa charge card. Tickets will also be available at the door. Prices for tickets are \$15 for adults, \$10 for students and seniors.

The ACS Spring concerts are traditionally very popular events, so plan to arrive early for the best seats.

Mission Statement: The Arkansas Chamber Singers is an auditioned vocal ensemble committed to performing the finest of classical and ontemporary choral repertoire. The ensemble is dedicated to enriching the lives of singers, audiences and the community at large by presenting professional quality performances that convey the joy of music; and to developing an expanded audience through educ creative programming and the promotion of choral music.

Friday, March 31, 2000

Arkansas Democrat-Gazette

Chamber Singers will tackle Bach with part of Passion of Our Lord,

Arkansas Chamber Singers 8 p.m. today, St. Mark's Episcopal Church, 1000 N. Mississippi St. Bach: The Passion of Our Lord According to St. John Admission: \$15, \$10 students and senior citizens (501) 377-1121

BY ERIC E. HARRISON
ARKANSAS DI MOCRATGAZETTI

Marking the 250th anniversary of the death of composer Johann Sebastian Bach as well the middle of Lent, the Arkansas Chamber Singers will perform Bach's St. John Passion tonight at St. Mark's Episcopal Church.

John Erwin will conduct the massive choral work in the original German. He will have two guest soloists - Stanley Warren, tenor, as the Evangelist, and Matthew Carey, baritone, as

Stepping out of the choir for solos will be bass Stephen Edds as Jesus and baritone Warren Stringer as Peter, plus Diana Holzhauser and Dawn Jackson, sopranos; Ruth Hooper, Amy Wittenberg and Marcy Berry, altos; and Jeff Parker, tenor. Accompanying them will be a

17-piece instrumental ensemble. Tve sung in the St. John choral parts, bass solos, I've sung Jesus and Pilate - but I've never conducted it," Erwin says. "I'm looking forward to it. It just so happens this is a piece I've wanted to do for some time."

Bach wrote four passions the story of the arrest and crucifixion of Christ, one according to each of the four Gospels. The St. Matthew and St. John passions are the best known. The St. Luke Passion is almost never performed, and the St. Mark Passion exists only in fragments. There have been two attempts by scholars to complete the work in the last 20 years.

The text of this work sticks pretty close to the biblical Gospel according to St. John, with a few interpolations from St. Matthew, Erwin says, adding that the St. John Passion is a more dramatic work than Bach's more massive

St. Matthew Passion "The St. Matthew is more

grandiose," he says. Erwin says he will follow the accepted baroque performance practice and take the piece "on the fast side rather than on the slow side," noting, however that the church's live acoustics make it hard to take it "as fast as we'd

Warren, who as the Evangelist sings the narration in recitative, is associate professor of voice at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth. He studied with Jan DeGaetani at the Eastman School of Music and with Peter Pears in England. He



Matthew Carey

has sung Evangelist roles in Bach passions in Boston; Louisville, Ky.; Pittsburgh; Atlanta;

Rochester, N.Y.; and in England. "I told them, when I came on board, that the only way we could do St. John would be if we had a really good Evangelist," Erwin says, adding that he found Warren through recommendations and recordings.

Carey, a member of the voice faculty at Arkansas State University at Jonesboro, has sung in opera, recital and concert throughout the United States and

Germany. A native of Greenwich, Conn., he holds degrees from the Oberlin Conservatory of Music and the University of Michigan. He will be the soloist in Aaron Copland's Old American Songs and narrate Copland's A Lincoln Portruit with the Northeast Arkansas Symphony in Jones-

boro on May 7 The Chamber Singers have performed the St. John Passion before, in May 1985, under the baton of Thomas Dunn, then director of Boston's Handel and Haydn Society.

ARKANSAS TIMES • MARCH 31, 2000

Chamber Singers show 'passion'

■ Nationally renowned tenor Stanley Warren will join the Arkansas Chamber Singers in their performance of J.S. Bach's masterwork "The Passion of Our Lord according to St. John" on Friday, March 31.

The program at St. Mark's Episcopal hurch, 1000 N. Mississ The acclaimed work contains some of Bach's more beautiful choruses. The dramatic narrative and pleading arias make it a powerful and moving work.

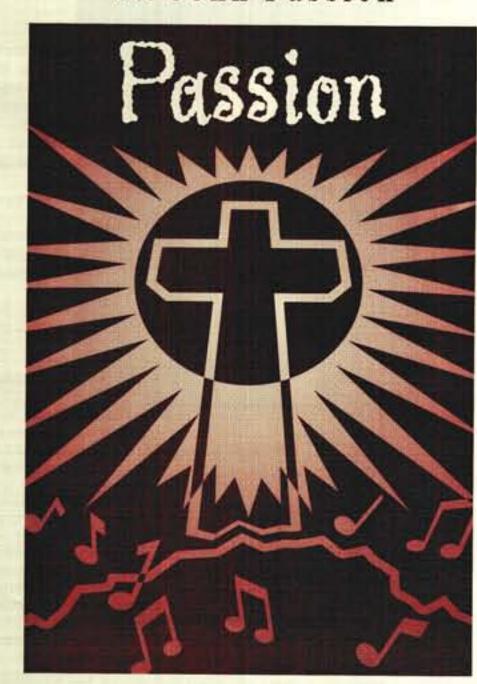
Warren, an accomplished interpreter of the works of Bach and Britten, will sing the role of the Evangelist. He has performed this role in the Bach Passions in England, New York, Boston, Louisville, Pittsburgh, Atlanta and Rochester. Warren is professor of voice at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas,

Matthew Carey, a baritone, has the role of Pilate. Carey is a member of the voice faculty at Arkansas State University and has sung throughout the United States and Germany as a concert artist and in operatic roles.

Stephen Edds, bass, will play the role of Jesus, while baritone Warren Stringer is Petrus. Soprano soloists are Diana Holzhauser and Dawn Jackson, alto soloists are Ruth Hooper and Amy Wittenberg, and tenor is Jeff Parker. Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$10 for

seniors and students. Call 377-1121.

St. John Passion





Friday, March 31, 2000 8 p.m.

St. Mark's Episcopal Church Little Rock, Arkansas



Chamber Singers outdo St. John Passion soloists

The Arkansas Chamber Singers paid a fitting Lenten trib-ute to the 250th anniversary of the death of composer Johann Sebas-

death of composer Johann Sebas-tian Bach with a stunning perfor-mance of Bach's St. John Passion Friday night at Little Rock's St. Mark's Episcopal Church.

The 47-member choir sang su-perbly and outshone the soloists, both the two imports and the eight chorus members who did double, and sometimes triple, duty.

Tenor Stanley Warren, who as the Evangelist tells the St. John's Gospel account of the arrest, trial, crucifixion and burial of Jesus, has a beautiful vocal instrument. But he sounded like a veteran of dozens of passion performances, which he is; his recitatives were too easy, too smooth — I missed the passion in the Passion.

Baritone Matthew Carey sang Pilate as though it were an oper-atic role (Bach wrote no operas that we know of; his two great Passions come close), and it worked pretty well. Carey also did yeo-man service in the bass aria solos, including "Mein teurer Heiland" ("O Thou my Savior"), interwoven with a quiet chorale

Bass Stephen Edds was a no-ble Jesus, particularly in musical pronouncements like "Mein Reich ist nicht von dieser Welt" ("My kingdom is not of this world"). Baritone Warren Stringer hanMusic review

dled Peter's few lines ably. Otherwise, I was not particularly impressed by the in-house soloists — Diana Holzhauser and Dawn Jackson, sopranos; Ruth Hooper and Amy Wittenberg, altos; and Jeff Parker, tenor — who lacked either the vocal strength or flexibility (or in some cases both) to make their arias work.

The chorus, however, was won derful throughout, particularly in the dramatic moments as high priests, soldiers and/or populace, bringing Jesus before Pilate, howling for his crucifixion, mock-ing the "King of the Jews," demanding the release of Barabbas and casting lots for Jesus' clothes (Bach cunningly hints at military

trumpets in the fugue). They were also good in the chorales, which conductor John Erwin took at a respectable, nononsense clip, and especially in the mighty final, tear-jerking cho-rus, "Ruht wohl" ("Rest well"). The 17-piece instrumental en-semble, mostly members of the

Arkansas Symphony, was generally good in accompaniment. It included a small pipe organ instead of the church's mighty behemoth. It was also unjustly uncredited in the program, which did contain scholarly program notes and a full German text and English translation for the comfort of concertgoers.

ARKANSAS TIMES - APRIL 7, 2000

MUSIC REVIEWS

Chorus, Jesus save 'St. John's Passion' BY NATALIE GARDNER

■ The Arkansas Chamber Singers, directed by professor John M. Erwin, paid a beautiful, if slow, tribute to Johann Sebastian Bach with Bach's "St. John's Passion" at St. Mark's Episcopal Church in Little Rock last Friday.

Tenor Stanley Warren, an associate professor of voice at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, and baritone Matthew Carey, a member of the voice faculty at Arkansas State University, were invited to portray the roles of the Evangelist and Pilate, respectively. Both helped tell a sizable audience the story of the arrest, trial, crucifixion and burial of Jesus according to the Gospel of St. John.

Although these two men rarely missed a beat throughout the two-hour performance, their portrayals lacked much excitement. It seemed as though they were at a dress rehearsal instead of the big night. Impressive, though, was Carey's strong vocal approach to Pilate.

Some of the local soloists - Ruth Hooper and Amy Wittenberg, altos; Diana Holzhauser and Dawn Jackson, sopranos; Jeff Parker, tenor; and Warren Stringer, bass --- weren't up to their parts. They were straining to hit the notes, and some were barely audible. It was during these times that a reporter began looking at her watch.

Bass Stephen Edds, who portrayed Jesus, did a fine job. His pronunciation was by the far the best of the evening.

Also outstanding: The 47-member chorus. which portrayed a mournful crowd for the crucified Jesus and an angry crowd of soldiers crying for the death of the son of God. They sang "Kreuzige" ("Off with him. Crucify!") with intensity, and "Ruht wohl, ihr heiligen Gebeine, die ich nun weiter nicht beweine" ("Rest well, beloved, sweetly sleeping, that I may cease from further weeping") with overwhelming sadness.

A detailed program was helpful to those unfamiliar with the "Passion." Audience members could follow along with the program notes and a handy German/English translation. The translation made the concert that much more enjoyable.

Members of the Arkansas Symphony Orchestra who accompanied the chamber singers did a nice job, even if they were prominently missing from the program.

The Arkansas Chamber Singers will take the summer off and return in October with "My Spirit Sang All Day."

FRIDAY, MAY 5, 2000

OUR LONG-AGO CLASSMATE Jackie Wright - her choir i. in trouble. Somebody in charge needs a seri-

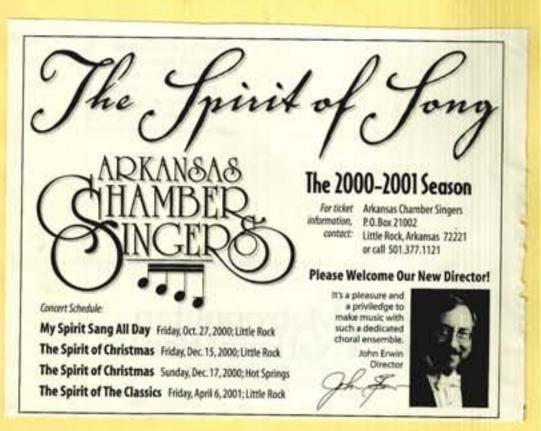
"I belong to a group that has an unfortunate name: Arkansas Chamber Singers. It's not only difficult to enunciate, especially on a radio spot where time is very limited, but the title ACS does not represent what we do."

"Chamber" is the problem word. The dictionary says a chamber is a room. Jackie Wright insists, "We are not room singers." Neither does the choir gather in legislative halls, see Senate chamber. Then there's something in the dictionary called a chamber pot.

About this, Jackie says, "Dear me." So the choir is changing its name. Suggestions so far: "Chorale Arkansas." "Arkansas Choral Singers." "Many Blenders." "Singers-for-All." "A Band of Voices." ABOV? Nah, better to be the Chamber Pots. Not all are sour notes - not exactly. But the choir

sounds better than its made-up IDs. Who's got an old choir name lying around?







September-October 2000

a publication of

ANNUAL MEETING/DINNER

The Annual Meeting and Dinner of Arkansas Chamber Singers was held on August 13, at the home of Richard and Marcie Hixson. The meeting was called to order by Jim Stewart, marking his last official function as President of the Board. He has served admirably for the past two years, steering ACS through a change in Music Directors and the celebration of our 20th Anniversary.

After a review of the past year, the hour-long business meeting addressed events of the new year - upcoming fundraisers (trips to London and Paris and the February Valentine Dinner); repertoire for the coming season; an expanded schedule of run-out concerts; and nominations and election of officers and Board members in the Class of 2002.

Officers: President-Christine Donahue Mayo; Vice-Presidents-Richard Hixson, Jackie Wright and Keith Straughn; Secretary-Georganne Ricks; and Treasurer: Robert McQuade.

Board Class of 2002: Christy Amatangelo, Judith Harris, Richard Hixson, Richard Jordan, Christine Mayo, Mary Morton, Lynn Payette, Georganne Ricks and Jackie Wright.

Along with Board Class of 2001 - Clyde Glover, Paula Inman, Robert McQuade, Cathy Sanders, Jim Stewart, Keith Straughn and Joan Wallace, the entire organization looks forward to an exciting season of music making.

The meeting was adjourned and all present enjoyed a scrumptious pot-luck feast!

Christine Donahue Mayo, President

COME TRAVEL WITH US

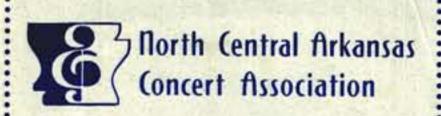
Did this summer get to you? Do you feel you need to reward yourself for enduring the endless weeks of 100° temperatures? Why not a nice trip to London? or Paris? or Vienna and Prague? We can help you get there, and you in turn can help Arkansas Chamber Singers while having the time of your life!

This Fall, ACS is co-sponsoring another trip destination, merry old England — dates, November 27 - December 4. Be transported back to Roman times while roamin' the charming streets of Bath and discovering the beauty of the Cotswolds. Two nights' accommodations will be at the Hilton Bath City. Then it's on to London, for four nights at the Thistle Bloomsbury. Just imagine St. James Park, Big Ben, Harrods, London Theater, Covent Garden, Advent Lessons and Carols at King's College Chapel. The cost is \$2350 plus \$128 in taxes. This includes air transportation via Continental Airlines. all transfers, porterage for one bag per person, hotels, breakfast each morning and a half-day sightseeing tour in London, including the Tower of London. And the best part - \$500 of the total package is a tax-deductible gift to Arkansas Chamber Singers. You have a great time and you help us continue to make beautiful music.

If November in England doesn't fit into your calendar, there are still some places available for the Vienna/Prague trip on November 1-10; or a trip to Paris in March might be just the thing.

Contact Mary Morton, 681-4545, as soon as possible. Make your reservations NOW!

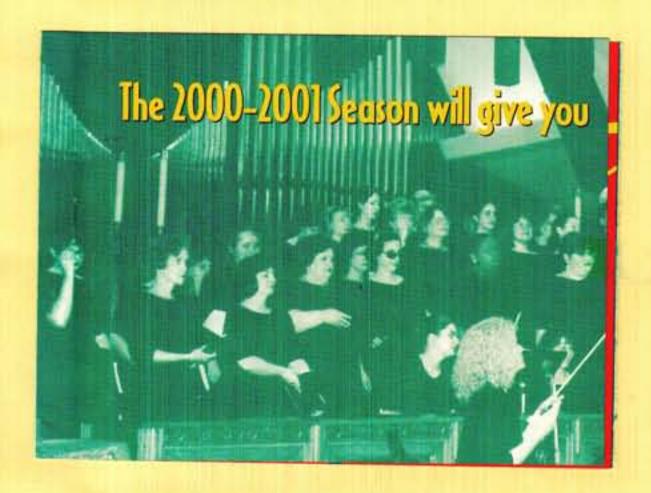
Mission Statement: The Arkansas Chamber Singers is an auditioned vocal ensemble committed to performing the finest of classical and contemporary choral repertoire. The ensemble is dedicated to enriching the lives of singers, audiences and the community at large by presenting professional quality performances that convey the joy of music; and to developing an expanded audience through education. creative programming and the promotion of choral music.

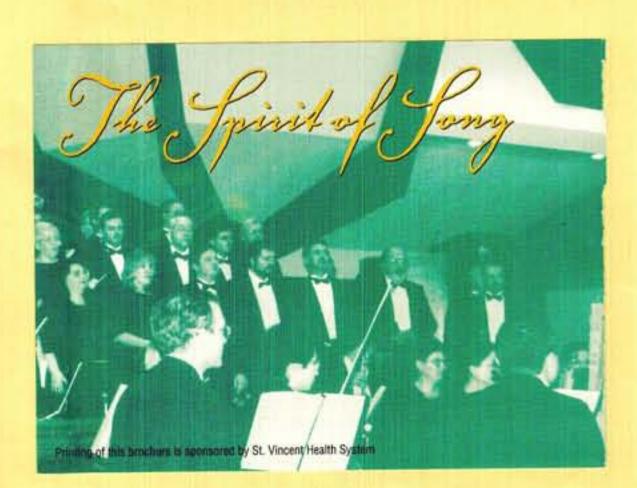


The Arkansas Chamber Singers



A Heartland Arts Fund Program supported by the National Endowment for the Arts and the Arkansas Arts Council.







Arkansas Democrat-Gazette

Friday, October 27, 2000

Spirit of the British Isles inspires 55-voice chorus

BY ERIC E. HARRISON ARKANSAS DEMOCRAFGAZETTE

Music by four centuries of British composers and adaptations of Irish and Scottish tunes make up My Spirit Sang All Day, the Arkansas Chamber Singers' first concert of the 2000-2001 season, at 8 p.m. today at St. Mark's Episcopal Church, 1100 N. Mississippi St., Little Rock, and 7:30 p.m. Saturday at St. Luke's Episcopal Church, 228

Spring St., Hot Springs. Tickets for the Little Rock performance are \$15, \$10 for students and senior citizens. Call (501) 377-1121,

concert, part of the Fall Celebration of the Arts, are \$5. Call (501) 321-0234.

John Erwin conducts the choir, which at 55 members is larger than it has ever been, in the mostly a cappella concert. "It's larger than I wanted, but they are all so good," Erwin

says represents the "spirit of the British Isles," takes its title from a song by Gerald Finzi (1901-

composers: Sing Joyfully and Ave Verum by William Byrd

John in Love by Ralph Vaughan Williams; and four selections The program, which Erwin

Additional music by British

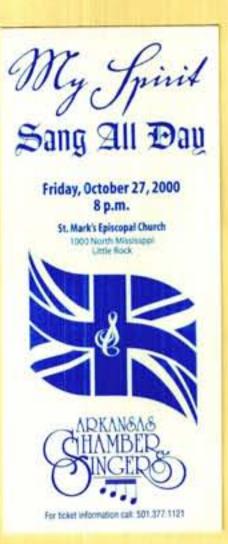
(1543-1623); Sing, Sing Ye Muses by John Blow (1649-1708); Rejoice in the Lamb by Benjamin Britten (1913-76); The Lamb and Song for Athene by John Tavener (born 1944); Beati quorum via by Charles Villiers Stanford (1852-1924); two selections from In Windsor Forest, a suite taken from the opera Sir

from operas by W.S. Gilbert and Sir Arthur Sullivan (1842-1900) "Hail Poetry" from The Pirates of Penzance, "When I Was a Lad" from H.M.S. Pinafore; "Three Little Maids" from The Mikado and the finale

from The Gondoliers.

Also on the program: five arrangements of Irish folk songs "The Girl I Left Behind Me," "Sing, Sing," "Johnny, I Hardly Knew Ye," "Has Sorrow Thy Young Days Shaded" and "Tell

My Ma When I Get Home." Soloists in the Britten piece are Jance Miller, soprano; Vickie Dorey, alto; Michael Walker, tenor, and Stephen Edds, bass; Lynn Bauman will accompany on the organ. Beth Wren will be the alto soloist in "Tell My Ma When I Get Home." Soprano Diana Holzhauser will sing a solo in the Vaughan Williams piece.



Please let us know how much sincerely appreciated. You n or put it in one of the boxes in

How did you learn about this

Newspaper_ Radio TV Playbill Other

Would you care to comment

Is this the first Arkansas Cha

If so, would you like to

Did you enjoy the performan scale of 1 (poor) to ten (excel

What kind of programming v

To help us identify geograph please tell us in which city or

May we add your name to ou information about future perf Singers? Please write your n

The chorus and board men

November - December 2000

Volume 5, Issue 2

ARKANSAS CHAMBER SINGERS SEASON OPENER

Arkansas Chamber Singers (ACS) started off their new season with a "jolly good show" - a program of songs from the British Isles. The 56-member chorus wowed audiences in both Little Rock and Hot Springs with their performances on October 27 and 28.

Under the artful direction of John Erwin, in his first full season as Music Director, the chorus sang their way through four centuries, beginning with William Byrd (the father of British choral music) onward to Benjamin Britten, Ralph Vaughn Williams, some hauntingly beautiful arrangements of Irish folk songs and ending with that famous pair, Gilbert and Sullivan.

If you missed this program, make sure you attend one of the holiday concerts. We guarantee you'll have a wonderful time!

WITH A SONG IN MY HEART

Our annual benefit evening takes place Friday, February 16, 2001. With a Song in My Heart will feature some of the Singers in selections from musical theater and popular repertoire. Last year's event at the Little Rock Club was such a big hit, we're returning to that same beautiful setting, anticipating another outstanding culinary feast from the Club's superb staff. We're adding a Silent Auction during the cocktail hour, from 6:30 to 7:30 PM, so get there early. Cost is \$75 per person. Reservations can be made by calling 377-1121.

a publication of



HOLIDAY CHEER

The holiday season and its accompanying flurry of social activities is fast upon us. Mark your calendar for one more event you won't want to miss -Mistletoe and Music - a holiday open house on Thursday, December 21, from 7PM to 9PM. This special fundraiser will be an evening of delicious hors d'oeuvres, delectable sweets, delightful music and dazzling decorations, all served up in the beautiful Chenal Valley home of Bill and Mary Morton. The cost is \$25.00 per person. For information, call 329-1827; and for reservations, call 377-1121.



And don't forget the holiday concert, scheduled for Friday, December 15, at 8PM at St. Mark's Episcopal Church in Little Rock; and Sunday, December 17 at 3PM at St. Luke's Episcopal Church in Hot Springs. The Spirit of Christmas will "put you in the spirit," with English carols as the musical form that will be featured, along with a number of familiar Christmas selections to touch your heart, and a traditional sing-along time for you to join the chorus in familiar holiday music. Tickets are \$15 (\$10 for students and seniors) and may be purchased from any of the Chamber Singers or by calling 377-1121. You may also get tickets at the door on the dates of the performances.

Mission Statement: The Arkansas Chamber Singers is an auditioned vocal ensemble committed to performing the finest of classical and contemporary choral repertoire. The ensemble is dedicated to enriching the lives of singers, audiences and the community a large by presenting professional quality performances that convey the joy of music; and to developing an expanded audience through education, creative programming and the promotion of choral music.

Chamber Singers program, performance joy to the ears

BY BILL JONES
SPECIAL TO THE DEMOCRATGAZETT

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 28, 2000

If the Germans have their symphonies and the Italians their operas, then surely the English and Irish have their songs. The Arkan-sas Chamber Singers displayed some of the vocal treasures of the British Isles in a Friday night con-cert at St. Mark's Episcopal Chillent

Titled after one of the pierch. "My Spirit Sang All Day," the ces, gram was a thoughtful, well program was a thoughtful, well balanced sampling of different octions, composers and choral society. Ranging from the Renaissance to the present, from William Byth to John Tavener, with a little Gilbert and Sullivan thrown in for good measure, the concert directed by John Erwin, made a more than satisfying whole.

The first half of the bill was largely devoted to arrangements of religious works. Byrd's "Sing Joyfully" featured sharp phrasing and brisk chorus work, while "Ave verum corpus" exhibited a solidly grounded spirituality.

Restoration-era composer John slow's "Sing Sing Ye Muses" was filled with Baroque brightness and was neatly balanced by the strikingly beautiful "Beati quorum via" by the Edwardian-era icon, Sir Charles Villiers Stanford.

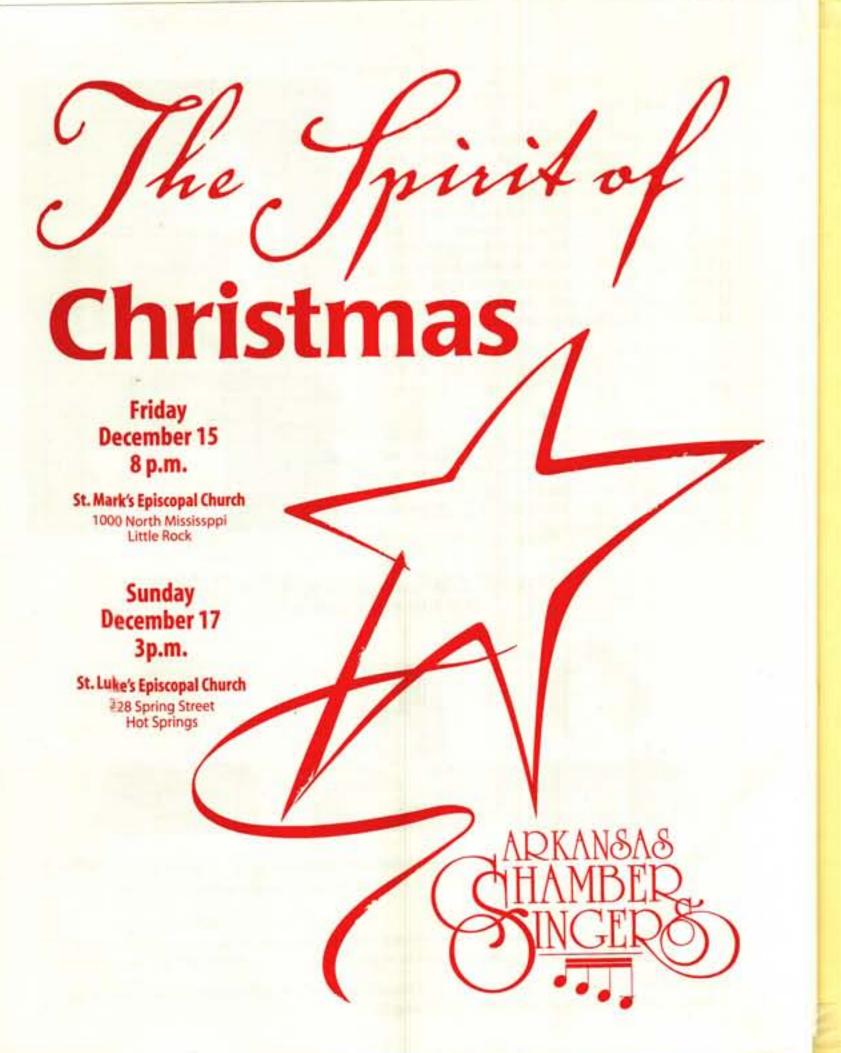
A cantata by 20th-century master Benjamin Britten based on 18thcentury poet Christopher Smart's "Jubilate Agno" proved the highlight of the evening. The chorus performed splendidly in the turbulent "For I am under the same accusation" and the transcendent "Hallelujah from the heart of God." Soprano Janee Miller, alto Vickie

Music

Dorey, tenor Michael Walker and bass Stephen Edds each shone in solo sections.

Mystical contemporary composer Tavener's "Song for Athene" and "The Lamb" (based on William Blake's poem) were stunning in their contemplative simplicity. Then, shifting the mood, the Chamber Singers offered a delightful in-terpretation of Gerald Finzi's "My Spirit Sang All Day."

Two contrasting pieces by Ralph Vaughn Williams, "Sigh No More, Ladies" and "Whether Men Do Laugh or Weep" were perfectly ar-ticulated. A set of warmly sung Irish folk songs was followed by a group of Gilbert and Sullivan tunes, which proved to be the only weak numbers, possibly because the witty lyrics tend to lose some of their edge when sung by multiple voices Even so, the concert left the audience, in W.S. Gilbert's words, "with feelings of pleasure."



Friday, December 15, 2000

Arkansas Democrat-Gazette

Chamber singers' lineup runs from sublime to silly

BY ERIC E. HARRISON ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE

The Arkansas Chamber Singers invoke The Spirit of Christmas with music ranging from the religious to the ridiculous in concerts this weekend.

John Erwin conducts the 50-member choir in songs of the season, and occasionally the audience gets to sing along as well.

Today's concert is at 8 p.m. at St. Mark's Episcopal Church in west Little Rock. Sunday's 3 p.m. concert is at St. Luke's Episcopal Church in Hot Springs.

"It's a potpourri of Christmas tunes," Erwin says, "from Renaissance to contempo-

The "serious" side of the program: "Sing We Now of Christmas" by Fred Prentice; Music

Arkansas Chamber Singers

8 p.m. today, St. Mark's Episcopal
Church, 1100 N. Mississippi St.,
Little Rock; 3 p.m. Smday, St. Luke's
Episcopal Church, 228 Spring
St., Hot Springs

Episcopal Church, 228 Spring St., Hot Springs Minister: \$15, \$10 students and senior citizens (501) 377-1171

"The Hills Are Bare at Bethlehem," arranged by Ralph Johnson, with soprano Diana Holzhauser as soloist; "Three Kings" by Healey William, "What Cheer?" by William Walton; an arrangement of "Patapan"; "Mary's Lullaby" and "Dormi, Jesu" by John Rutter; "Virgin's Lullaby" by Bill Cutter with Cloris Bell, soprano; "A Child Is Born in

Bethlehem" by Malcolm

Archer; "Carol of the Bells";
"Beams of Gentle Light," a
Hannukah tune arranged by
Robert Evans Holmes, with
soprano Carolyn Setliff as
soloist; and "Awake, Arise and
Hail the Morn" by Mack

Wilberg. After intermission, things start to lighten up: The Musicological Journey through the Twelve Dayx by Craig Courtney, with each of the 12 days of Christmas represented by a different musical style, starting with Gregorian chant and wrapping up with Sousa's Stars and Stripes Forever. Deck the Halls in 7/8, arranged by James McKelvy; A Glimpse of Snow and Evergreen by Vijay Singh (not the golf pro); and A Consort of Choral Christmas Carols by P.D.Q. Bach, the "last and least son" of J.S. Bach (according to "discoverer" Peter Schickele): "Throw a Log On, Uncle John," "O Little Town of Hackensack" and "Good King Kong Looked Out."

The concert will conclude with "Go Tell It on the Mountain."

Audience sing-along numbers will conclude four of the concert's six sections — "Joy to the World," "O Come All Ye Faithful," "Silent Night" and "The First Noel," SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2000 •

REVIEW

Music

Concert gives Christmas modern touch

BY BILL JONES
SPECIAL TO THE DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE

The weather outside may have been frightful, but the sounds of the Arkansas Chamber Singers couldn't have been more delightful. In its Spirit of Christmas concert Friday night at St. Mark's Episcopal Church, the group treated a large audience to a mostly modern celebration of the season.

Under the direction of John M. Erwin, the Chamber Singers displayed, in piece after piece, a striking precision of phrasing and sensitivity to textual nuance.

Female and male voices were admirably balanced in the opening selection, Fred Prentice's arrangement of "Sing We Now of Christmas." Soprano Diana Holzhauser offered beautifully shaped opening lyrics in Ralph Johnson's arrangement of "The Hills are Bare at Bethlehem."

One of several highlights in the program was Canadian composer Healey Willan's "Three Kings," with its ascending sopranos and altos and resolution in a mystical choral descent.

A set of 20th-century interpretations of the traditional nativity lullaby provided an introspective interiude. The last line in John Rutter's "Dormi, Jesu" was stretched to mesmerizing length by the chorus. Soprano Clois Bell's solo in William Cutter's "Virgin's Lullaby" was most effective.

Leontovich's sprightly "Carol of the Bells" was flawlessly rendered by the group, while Robert Holmes Hanukkah melody, "Beams of Light," featured a quietly effective solo by soprano Caroly Sethiff. "Awake, Arise and Hail the Morn," a Sacred Harp song, ended the first part of the concert on an energetic note with able assistance from organist Lynn Bouman.

Good humor prevailed in the second half. Pianist Gini Law and the chorus quoted freely from Mozart. Wagner, Tchaikovsky and other composers in Craig Courtney's brilliantly parodistic "Musicological Journey Through the Twelve Days of Christmas," the single-most enjoyable work performed.

Coming close, however, were the jazzy "Deck the Halls in 7/8 Time" (with a fine solo by soprano Lauri Brown) and the wonderfully absurd "Consort of Choral Christmas Carols" by Peter Schickele (alias P.D.Q. Bach).

The Arkansas Chamber Singers will present The Spirit of Christmas at 3 p.m. Sunday at St. Luke's Episcopal Church, 228 Spring St., Hot Springs.

A Benefit for the Arkanus Chamber Singer

"Mistletoe and Music"

Delicroite Born Procures

Swelfel Helliley Decomilies Worderful Music

Thursday December 21" 2000

7:00 - 9:00pm

57 Chenal Circle

Tittle Rock

\$25 per person

nond

Holiday music abounds

■ Tis the season to enjoy holiday music. The Arkansas Chamber Singers will perform their holiday program of English carols and other favorites in two locations.

· ARKANSAS TIMES · DECEMBER 15, 2000

This 50-voice choral group will perform Friday, Dec. 15, at 8 p.m. at St. Mark's Episcopal Church on Mississippi and Evergreen in Little Rock. Then join them Sunday, Dec. 17, at 3:00 p.m. at St. Luke's Episcopal Church, 228 Spring St., in Hot Springs.

Tickets for both performances are \$15 adults, \$10 seniors and children. Call 377-1121 for more information.



"With A Song In My Heart" February 16th, 2001 Arkansas Chamber Singers & Friends Program

"Begin The Beguine" (Cole Porter) Christine Donahue

"Ol' Man River" (Kern and Hammerstein, Show Boat) John Czarnecki

"My Funny Valentine" (Rogers & Hart, Babes In Arms) Nan Maureen

"Someone To Watch over Me" (Gershwin) Ruth Hooper

"On The Street Where You Live" (Lerner & Loewe, Mark Hooper

My Fair Lady)

"Wishing You Were Somehow Here Again" (Webber, Cristy Amatangelo

The Phantom of the Opera)

"Teddy Bear" (Kal Mann and Bernie Lowe) Joseph Amatangelo

"All I Ask Of You" (Webber, The Phantom of the Opera) Stephen & Denise Edds

"Every Time We Say Goodbye" (Cole Porter) Christine

"With A Song In My Heart"

Musicians: Gini Law & Geri Alt

Tech Crew John & Joseph Amatangelo





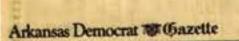














Chamber Singers gather items for harmonious silent auction Wright, Sue Ulmer, Leslie Collins, Pat Scuras, Jack Hitt, Dr. Richard Jordan, Pat Overton, Nancy and Dr. Warren Boop, Mary Fine, Judith Harris, Jeanette Nail, Joanne and Bob McQuade, Jean Anderson, Virginia Hilliard, Paula and Fred Inman, Helen and Dr. Sam Carruthers, Mollie and Bob Goza, Janee and Jay Miller, Dr. Tyler Thompson, Ellen and Dr. James Kane, Mary Morton, Sally and Dr. Clyde Glover, Dawn Jackson, Joann and Garth Martin, Edith and Dave Parr, Larry Curtis, Diana and David

Curtis, Diana and David

Curtis, Diana and David Holzhauser, Ruth and Mark Hooper, John Czarnecki, Drs. Marcie and Richard Hixson, Willeen Hixson, Wynona Thompson, Nan Renaud, Gene Baxter, Melanie Steele and Christine and George Mayo.

The Little Rock Club was filled with lovers of music Feb. 16 at the fifth annual With a Song in My Heart, a benefit for the Arkansas Chambar Chambar

Chamber Singers. The silent auction kept the musical theme with a metronome and a pottery bowl with notes in

its design.

But the Chamber Singers got in the act, too, by gathering items for theme baskets for the auction. The tenors offered all four Harry Potter books and items suggested by the books; the altos offered an "evening of romance" with bubbly and flutes, candles and bubble bath; the basses contributed botties of wine to make a large assortment in a wine bucket; and the sopranos — always called divas — put together a "diva glam-our basket," containing perfumes, instant nails, Godiva chocolates, foot therapy and shower sponges

and a CD. Entertainment was provided by president Christine Donahue and the singers.

The Chamber Singers are a volunteer group that performs
with a professional conductor,
John Erwin of the music department at the University of Central Arkansas in Conway. The 80 guests included Jackie













Friday April 6, 2001 8 p.m.

St. Mark's Episcopal Church 1000 North Mississippi Little Rock



Mozart's enchanting Vesperae Solennes de confessore

Haydn's joyful Mass in D

TICKETS: \$15.00 - ADULT \$10.00 - STUDENT/SENIOR

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR RESERVATIONS CALL 501-377-1121



March-April 2001

Volume 5, Issue 3



a publication of

SEASON FINALE

Arkansas Chamber Singers will be concluding a successful 22nd season on Friday, April 6, at 8 p.m., at St. Mark's Episcopal Church, 1000 N. Mississippi in Little Rock, presenting "THE SPIRIT OF THE CLASstes." The program includes Mozart's Vesperae Solennes de confessore and Haydri's Mass in D (the Lord Nelson Mass.) Joining the chorus in this enchanting and joyful musical feast will be four extremely talented soloists - Christine Donahue, Martha Antolik, David Itkin and Stephen Edds. Instrumentalists for the evening will be the Arkansas Symphony Chamber Orchestra.

This is a "must" performance all choral music lovers will not want to miss!

Get your tickets today from any member of the chorus or by calling 501-377-1121.

Ticket costs: \$15 - adult; \$10 - student/senior.

... from the Director

It is appropriate that we conclude our series, "The Spirit of Song," with two seminal works of the classical era — the Mozart Solemn Vespers and the Haydn Lord Nelson Mass. These two wonderful compositions exude the spirit of the classical era. The grace, the elegance, and the sheer beauty of this music will surely lift your spirits.

Please join us for a musical evening of classical beauty.

John Erwin

LOOKING BACK **LOOKING AHEAD**

The annual meeting of Arkansas Chamber Singers will be held on Sunday, June 10, 2001, starting at 4:30 p.m., at the home of Sally and Clyde Glover. #5 Hickory Hills Circle.

A review of the 2000-2001 season — five concerts (three in Little Rock and two in Hot Springs) — on tour to Harrison for a sixth run-out concert - two fundraisers ("Mistletoe and Music" and "With a Song in My Heart") - two ACSsponsored European trips (to London and Paris); a look into the 2001-2002 season entitled "Illuminare: Season of Light," and the election of board members and officers will highlight the

The traditional pot-luck supper will follow the meeting, at 6:30 p.m. All singers and their guests are welcome to attend. Call the Glover's at 501-221-0499 to reserve your place.

... more to come

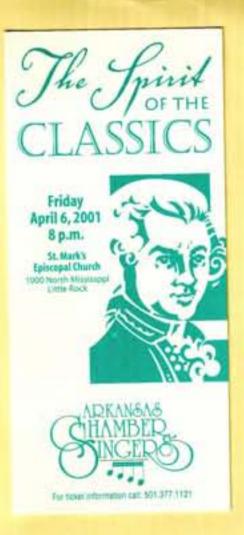
Choral Workshop in August Youth Chorale at Christmas

SURF THE WEB

Did you know Arkansas Chamber Singers has a web page on the internet? Check it out for a look at a bit of Chamber Singers history and find out what's going on with ACS today.

www.ar-chambersingers.org

Mission Statement: The Arkansas Chamber Singers is an auditioned vocal ensemble committed to performing the finest of classical and contemporary choral repertoire. The ensemble is dedicated to enriching the lives of singers, audiences and the community at large by presenting professional quality performances that convey the joy of music; and to developing an expanded audience throug education, creative programming and the promotion of choral music.



CHOPIN LISZT

Dear Pat,

Anclose arrall the

things the singer sent,

and a few from me.

and a few fill all

I hope these fill all

There so much for

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Arkansas Democrat To Chazette

. SATURDAY, APRIL 7, 2001 . 3B

Chamber Singers at top of form in finale

Voices, accompanists do more than justice to Mozart, Haydn in season closer

BY BILL JONES SPECIAL TO THE DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE

The "sublime" was a subject hat exercised the wits of various 18th-century thinkers. Definitions varied from writer to writer, but surely all would have agreed that the Mozart and Haydn program performed Friday night by the Arkansas Chamber Singers lived up to the word.

Accompanied by members of the Arkansas Symphony Orches-tra and featuring soloists Christine Donahue (soprano), Martha Antolik (alto), David Itkin (tenor) and Stephen L. Edds (bass), the Chamber Singers, crisply directed by John M. Erwin, presented two of the most graceful embodiments of the classical tradition in their season finale at St. Mark's Episcopal Church — Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart's Vesperae solennes de confessore and Franz Joseph Haydn's Missa in angustus, better known as the Lord Nelson Mass.

The Vesperue solennes began with the chorus, soloists and orchestra members combining for a stirring "Dixit Dominus" section. followed by a brass-punctuated "Confitebor tibi" that ended in a strongly stated doxology by the chorus. A sprightly "Beatus vir" included outstanding work by soprano Donahue, with dramatic tension provided by the chorus.

But the concluding sections of

REVIEW Music

The Chamber Singers did equal justice to Haydn's Lord Nelson Mass, with the orchestra supplying a compelling opening in the "Kyrie."

the Mozart piece truly ap-proached the 18th-century sublime. The brass and strings provided strong support for the chorus in the fugal "Laudate pueri."

Donahue's soulful solo in "Laudate Dominum" was complemented by the understated winds and strings. Meanwhile, the chorus gently glided through the "Gloria Patri." The four soloists joyfully converged in the triumphant concluding section, "Magnificat anima mea."

The Chamber Singers did equal justice to Haydn's Lord Nelson Mass, with the orchestra supplying a compelling opening in the "Kyrie." Edds and Itkin effec-tively blended bass and tenor in the "Gloria," while the chorus

soared in the conclusion of "Quoniam tu solus."

For the final phrase of the "Et incarnatus" section, the combined soloists were followed by the chorus in a transcendent moment. The vigorous "Et resurrexit" was balanced by the stately "Sanctus." Soloists, chorus and orchestra members superbly elaborated the "Benedictus." Alto Antolik shone in the "Agnus Dei," and the chorus brought Haydn's work to a lively ending with "Dona nobis pacem."

Entertainment notes

Cord tips and stage trips offered

John Erwin, choral director at the University of Central Arkansas in Conway and music director of the Ar-kansas Chamber Singers, will lead a workshop on vocal health, 2-5 p.m. Aug. 25 in the choir room of Second Presbyterian Church, 600 Pleasant Valley Drive at Cantrell Road, Little Rock.

The Chamber Singers are sponsoring the workshop. Cost is \$10, including refreshments during a break. Call (501) 377-1121.

The workshop is open to all singers at all levels of musical accomplishment. It will cover exercises, warm-ups and singing techniques; participants will apply their newly acquired skills to reading "in-spiring musical literature."

Erwin is also holding auditions for the Chamber Singers through Wednesday. To make an appointment, call (501) 450-5757. ***

Arkansas Democrat-Gazette

11W

Singers begin season celebrating the light

Music

Arkansas Chamber Singers 8 p.m. today, St. Mark's Episcopal Church, 1000 N. Mississippi St., Little

Program: John Erwin conducts works by Pinkham, Bach, Britten, Schubert, Brahms, Schumann, Hovland and

Admission: \$15, \$10 students and sen-(501) 377-1121

BY ERIC E. HARRISON ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE

The Arkansas Chamber Singers are calling their 2001-02 season "Illuminare: The Season of Light." They are focusing tonight's season opener at St.
Mark's Episcopal Church on
"Light Throughout the Ages,"
and dedicating it "to the memory of those lost on Sept. II, 2001, and to all those living who mourn them."

John Erwin will conduct the singers, with Lynn Bauman on piano and organ and a 10-mem-

ber chamber orchestra. The program will open with "Light Out of Darkness": In the Beginning of Creation by Daniel Pinkham. Representing "Christ, the Light of the World" is J.S. Bach's Cantata No. 79, "Gott, Her ist Sonne und Schild." Soloists will be Vickie Dorey, alto; Janee

Miller, soprano; and Warren Stringer, bass.

Miller and tenor Don Hill will be soloists in Benjamin Britten's Wedding Anthem, de-picting "The Light of Love." A series of songs by Franz Schu-bert, Johannes Brahms and Robert Schumann will be "In Praise of Nature — the Light of the Sun, Moon and Stars." Soloists will be Nan Maureen Renaud, Dawnelle Fincher, Ruth Hooper, Hildredge D. Tripp,

Gary Moore and T. Tyler

Thompson. Stephen Edds will narrate Saul, a 1972 work by Egil Hov-land, an image of "The Lord as

"In Remembrance" from Requiem by Eleanor Daley will be in memory of Sept. 11, "with the illumination of Light Eternal,"

followed by Sure on This Shining Night by Samuel Barber with a text by James Agee.

The concert will conclude with arrangements of two spirituals: "Keep Your Lamps Trimmed and Burning" and This Little Light of Mine."



October-November 2001

Volume 6, Issue 1



Illuminare: THE SEASON OF LIGHT

The 23rd Season of Arkansas Chamber Singers opens on Friday, October 26, 2001 at 8:00 p.m. at St. Mark's Episcopal Church, 1000 N. Mississippi. Following the season's theme, this concert-Light Throughout the Ages-will feature selections from Bach through Britten, traditional through contemporary, classical through modern.

Ticket costs: \$15 - adult: \$10 - student/ senior. Reserve yours today at 501-377-1121.

... from the Director

It is with much care and thoughtful consideration that Arkansas Chamber Singers present this opening concert in our Season of Light. The events of September 11, 2001 burn in our collective consciousness. It is true that our view of life is somehow altered; however, high above the remains in lower Manhattan is the torch of the Statue of Liberty, lifted high for all to see and to share in the warmth of its eternal illumination. The light of freedom shines on us still today. Our concert is dedicated to the memory of those who lost their lives in this act of incredible cruelty. Let us find comfort and hope in the beauty that our choral art can illuminate.

John Erwin

LOOKING BACK.... LOOKING AHEAD

The annual meeting of Arkansas Chamber Singers was held in June. Officers and Board members for the 2001-2002 season were elected. Five very dynamic new members were added to the Board: Linda Collins, Anne Coppenger, and Susan Fitzgerald bring great skills and much experience to the Board, not to mention a love for the art of choral music. And Mollie Goza and Phil Rickels join the Board from the ranks of our own singers. Phil brings his expertise in financial matters; and Mollie, who attended the Chorus America convention in Toronto in June, is bursting at the seams to get to work as our new Vice-President of Development and to use some of the new-found ideas she gathered at the convention. Our excitement is tempered, however, as we bid a fond farewell to James Stewart, Dr. Richard Jordan, Dr. Richard Hixson and Lynne Payette. Their service and enthusiastic support of Arkansas Chamber Singers has been greatly appreciated.

A Vocal Workshop led by John Erwin in August was well received by over 75 people.

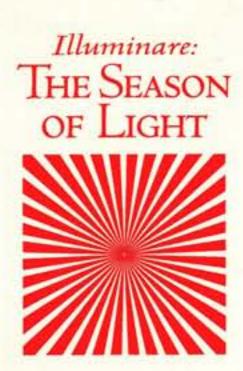
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Mission Statement: The Arkansas Chamber Singers is an auditioned vocal ensemble committed to performing the finest of classical and contemporary choral repertoire. The ensemble is dedicated to enriching the lives of singers, audiences and the community at large by presenting professional quality performances that convey the joy of music; and to developing an expanded audience through education, creative programming and the promotion of choral music

THE 2001-2002 SEASON

Illuminare: THE SEASON of Light





THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD

Carols and songs evoke the Light of Christmas Hebrew songs celebrate the Festival of Lights



Friday, December 14, 2001 8:00 p.m.

St. Mark's Episcopal Church, 1000 N. Mississippi, LR

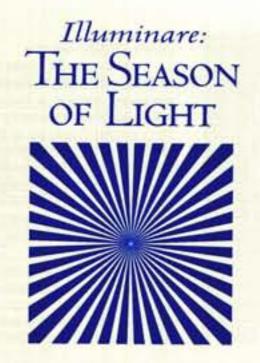
Saturday, December 15, 2001 7:00 p.m.

St. Luke's Episcopal Church, Hot Springs

Sunday, December 16, 2001 5:00 p.m.

St. Luke's Episcopal Church, No. Little Rock

TICKETS: \$15.00-ADULT • \$10.00-STUDENT/SENIOR FOR MORE INFORMATION OR RESERVATIONS CALL 501-377-1121

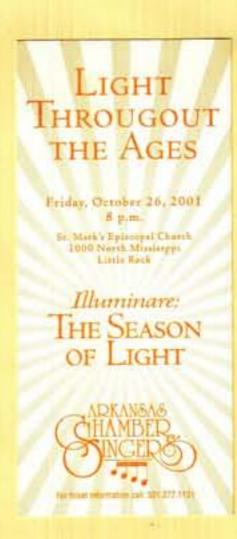


LIGHT THROUGOUT THE AGES

Friday, October 26, 2001 8 p.m.

> St. Mark's Episcopal Church 1000 North Mississppi Little Rock





Chamber singers present night of reverence, honor to Sept. 11

BY SEAN CLANCY ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE

The Arkansas Chamber Singers shone bright during their 2001-02 season debut at St. Mark's Episcopal Church on Friday night Creation, Irwin guided the with a diverse and vivid program dedicated "to the memory of those lost on Sept. 11, 2001, and to all those who mourn them."

In keeping with the season's Benjamin Britten's "A Wed-title, "Illuminare: The Season of ding Anthem" provided a perfect Light, the chamber singers, con-ducted by John Irwin, wove a pro-gram that ran the gamut from J.S. Bach's Cantata No. 79, 'Gott, Her ist Sonne und Schild" to the old chestnut "This Little Light of

Music

singers as recordings of eerie and mysterious electronic bleeps, blips and swooshes spiraled

throughout. palette as the singers, along with Eleanor Daley. "Do not stand at soloists Janee Miller and Don my grave and cry," they sang. "I Hill, put on a fine display of tal-

In the section of the program
"In Praise of Nature — the Light of the Sun, Moon and Stars," the

with soloists Nan Maureen Renaud, Dawnelle Fincher, Ruth Hopper, Hildredge D. Tripp, Gary Moore and T. Tyler Thompson. Lynn Bauman provided accompaniment on organ and piano along with a 10-member orchestra. Remembering those lost on Sept. 11, the singers offered a poignant reading of "In Remem-brance" from Requiem by

With Stephen Edds narrating, Saul, a 1972 work by Egil Hovland, was a haunting and stirring piece. Closing the evening, Irwin led Opening with Daniel singers deftly performed songs the singers through a spirited Pinkham's In the Beginning of by Franz Schubert, Johannes "This Little Light of Mine."

The Arkansas Chamber Singers are grateful for the support given by the following contributors. We could not have presented this season's fine musical repertoire without them.

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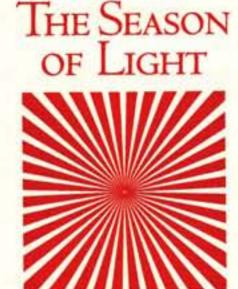
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THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD



Friday, December 14, 2001 8:00 p.m.

St. Mark's Episcopal Church, 1000 N. Mississippi, LR

Saturday, December 15, 2001 7:00 p.m.

St. Luke's Episcopal Church, Hot Springs

Sunday, December 16, 2001 5:00 p.m.

St. Luke's Episcopal Church, No. Little Rock

Singers will share 'Light of the World'

BY ERIC E. HARRISON ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT-GAZETTI

The Arkansas Chamber Singers want to cast a little extra light for lengthening nights. John Erwin will conduct the

Chamber Singers and the 40member Arkansas Chamber Singers' Youth Chorale in "The Light of the World." The program, celebrating the Jewish Festival of Lights and the light of Christmas, will be presented three times this weekend, at churches in Little Rock, Hot Springs and North Little Rock.

The audience will get to participate in two sing-alongs. Part I. "The Enlightenment of Mary," will feature Magnfi-cat by Leo Nestor.

Part II, "The Jewish Heritage - The Light of the Menorah," marking the celebration of Hanukkah, will include Beams of Gentle Light, arranged by James McKelvy, with soprano soloist Carolyn Setliff and Hanukkah Dedication by Lois Brownsey and Mari Lunn Lantz.

Arkansas Chamber Singers 8 p.m. today, St. Mark's Episcopal Church, 1100 N. Mississippi St., Little Rock: 7 p.m. Saturday, St. Luke's Epis-copal Church, 228 Spring St., Hot Springs; 5 p.m. Sunday, St. Luke's Episcopal Church, 4106 John F. Kennedy Blvd., North Little Rock. John Erwin

Tickets: \$15, \$10 students and senior (501) 377-1121

A brass quintet of faculty members from the University of Central Arkansas at Conway Larry Jones and Megan Heikkila, trumpets (Carol Herrick will substitute for Heikkila in Hot Springs); Brent Shires, horn; Denis Winter, trombone; and Louis Young, tuba — will play Huron Carol, arranged by Luther Henderson.

Part III, "The Light Out of Darkness - Advent," will feature soprano Diana Holzhauser as soloist in Lost in the Night, arranged by E.M. Christiansen, and All This Night by Rene

Clausen. The Youth Chorale will sing Heavenly Light by A. Kopylow and join the Chamber Singers in Arise, Your Light Has Come by David Danner.

Part IV, "The Light of the World — The Birth of Christ" will feature Christmas Cantata by Daniel Pinkham; the Youth Chorale singing "Candlelight Carol" by John Rutter, Videntes Stellam by Francis Poulenc; "The Stable Door" by C. Armstrong Gibbs; "What Is This Lovely Fragrance," arranged by Michael Larkin, with baritone Stephen Edds as soloist; the brass quintet playing Luther Henderson's arrangement of "Ding, Dong, Merrily on High"; "Bring a Torch, Jeanette, Isabelle," arranged by Stephen Mager; Holtzhauser soloing in "Mary Looks Upon Her Child"; soprano Lauri Brown as soloist in "Sweet Little Jesus Boy," arranged by Fred Thayer, and soprano Jenee Miller in

Stephen Chatman's "Make a

Wish for Christmas."

DECEMBER

■ Today — Holiday open house, Cox Building, 120 Commerce St., by the Arkansas Artists Gallery.

Monday - Christmas coffee, Salvation Army Women's Auxiliary, 10:30 a.m.-noon, 109 St. Frances Court, North Little Rock. More information is available at (501) 834-2808.

Friday - The Light of the World, presented by the Arkansas Chamber Singers, St. Mark's Episcopal Church. More information is available at (501) 377-

Saturday-Dec. 16 - The Nutcracker, presented by Ballet Arkansas accompanied by the Arkansas Symphony Orchestra, Robinson Center Music Hall. Tickets are available at (501) 666-

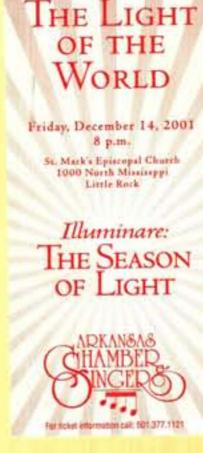
■ Dec. 16 - The Light of the World, presented by the Arkansas Chamber Singers, St. Luke's Episcopal Church, North Little Rock. More information is available at (501) 377-1121.

Music

CENTRAL ARKANSAS ARKANSAS CHAMBER SINGERS & p.m.

today, St. Mark's Episcopal Church, 1000 N. Mississippi St. 7 p.m. Saturday, St. Luke's Episcopal Church, Hot Springs, 5 p.m. Sunday, St. Luke's Episcopal Church, North Little Rock. Tickets to all shows: \$15, \$10 students. (501) 377-1121





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SATURDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2001

Chamber Singers light up LR church

BY ERIC E HARRISON ARKANSAS DEMOCRATIGAZETTE

The Arkansas Chamber Singers provided a little — well, a lot, actually — "light" enter-tainment Friday night at St. Mark's Episcopal Church in Little Rock, the first of three weekend Christmas concerts.

"The Light of the World," fosonal illumination, featured kansas Chamber Singers' Youth Chorale.

have done without the token solved into unison, nods to Hanukkah - "Beams of Gentle Light," arranged by rector Barry Law, sounded fine, lo from soprano Carolyn Setliff, nor tuning problems, in Heav- and Louis Young, tuba - pro- 1121.

Music

and "Hanukkah Dedication" by Lois Brownsey and Mari Lunn Lantz - except they sounded

Other highlights of the first cusing on several aspects of sea- half included shimmering women's voices in the early cabeautiful performances by the dences of Magnificat by Leo 50-plus-member Chamber Nestor; soprano Diana Singers and the 43-member Ar- Holzhauser singing "Lost in the Night," an arrangement by F.M. Christiansen of a Finnish song; But even after conductor and All This Night by Rene

John Erwin cut one number, the Clausen, featuring some gorconcert was overlong by one or geous tone painting with a livetwo "Jesus in the manger" ly and joyous middle section and songs. I probably could also some heavy layering neatly re-The Youth Chorale, under di-

James McKelvy, with a nice so- with the exception of some mi- horn; Denis Winter, trombone; mation is available at (501) 372-

enly Light by A. Kopylow, and vided accompaniment on som joined the Chamber Singers to numbers and had two pieces of very good effect in the first-half its very own: Huron Carol, closer, Arise, Your Light Has arranged by Luther Henderson, Come by David Danner, a real

Knowing it would be difficult to top that, Erwin didn't try, programming some soft and warm songs for the second half -Christmas Cantata by Daniel Pinkham; the Youth Chorale and piano benches. singing "Candlelight Carol" by John Rutter, "What Is This Lovely Fragrance," featuring a nice solo from bass-baritone Stephen Edds; Holtzhauser's solo in "Mary Looks Upon Her Child"; and soprano Lauri Brown as soloist in the spiritual "Sweet Little Jesus Boy."

Chorale, instrumentalists and conductors will repeat the program at 7 p.m. today at St. Luke's Episcopal Church, 228 Spring St., The University of Central Ar- Hot Springs, and 5 p.m. Sunday kansas at Conway Brass Quintet at St. Luke's Episcopal Church,
— Larry Jones and Megan 4106 John F. Kennedy Blvd., Heikkila, trumpets; Brent Shires, North Little Rock. More infor-

and an arrangement of "Ding

Dong! Merrily on High." Oboist

Lorraine Duso and percussion-

ist Justin Alexander also pro-

vided instrumental assistance.

Keyboard accompanist Lynn

Bauman shuttled between organ

The audience sounded pret-ty good in a Bach chorale and "Silent Night," the last verse of

Chamber Singers, Youth

which we sang a cappella,

Arkansas Chamber Singe P.O. Box 21002 Utile Rock, Arkanas 72221

4B - Hot Springs Village Voice - January 30, 2002

"Dream Along With Me" by the Arkansas Chamber Singers- The Arkansas Chamber Singers hosted by Christine Donahue and John Erwin will entertain you with a collection of dream songs that will leave you singing. All this and a gourmet dinner with wine Friday, February 15 at the Little Rock Club Regions Bank Building, Capitol and Broadway. 6:30 p.m. silent auction, hors d'ouevres and cash bar. 7:30 p.m. gourmet dinner with wine. Tickets are \$75 (\$50 is tax deductible). A check may be mailed to Arkansas Chamber Singers, PO Box 21002, Little Rock, AR 72211 or call 501-377-1121 and charge on Visa.

. SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 3 . 2002

Members of the Arkansas Chamber Singers, with hosts Christine Donahue and John Erwin, will sing love songs to accompany a gourmet dinner Friday at the Little Rock Club in the Regions Bank Building, West Capitol Avenue and Broadway, Little Rock.

Hors d'oeuvres and a cash bar become available at 6:30 p.m., when a silent auction begins. Dinner begins at 7:30.

The event is a benefit for the Chamber Singers. Tickets are \$75 (including wine), of which \$50 is tax-deductible. To make reservations or to buy tickets using a Visa card. call (501) 377-1121. For the benefit of The Arkansas Chamber Singers

> 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.: Silent Auction, Hors D'oeuvres and Cash Bar,

7:30 p.m. Gourmet Dinner with wine

at the Little Rock Club Regions Bank Building Capitol and Broadway "Dream Along With Me"

Members of
The Arkansas Chamber Singers
hosted by
Christine Donahue and John Erwin
will entertain you with a collection of
dream songs that will leave you singing

all this and a gourmet dinner
with wine
Friday, February 15, 2002
at the Little Rock Club



Please return this portion with your payment by February 10, 2002.

Credit card reservations may be made by calling 501-377-1121

No tickets will be mailed. Payment is non-refundable.

and made out to Arkansas Chamber Singers.

THE ARKANSAS CHAMBER SINGERS

are grateful for the support given by the following contributors.

We could not have presented this season's fine musical repertoire without them.

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Dream Along With Me
An Evening To benefit
The Arkansas Chambers Singers
February 15th, 2002
The Little Rock Club

John Erwin "Dream Along With Me"

Carl Sigman

Diana Holzhauser "Over The Rainbow"

Harold Arlen

John Czarnecki "A Dreamer's Holiday"

*A Dreamer's Holiday Kim Gannon and Mabel Wayne "Dream A Little Dream of Me"

Gus Kahn, W. Schandt and F. Andree

"Some Enchanted Evening"
Richard Rogers and Oscar Hammerstein II

Lynley Fenwick

"I Dreamed A Dream"

Alan Boublil and Claude-Michel Schonberg

Christine Donahue

"Isn't It Romantic?"

Vickie Dorey

"Isn't It Romantic?"

Richard Rogers and Lorenz Hart

"Stairway To The Stars"

Conrad Stanitski, Gary Moore, Kurt Meredith, John Czarnecki and Sherry Roe

"Lida Rose/Sweet and Low"

Meredith Wilson

Carolyn Setliff "All Th

Nancy Allen

Carolyn Setliff

"All The Things You Are"

Jerome Kern and Oscar Hammerstein II

Cristy Amatangelo

"Bali Ha'i"

Kurt Meredith

Richard Rogers and Oscar Hammerstein II

"This Nearly Was Mine"

Richard Rogers and Oscar Hammerstein II

Nan Maureen "Prelude To A Kiss"

Duke Ellington, Irving Gordon and Irving Mills

Christine Donahue "I Have Dreamed"

"I Have Dreamed" Richard Rogers and Oscar Hammerstein II

Singers draw curtain on 'Season of Light'

BY ERIC E HARRISON ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE

The Arkansas Chamber Singers will offer more "light" listening for their last concert of the season today at St. Mark's Episcopal Church in Little

For a program he calls "Lux Acterna," closing its "Season of

Light," John Erwin will conduct the 56 singers and members of the Arkansas Symphony Orchestra in two 20th-century classics - Lux Aeterna by Morton Lauridsen and the Requiem by Maurice Durufle.

Erwin calls the Durufle work an "exquisitely beautiful piece," in which the composer

incorporates elements of plainsong chant.

"He uses the harmonic language of Ravel and Debussy," Erwin says, "but it is very melodic; it owes that to the melody of the chant,"

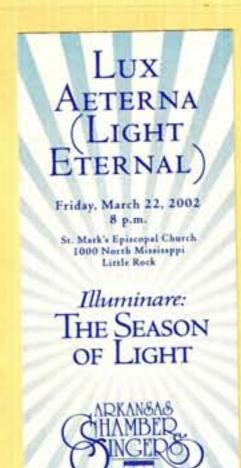
With the exception of some climactic moments involving three trumpets and timpani (the rest of the reduced orchestra involves strings, harp and organ, which plays most of the woodwind parts), the piece is generally subdued and calming, "Very comforting," Erwin says.

Lauridsen uses the opening ("Introit") and closing ("Lux Aeterna") movements of the Requiem Mass in Lux Acterna; in between are a group of Latin songs, each reflecting some aspect of light. The five movements are performed without

Arkansas Chamber Singers

8 p.m. teday, St. Mark's Episcopal Church, 1100 N. Mississippi St., Little

Program: John Erwin conducts the choir and members of the Arkansas Symphony Orchestra in Lauridsen: Lux Aeterna: Durutle: Requiem Admission: \$15, \$10 students and sen-(501) 377-1121



Lux Aeterna (LIGHT ETERNAL)



Friday, March 22, 2002 8:00 p.m.

St. Mark's Episcopal Church 1000 N. Mississippi Little Rock

The Chorus will sing The Mesmerizing Lux Aeterna, by Morten Lauridsen

The Mystical Requiem, by Maurice Durufle accompanied by the Arkansas Symphony Orchestra

Tickets: \$15 adult - \$10 student/senior For More Information or Reservations Call 501-377-1121

Chamber Singers touch hearts, souls

BY LAURA LYNN BROWN

ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE The enduring subjects of art can be reduced to a few great themes; one of them is that we are going to die. One function of art is to help us grapple with such truths in ways that enable us to celebrate and make the most of this one life we have - and if we believe in it, to prepare for the

life afterward. Choral music based on ancient Latin Mass is one art form that accomplishes that. Friday evening no breaks. Both were beautiful ancient plainsong chants (in the in St. Mark's Episcopal Church, to the ears and soothing to the with a massive pipe organ and two soul. human-sized trumpeting angel fig-ures as a backdrop, the Arkansas Chamber Singers gave their final concert of the 2001-02 "Season of

The program, "Lux Aeterna (Light Eternal)," consisted of two 20th-century requiem Masses with light as their central themes light "as the representation of life and ultimately, life eternal," acMusic

cording to program notes by con-

ductor John Erwin. The first piece, Maurice Durufle's Requiem, is in nine parts with a break of silence between each. The second, Morten Lauridsen's Lux Aeterna, is a new a postmodern confluence of anpiece of music, having premiered in 1997, featuring five parts with

Both were sung in Latin, of lations. But it was the kind of mu-serendipitous choice, offering sic that is beyond words, that is balm to world-weary ears.

also understood in the gut, in the heart. It also was the kind of music the 56-member chorus somehow allowed to flow through them so that it remained the fo-

Playing by members of the Arkansas Symphony Orchestra was appropriately subdued, so that the instrumental music was supportive, not intrusive. The evening was cient Latin texts with music by modern composers drawing on sources.

The year's program was chocourse, and the program offered sen long before the terrorist rtthe Latin text and English trans- tacks of Sept. 11. But it was a

Illuminare: THE SEASON OF LIGHT

Lux Aeterna (LIGHT ETERNAL)

Friday, March 22, 2002 8 p.m.

St. Mark's Episcopal Church 1000 North Mississppi Little Rock



6 = Loc fills & Solo A B. pzAcvb

The Arkansas Chamber Singers thank you for your support.

We hope you enjoyed the program and will return.

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a tempo

a publication of

June-July 2002

Volume 6, Issue 1

notes about this 'n that

Our February Fundraiser "Dream Along With Me" was an elegant, fun-filled evening. Almost 100 supporters enjoyed a spirited Silent Auction, gourmet dining and special entertainment in the beautiful Little Rock Club. The organization raised over \$5,600. Thank you one and all!

Speaking of fundraisers, we are moving our annual Dinner/Silent Auction/Entertainment extravaganza to the Fall - November 1st to be exact. Look for your invitation in the mail or, if we happen to miss you, just call (501) 377-1121 this September for information and reservations.

Some of our singers will lend their voices to groups performing on foreign soil this summer. Jackie Wright, Debbie Fricks, and George Mayo join our accompanist Lynn Bauman and his choir from St. Luke's Episcopal Church, North Little Rock, for ten days in England. Judith Harris will sing with the Innsbruck International Choral Festival in Austria.

The women of the chorus will debut their new dresses at the October 18th concert. A big "thankyou" goes to Judy Harris who spear-headed the committee (it was not easy getting 35 women to agree on this) and who, along with Sue Campbell, will be using her sewing skills this summer to make coordinating jackets.

2002-2003 SEASON

It's time to place your ticket order for the 2002-2003 season. The theme for our three concerts is "America the Beautiful - My Native Land". Music ranging from native-American melodies, to early American ditties, through the genius of Ives and Bernstein, and ending with Stephen Foster tunes and Spirituals comprises the first program on October 18th. Put yourself in the Yuletide spirit with the "Many Moods of Christmas" arranged by Shaw/Bennett - the main piece in an evening of entertaining Christmas music featuring prominent American composers. That concert takes place December 13th. And our final concert on March 21th pairs the Arkansas Chamber Singers with the Arkansas Wind Symphony in three major works: "Invitations" by Vincent Persichetti, "Song of Democracy" by Howard Hanson and "Testament of Freedom* by Randall Thompson. You won't want to miss this inspiring evening. All concerts begin at 8 p.m. The first two will take place at St. Mark's Episcopal Church. The location of the spring concert will be announced later. For tickets call 501-377-1121. Season subscription cost \$40, \$28 for Seniors and Students. Single tickets are \$15, \$10 for Seniors and Students.

As we have for the past three years, Arkansas Chamber Singers will sing an encore performance of our Christmas program on Sunday, December 15th, at 7 p.m. at St. Luke's Episcopal Church on Spring Street in Hot Springs. This will give you two opportunities to get into the Christmas spirit!

Mission Statement: The Arkansas Chamber Singers is an auditioned vocal ensemble committed to performing the finest of classical and contemporary choral repertoire. The ensemble is dedicated to enriching the lives of singers, audiences and the community at large by presenting professional quality performances that convey the joy of music; and to developing an expanded audience through education, creative programming and the promotion of choral music.

Guarantor S1000 or more Eight Sub- Preferred for yourself Program fing a contributor fing a contributing Member S250 - \$499 for Subs- Freferred Frogram for the total for of the total for as follows: Contributing Member \$25 - \$99 frogram frogr	amber	Category	Gitt Level	Premium	
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THE 2002-2003 SEASON

Choral music written about, for, and by those composers from our native land. Particular attention will be paid to works about Americana: our land and our peoples.

Our Native Land

8 p.m. Friday, October 19 18 St. Mark's Episcopal Church at Mississippi and Evergreen

A patriotic opening followed by a set by Aaron Copland. Jackson Berkey's Native American Ambiances, a compelling musical setting of words from prophetic Native American leaders. Excerpts from Leonard Bernstein's Candide, and closing with a Stephen Foster medley.

Our Annual fundraiser: Chamber Singers Invites you to Viva Voce

6:30 p.m. Friday, November 1 Arkansas Chamber Singers' Annual Fundraiser, Dinner, Silent Auction, and Entertainment The Little Rock Club. at Regions Bank Building

An American Christmas

8 p.m. Friday, December 13 St. Mark's Episcopal Church at Mississippi and Evergreen

7 p.m. Sunday, December 15 St. Luke's Episcopal Church Hot Springs, Arkansas

Includes holiday settings by Robert Shaw, R.R. Bennett and Alice Parker, followed by John Williams' Music from Home Alone. The Chamber Singers' Youth Chorale will round out the joyful evening.

An American Tribute

8 p.m. Friday, March 21, 2003 Location to be announced

Accompanied by members of the Wind Symphony, the chamber Singers will present An American Tribute. The texts of this work are by renowned poet Walt Whitman. Rounding out the performance is Song of Democracy. by Howard Hanson, Celebrations, by Vincent Persichette; and Testament of Freedom by Randall Thompson.

Please visit our web site. www.ar-chambersingers.org

Please	Reserve	My T	ickets	or t	he 200	2-2003	Season.

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	Season Subscription(s) - all three performance	25:	adult \$	40. x		= \$	
	Single Tickets:		student / senior	28. x	:		
	Our Native Land October 18		adult			= \$	
	Friday, October 19, 2002; 8 p.m.; St. Mark's Episo	opal Church, Little Rock	student / senior	10. x			
	An American Christmas		adult				
	Friday, December 13; 8 p.m., Little Rock or Sund	lay, December 15; 7 p.m., Hot Springs	student / senior	10. x			
	An American Tribute		adult				
	Friday, March 21, 2003; 8 p.m.; Location to be an	nnounced, Little Rock	student / senior				
	Annual Fundraiser - Chamber Singers Invit	es You to Viva Voce					
	Friday, November 1, 2002; 6:30 p.m.; Regions Ba	ank Building, Little Rock	\$	75. x			
	I would like to make the following contribution:					= \$	
•	Name				Total	\$	
	Address		(as you with it to	be listed)		-	
	Gty		8.0				
	Home Phone	Work Phone			Clip an	d mail this panel to:	
	Check enclosed for \$	Make checks payable to Ark	ansas Chamber Sing	gers, or	(C) (C)	as Chamber Singers	
	Charge to: Visa Mastercard Card No				P.O.Box 21002		
	Print name as appears on card		A N. E			lock, Arkansas 72221	
	Signature					501.377.1121	
	1.35/11/1/53				40.44	**************************************	

State music groups plan entertaining year

Arkansas Chamber Singers

John Erwin conducts. All concerts at 8 p.m., St. Mark's Episcopal Church, 1000 N. Mississippi St., Little Rock. Season tickets: \$40, \$28 students and senior citizens. Individual tickets; \$15, \$10 students and senior citizens. (501)

Oct. 18: "America the Beautiful -My Native Land."

Boc. 13: "Many Moods of Christ-

March 21, 2003: Works by Vincent Persichetti, Howard Hanson and Randall Thompson with the Little Rock Wind Symphony.

18 MARCH 29, 2002 - ARKANSAS TIMES - To subscribe of MO1/ 375-2985

BEST DOCTORS 2002

Internist takes a holistic

san Santa Cruz was President Bill Clinton's doctor, but that's probably not what landed her on the Best Doctors list, Rather, her partner Sue Ulmer guesses, it was for the dedication she's shown patients and the profession in her 20 years as an internist in Little

Santa Cruz brings to bes practice a background in social work and interest in her patients' whole health, "I like knowing people, and working with family," Santa Cruz says. 'h's an honor to be close with patients in health and in sickness."

A native of Pittsburgh, Santa Cruz moved to Arkansas with her first husband (lawyer/novelist Grif Stockley) after she'd completed a master's in social work at Washington University, When she got pregnant, she said, she prepared by going to the library at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences to read medical texts. "I thought, I can do this."

And she did, at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences, where George Ackerman, now professor emeritus and wildflower photog-

internal medicine

Internists are primary care physicians often defined by what they don't do: pediatries, obstetries and surgical procedures. They are diagnosticians, doctors "midway between the breadth of family practice and the intense specialization of the medical subspecialties of cardiology and pulmonology," Santa Cruz said. (She noted an advertisement she just saw that she thinks paints a good picture: It shows a rotary dial, with the words, "If you're old enough to remember this, you need to see your

Whatever the definition, internal medicine satisfied "my own self-definition as a physician, that you had an ongoing relationship with patients, and tried to approach them holistically." She's interested in not only what ails them, but "what's going on in their lives ... that is a critical part of their health issues."

At 54, Santa Cruz said, she practices what she preaches to her patients: Get exercise, cholesterol checks, colorectal screenings (a crucial test that's often ignored), and more exer-



SANTA CRUZ: "It's an honor to be close with patients in health and in sickness."

cise. When her patients tell her they don't have time to exercise, "I tell them, 'I'll match my schedule against yours," she said.

And what a schedule. Santa Cruz is vice chief of medicine at St. Vincent Infirmary Medical Center, and chairs the quality improvement committee. She is also a member of the nurse-physician liaison committee, a group formed "to support nurses who have conflicts and issues with physicians."

She's on the board of the Arkansas Hospice,

the area's only in-patient facility for hospice care.

Then there's the rest of her life. She's sung alto with the Arkansas Chamber Singers for 14 years and sings and plays tambourine with the singing group the B Flats. (Ulmer is her partner in music as well, as a singer with the B Flats.)

Santa Cruz' practice has changed in the past 20 years in the predictable ways. Paperwork has increased. Hospital stays have decreased, (She laughed remembering that as a resident on grand rounds she visited a patient who told the doctor she just wasn't ready to go home. The doctor turned to the residents and advised them: Wait until your patients are ready before you discharge them. What a difference from today's reality, when insurance companies are pushing patients out of the hospital even before they've had their catheters removed.)

Santa Cruz recently reflected on a day at her office, inspired by an article she had read on "doctor burnout." Her fire isn't dying, but she decided anyway to follow the article's suggestion to look for "surprises" in her day.

"There were many times [that day] that I felt the rewards I should have," Santa Cruz said. One patient had begun a program to battle drug addiction. Another detected a bad polyp through screening: "the procedure will likely prevent her from developing cancer." She'd been with people she cares about.

Her conclusion: "I get lots of joy from this

America the Beautiful

Our Native Land

Friday, March 21, 2003 8 p.m.

Little Rock, Arkansas Location to be announced



for ticket information call 501-377-1121

. SATURDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2002 . 9B

Concert rejoices in Americana

BY HELAINE R. FREEMAN

ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE The Arkansas Chamber Singers carried on America's current passion for all things patriotic with their season opener ... not with patriotic-themed music, but with an eclectic mix of music from religious to folk - by

American composers. which the ensemble has come

first with Rene Clausen's Amer- whimsical Candide; along with ald McCullough's short-but-fit-

Music

Dream, and its trio of songs - the intricate and jubilant "Hear Me, I ng and the po You Buy the Sky? All featuring Performing before a large au- poetry by Sarah Densmore, these with flutist Michelle Dearion.

ican Indian tribute, Crying For a the elegant delivery - and Rob-ting tribute to lost loved ones.

by Francis' tenor solo - on Aaron Copland's "The Boatmen's

A true delight of the concert was Daniel Pinkham's Wedding Cantata, a fond memory for one audience member who'd per-Will Livel", the melancholy "War formed the Song of Solomon-text e with the 1979 Arkansas All-State (high school) choir.

The singers also drew much dience at St. Mark's Episcopal songs were made all the more spe-Church in Little Rock, the singers cial with the help of the youth-of Richard Nance's arrangement brought forth a program execut-ed with the skill and beauty for kansas Children's Choir, along tear-inducing arrangement of "Balm in Gilead" and its soprabe known.

Another of the evening's highConducted by John Erwin, the lights was the quartet of selecburn's Stephen Foster Medley: singers served their best course tions from Leonard Bernstein's and "We Remember Them," Don-

THE 2002-2003 SEASON





Our Native Land

8 p.m. Friday, October 18, 2002

St. Mark's Episcopal Church at Mississippi and Evergreen Little Rock



You Are Cordially Invited to

Viva Voce

A Special Evening to Benefit The Arkansas Chamber Singers

Friday, November 1, 2002

The Little Rock Club Regions Bank Building Capitol & Broadway

6:30 p.m. Silent Auction & Cash Bar 7:30 Dinner with Wine

> \$75 per person (\$50 tax deductible)

Entertainment provided by

Danica Dawn Christine Donahue

Don Hill Lynn Bauman

RSVP (501) 377-1121 for Credit Card Reservations Friday, November 1, 2002

3 to perform at fund-raiser

"Viva Voce," a benefit for the Arkansas Chamber Singers, takes place tonight at the Little Rock Club, atop the Regions Bank Building, Capitol Avenue and Broadway, Little

The cash bar and silent auction begin at 6:30 p.m. Dinner, including wine and entertainment by Danica Dawn and Christine Donahue, sopranos, and Don Hill, tenor, starts at

Tickets are \$75, \$50 of which is tax deductible. For more information, call (501) BY ERIC E. HARRISON

The Arkansas Chamber Singers radiated Christmas cheer Priday night at Little Rock's St. Mark's Episcopal Church with "An American Christmas," a program of 20th-century American arrangements of ancient yuletide carols and a few new songs

Music Director John Erwin chose a nice mixture of favorites and unfamiliar tunes for the choir, now swelled to 51 members, all calculated to express

REVIEW Music

comfort and joy for an audience apparently slightly diminished by the Arkansas Symphony's competing annual Christmas

program.

The choir was in fine form for the curtain raiser, Personant Hodie, Lara Hoggard's arrangement of a medieval chant frag-ment, and Three Nativity Carofs by Stephen Paulus, new set-tings of old English carol texts "The Holly and the Ivy," "This Endris Night" and "Wonder Tidings," featuring fine oboe ob-bligato by Taralee Ferguson.

The Chamber Singers Youth Honor Choral, led by Barry Law, delighted the audience with "Pruitcake" by Philip Hagemann and Penny Leka, a delightful musical recipe in five parts, complete with illustrative choreography.

The young singers and the North Little Rock Community Handbell Choir joined in for Adeste, an arrangement by J. Ed-mund Hughes blending "O Come, All Ye Faithful" and "Hark the Herald Angels Sing," Latin and English and, at the titanic finale, "Amen" and "Gloria." Three seasonal songs John Williams composed for the movie Home Alone were nice but sort of an anticlimax.

After intermission, the choir sang some of Conrad Susa's charming Carols and Lullabies: Christmas in the Southwest in Spanish and some in English. with refrains in Spanish and a number of regional dialects. The audience got to sing along on "Joy to the World" and, if they wished, the fourth suite of Robert Shaw-Robert Russell Bennett "Many Moods of Christ-

mas" carol arrangements. The Chamber Singers, et al. minus the Youth Honor Choral, will perform the concert again at 2 p.m. today at St. Luke's Epis-copal Church, 228 Spring St., Hot Springs, and 5 p.m. Sunday at St. Luke's Episcopal Church, 4106 John F. Kennedy Blvd., North Lit-tle Rock, Additional information is available at (501) 377-1121.

Village Voice

Arkansas Chamber Singers' December concerts slated

The Arkansas Chamber Singcember 13. The program, entitled Aeterna. The chorus will also North Little Rock. perform three holiday songs by John Williams from the movie mas music arranged by Robert dents.

The December 13 performance ers, under the direction of John will be held in the sanctuary of St. Erwin, will continue the 2002-2003 Mark's Episcopal Church, 1000 concert series featuring American North Mississippi (Evergreen and composers at 8 p.m., Friday, De-Mississippi), Little Rock. The program will be repeated at 7 p.m., "An American Christmas", in- Saturday, December 14 at cludes Stephen Paulus' Three St. Luke's Episcopal Church, 228 Nativity Carols, Conrad Spring Street, Hot Springs. The Susa's Carols and Lullabies: choir will present a third perfor-Christmas in the Southwest, and mance at 5 p.m., Sunday, Decem-O Nata Lux, the third movement ber 15 at St. Luke's Episcopal of Morten Lauridsen's Lux Church, 4106 JFK Boulevard.

Call (501) 377-1121 for tickets or information. Tickets are \$15 for "Home Alone" as well as Christ- adults and \$10 for seniors or stu-

Friday, December 13, 2002

Arkansas Democrat-Gazette

Singers' carols include standbys and rarities

BY ERIC E HARRISON

Carols ancient, modern and Southwestern will be on the program for the Arkansas Chamber Singers in concerts tonight in Little Rock, Saturday in Hot Springs and Sunday in North Little Rock.

"We tried to find some unusual things as well as standard ones," says Music Director John Erwin, who will conduct the program, called "An American Christmas."

Erwin will open the concert with Personant Hodie, Lara Hoggard's arrangement of a fragment of medieval chant, and follow with Three Nativity Carols by Stephen Paulus. Paulus has given new settings to old English carol texts: "The Holly and the Ivy,"
"This Endris Night" and "Wonder Tidings." Taralee

Ferguson will provide the oboe obbligato.

The audience will be able to sing along with the North Little Rock Community Handbell Choir in portions of Adeste, an arrangement by J. Edmond Hughes. The Chamber Singers will

end the first half of the concert with three seasonal songs that John Williams composed for the movie Home Alone. "Somewhere in My Memory," "Star of Bethlehem" and "Merry Christmas, Merry Christ-

Conrad Susa's Carols and Lullabies: Christmas in the Southwest after intermission will feature 10 Biscayan, Catalonian, Puerto Rican, Spanish Andalucian, Castilian and Mexican carols.

The other audience singalong will be to the fourth

Arkansas Chamber Singers

8 p.m. today, St. Mark's Episcopal
Church, 1101 N. Mississippi St., Little
Rock; 7 p.m. Saturday, St. Luke's Episcopal Church, 228 Spring St., Hot
Springs; 5 p.m., Sunday, St. Luke's Episcopal Church, 4106 John F. Kernedy
Blvd., North Little Rock, "An American
Christmas," saasonal chosal music by Christmas," seasonal choral music by American composers. John Erwin con-

Tickets: \$15, \$10 students, senior citi-(501) 377-1121

suite of the Robert Shaw-Robert Russell Bennett "Many Moods of Christmas" carol arrangements — "Break Forth, O Beauteous Heavenly Light" (from Bach's Christmas Oratorio), "The First Nowell," "O Little Town of Bethlehem," "I Saw Three Ships" and "Deck the Halls With Boughs of HolTHE 2002-2003 SEASON





An American Christmas

8:00 p.m. Friday, December 13, 2002

St. Mark's Episcopal Church Mississippi and Evergreen Little Rock, Arkansas

7:00 p.m. Saturday, December 14, 2002

St. Luke's Episcopal Church 228 Spring Street Hot Springs, Arkansas

5:00 p.m. Sunday, December 15, 2002

St. Luke's Episcopal Church 4106 JFK Boulevard North Little Rock, Arkansas



America the Beautiful

An American Christmas

Friday, December 13, 2002

8 p.m. St. Mark's Episcopal Church 1000 North Mississippi Little Rock, Arkansas

Sunday, December 15, 2002

7 p.m. St. Luke's Episcopal Church Hot Springs, Arkansas



for ticket information call 501-377-1121



Dr. Bill Morton and his wife, Mary, with Dr. Art Squire and his wife, Nan



Courtney and Dr. Presley Jackson

Chenal Circle comes alive with the sound of music



Brian and Laura Skinner

From It's a Grand Night for Singing to You'll Never Walk Alone, the three soprano divas offered a musical program Feb. 21 at the Chenal Circle home of Mary and Dr. Bill Morton.

Suzanne Banister, Christine Donahue and Mary Ann Lahodny were accompanied by Diana Brandon at the evening benefit for the Arkansas Chamber

The 60 guests heard the welltrained voices togethe, and sep-



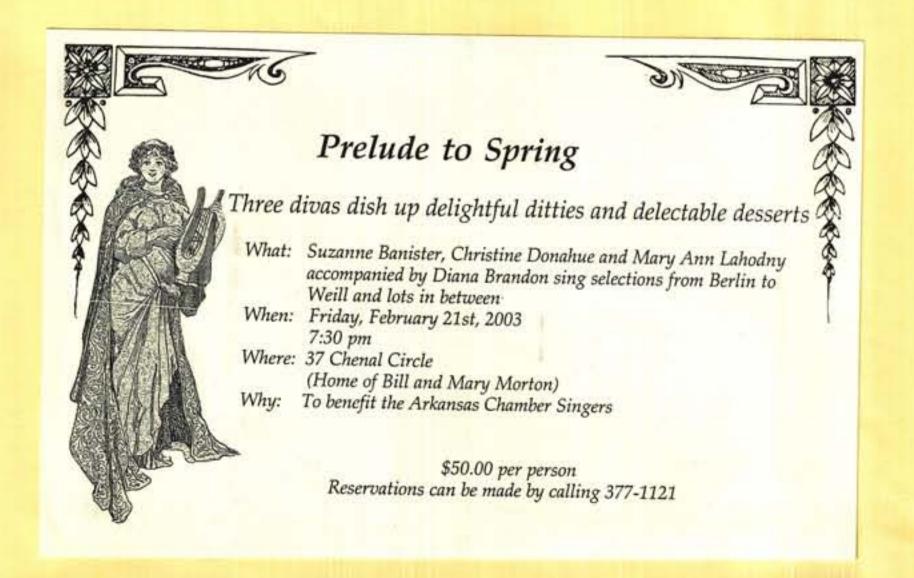
Mary Ann Lohodny, Suzanne Banister and Christine Donahue

Me and I'll Be Seeing You, to

\$4,000 for the 25-year-old arts Herb Rule, Dr. Susan Santa Cruz, organization, the 60 guests sampled desserts prepared by board members and served from the Nan and Dr. Art Squire, Tyler uniquely lighted Morton din-

Guests who wentshome Sanders.

arately perform Secret Love, singing included Dot East, How Could I Ever Know, Show Rosemary Arnold, Nancy and e and I'll Be Seeing You, to Warren Boop, Helen and Dr. me a few. Sam Caruthers, Terri Itkin, Joann After the show, which raised and Garth Martin, Renie and Jackie Wright, Irene and Gus Vratsinas, Georgia and Bob Sells, Thompson, Olga Elwood, Elisa and Dr. Ashley Ross and Cathy



Chamber Singers to perform

The Arkansas Chamber Singers, under the direction of John Erwin will continue the 2002-2003 concert series featuring American composers at 8 p.m., Friday, March 21. The program entitled "An American Tribute" will include three suites. Howard Hanson's "Song of Democracy", "The Testament of Freedom", a setting of four passages from the writings of Thomas Jefferson, set to music by Randall Thompson; and "Celebrations", which is a collection of poems by Walt Whitman. set to music by Vincent Persichetti. Members of the Little Rock Wind Symphony will be joining the Chamber Singers for Hanson's "Song of

Democracy" The March 21 performance will be held in the sanctuary of Second Presbyterian Church, 600 Pleasant Valley Drive (at Cantrell Road), Little Rock.

Call (501) 377-1121 for tickets or information. Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$10 for seniors (55 and older) or students.

Friday, March 14, 2003

An American Tribute

Conducted by John Erwin, Artistic Director

The program will include three suites: Howard Hanson's Song of Democracy: The Testament of Freedom, a setting of four passages from the writing of Thomas Jefferson, set to music by Randall

Thompson; and Cefebrations, which is a collection of poems by Walt

Whitman set to music by Vincent Penichetti. Members of the Little

Rock Wind Symphony will be joining the Chamber Singers for

Thompson's, The Textament Of Freedom.

TICKETS: \$15.00 ADULT • \$10.00 STUDENT/SENIOR be purchased at door or charged to Visa or Mastercard by calling 501-377-1121

March 21, Second Presbyterian

"An American Tribute." Tickets:

\$15, ages 55 and older and

students \$10. (501) 377-1121.

Church, 600 Pleasant Valley Drive.

Friday, March 21, 2003, 8pm

2nd Presbyterian Church

600 Pleasant Valley Drive, LR

Arkansas Chamber Singers to perform

collection of poems by Walt

The Arkansas Chamber Sing- Whitman, set to music by Vincent ers, under the direction of John Persichetti. Members of the Little Erwin will continue the 2002-2003 Rock Wind Symphony will be joining the Chamber Singers for concert series featuring American composers at 8 p.m., Friday, Hanson's "Song of Democracy". March 21. The program entitled The March 21 performance will "An American Tribute" will in- be held in the sanctuary of Secclude three suites. Howard ond Presbyterian Church, 600 Hanson's "Song of Democracy", Pleasant Valley Drive (at Cantrell "The Testament of Freedom", a Road), Little Rock. setting of four passages from the Call (501) 377-1121 for tickets or

writings of Thomas Jefferson, set information. Tickets are \$15 for to music by Randall Thompson; adults and \$10 for seniors (55 and and "Celebrations", which is a older) or students.



■ The "saluting America" musical theme is found all over town this weekend, including Second Presbyterian Church on Friday, March 21, when the Arkansas Chamber Singers

The show, beginning at 8 p.m., will include Democracy;" "The Testament of Freedom,"

Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$10 for Pleasant Valley Drive. Call 377-1121.

present "An American Tribute."

three suites: Howard Hanson's "Song of a setting of four passages from the writings of Thomas Jefferson, set to music by Randall Thompson; and "Celebrations," which is a collection of poems by Walt Whitman, set to music by Vincent Persichetti.

students and seniors. The venue is at 600

Friday, March 21, 2003

Singers to perform 'American Tribute'

BY ERIC E HARRISON

The Arkansas Chamber Singers and director John Erwin will pay "An American Tribute" at 8 p.m. today in the sanctuary of Second Presbyterian Church, Little Rock,

Erwin has planned a pro-

gram of three works by 20thcentury American composers: portions of Celebrations, a collection of poems by Walt Whitman, set to music by Vincent Persichetti; Song of Democracy by Howard Han-son, also a setting of Whitman poems; and The Testament of Freedom, Randall Thompson's setting of four passages from the writings of Thomas Jeffer-

Erwin says he had patriotism in mind when he picked these pieces for the final concert of the Chamber Singers' 2002-2003 season.

"I selected these works after 9/11, but ... not knowing there would be some sort of armed conflict going on," he

says, a reference to a possible United States-led war against

The Persichetti piece, Erwin says, focuses on Whitman poems that "celebrate life and the American spirit," while the Whitman poems in the Hanson piece show American public schools preparing students for the voyage of life.

Thompson took texts from Thomas Jefferson that were written about the time of the Revolutionary War," Erwin explains, "depicting battle and the willingness to fight for a cause. He is trying to argue that we must fight to obtain

The Chamber Singers will perform the Hanson and Persichetti works to piano accompaniment. Members of the Little Rock Wind Symphony will back them up on the Thompson piece, which was originally written for wind ensemble and male chorus, Erwin says.

The ensemble will use less than half the Wind Symphony, , says, "There's some carpeting."

Arkansas Chamber Singers 8 p.m. today, Second Presbyterian Church, 600 Pleasant Valley Drive, Little Rock, Persichetti: Cele-

brations; Hanson: Song of Democra-cy, Thompson: The Testament of Freedom. Members of the Little Rock Wind Symphony. John Erwin conducts. Tickets: \$15, \$10 students and senior (501) 377-1121

players on flute, oboe, clarinet, bassoon, horn, trumpet, trombone, tuba, timpani and per-

"If we used all the winds, we'd need a chorus four times the size we have," Erwin says. "It's always easier to sing with

"We'll be singing at Second Presbyterian, which is a little bit less ringing" than the singers' usual venue, St. Mark's Episcopal Church on Mississippi Street. Second Presbyterian is the home base, however, for the Wind Symphony.

"It's a little less live," Erwin

America the Beautiful

Our Native Land

Friday, March 21, 2003 8 p.m.

Little Rock, Arkansas Location to be announced



for ticket information call 501-377-1121

2B • SUNDAY, MARCH 23, 2003 •

Chamber singers fire patriotic barrage REVIEW

BY BRENDA LOOPER

It seems serendipitous that the Arkansas Chamber Singers eschewed their usual programs for a patriotic-themed night, just their cues from poems in Whitdays after the United States en- man's Leaves of Grass. tered into war against Iraq.

A crowd of about 200 filled the padded pews of Little Rock's Whitman's poems featured. On-Second Presbyterian Church ly a small smattering of dis-Friday evening for "An Ameri- cordant hard T's in the begincan Tribute," featuring three ning poem marred an otherwise musical works based on the perfect performance, highlightwritings of Walt Whitman and Thomas Jefferson.

While it may seem strange to the uninitiated that Whit- tiful and exquisitely tight harman's and Jefferson's writings monies in "Sing Me the Unibe used as musical pieces, the effect was extraordinary. Vincent Persichetti's Cele-

Song of Democracy both took making one feel almost as if it the group, having moved on to moved.

Music

It was Persichetti's work that began the night, with six of ed by a glorious crescendo in "There is That in Me" (from "Song of Myself") and the beauversal" (from "Song of the Uni-

versal"). Hanson's Song of Democrawas necessary to stand and

And to belabor an already overused phrase, there was much shock and awe due the extraordinary breath support the singers demonstrated thanks writings of Thomas Jefferson to the many sustained measures set to music by Randall Thompin both pieces.

During the 20-minute intermission, it became clear that many of the people there were sublimely full sound of the happy for the respite from the singers hit just the right note constant barrage of war news. with the crowd, as evidenced While some did discuss the lat- by the quiet "Wow's" that ripest events, others laughed, joked and even bemoaned the lack of telephone manners.

After the intermission, Director John Erwin paid tribute sic was the spirit of true patrito Lynn Bauman, the Chamber otism, and no matter the lis-Singers' pianist who was mak-teners' beliefs about the current brations and Howard Hanson's cy built on the patriotic theme, ing his final appearance with war, one could not help but be

a job with St. George Episcopal Church in Germantown, Tenn. A portion of the Little Rock Wind Symphony joined the singers for the final piece, The Testament of Freedom - the

The accompaniment and Jefferson's words, along with the pled through the church sanctuary after the final reverberations settled.

What was evident in the mu-

THE 2002-2003 SEASON





An American Tribute

8 p.m. Friday, March 21, 2003

Second Presbyterian Church 600 Pleasant Valley Drive Little Rock, Arkansas



The Arkansas Chamber Singers are grateful for the support given by the following contributors. We could not have presented this season's fine musical repertoire without them. 2002-2003 CONTRIBUTORS

(as of 3/11/03)

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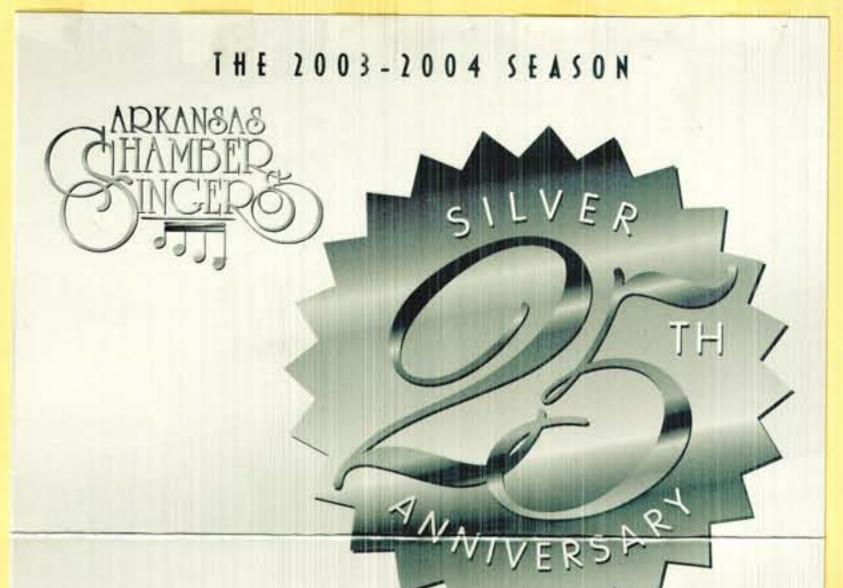
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UALR Public Radio U of A Cooperative Extension Service Wordsworth Books



Mozart's Requiem

Friday, October 10, 2003

St. Mark's Episcopul Church 1000 North Mississippi Little Rock, Arkansas

Mozart's Requiem is one of the most important compositions in the choral/orchestral repertoire. This beautiful music was written at the end of Mozart's life and is filled with memorable elegance and poignancy. Musicians from the Arkansas Symphony Orchestra will help provide a dramatic opening to our anniversary season.

Christmas Classics

Friday, December 12, 2003 8:00 p.m.

Sunday, December 14, 2003 5:00 p.m.

St. Mark's Episcopal Church 1000 North Mississippi Little Rock, Arkansas

St. Luke's Episcopal Church 228 Spring Street Hot Springs, Arkansas

An array of beloved choral works and carols stir up the spirit of the season. Take a break from holiday hurry to relax and join us singing traditional Christmas carols.

Love Songs

Friday, February 13, 2004 8:00 p.m.

Sunday, February 15, 2004 3:00 p.m.

St. Mark's Episcopal Church 1000 North Minsissippi Little Rock, Arkansas

St. James United Methodist Church 321 Pleasant Valley Drive Little Rock, Arkansas

Set the mood for Valentine's Day with Love Song Waltzes by Johannes Brahms. Hear Of Life and Love by David C. Dickau, a premiere by one of America's important young composers, commissioned to commemorate our 25th Anniversary.

Viva Voce

Thursday, October 30, 2003

7:00-9:30 p.m.

Beautiful singing and delicious desserts will be the trick and treat at Viva Voce. Come and enjoy an evening of entertainment in an elegant setting and an opportunity to support the Arkansas Chamber Singers. Call 501-377-1121 for more information and to make your reservation to this great Halloween partyl

The Music Man

March 19 & 20, 2004

8:00 p.m., Robinson Center, Little Rock

The Arkansas Chamber Singers will join the Arkansas Symphony Orchestra in a semi-staged concert version of this Meredith Willson classic. Call the Symphony at (501) 666-1761 for tickets.

Please visit our web site: www.ar-chambersingers.org

The Arkansas Episcopalian

Sharing the Vision of the Episcopal Diocese of Arkansas

Vol. 77, No. 8, November 2003

The Rt. Rev. Larry E. Maze, Bishop Cheryl Hillard Markham, Editor

St. Mark's of Little Rock proudly continues its tradition of offering its facilities for performances by various musical organizations. Upcoming events include:

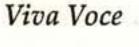
> The Arkansas Chamber Singers Christmas Concert

Friday, December 12 at 8:00pm The Chamber Music Society

Pacifica String Quartet

Tuesday November 18 at 7:30pm (Admission fee is charged; tickets available at the door)

St. Mark's Episcopal Church 1000 N. Mississippi Avenue, Little Rock 501-225-4203



Trilling Trio Tenders Tantalizing Tricks and Tasty Treats

What: Suzanne Banister, Christine Donahue and Sue Laney Sing songs that evoke the holiday spirits and haunt your dreams While you enjoy delicious desserts

When: Thursday, October 30th

7:00pm to 9:30pm Where: 37 Chenal Circle

(Home of Bill and Mary Morton)

Why: To benefit the Arkansas Chamber Singers

Costumes are welcome!

Reservations can be made by calling 377-1121

TICKETS \$50 Hope to see you there! Should be funded

Ticket or Contribution Form

Category	Gift Level	Premium
Guarantor	\$1000 or more	Eight Subscriptions
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Once you have decided which category is right for you, please complete the form below to order additional tickets or to make your contribution to the Arkansas Chamber Singers. Give the form to an ACS volunteer at the ticket desk or mail the form to the address given below.

You may also order tickets to the following events: Viva Voce, a fundraiser Thursday, October 30, 2003

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Love Songs Friday, February 13, 2004 Sunday, February 15, 2004 Students/Seniors @ \$10 I would like to make the following Contribution

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SUNDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2003



Arkansas Democrat-Gazette/STEVE KEESEE

Dr. Susan Santa Cruz has helped raise sponsorships for Thursday's A Fair to Remember, an event to benefit Arkansas Hospice. She is also a member of the governing board for the nonprofit organization, which is the only hospice program in Arkansas with facilities where care can be received outside home settings.

A Fair to Remember funds hospice care

BY SCOTT A. JOHNSON ARKANSAS DEMOCRATIGAZETTE

Dr. Susan Santa Cruz only recently learned of her tie to Dame Cicely Saunders, the woman credited by many with starting the modern hospice movement. But the connection wasn't completely a surprise for Santa Cruz, a board member for Arkansas Hospice.

Like Santa Cruz, Saunders, founder of St. Christopher's Hospice in London in 1967, was first trained in social work and later studied medicine. The mix of social concern and medical expertise brought both women to want to help patients at the end of their lives.

Santa Cruz, who practices at Little Rock's Evergreen Internal Medicine and St. Vincent Infirmary Medical Center, where she is chief of medicine, first became involved with Arkansas Hospice

by referring patients to the organiza-tion. Eventually, she was asked to serve on Arkansas Hospice's standards board, a multidisciplinary group of professionals overseeing its operations, and she later joined its governing board.

The only hospice program in Ar-kansas with facilities where care can be offered outside home settings, Arkansas Hospice began providing home-based care in October 1998. By February 2000, the organization had added its first 24-bed on-site care center at the Little Rock VA Medical Center, North Little Rock Division. A second 16-bed care center was opened in June 2002 at St. Vincent Doctors Hospital in Little Rock. The program now has waiting lists for both centers and also operates satellite in-home hospice care See SANTA CRUZ, Page 7D

Santa Cruz

. Continued from Page 1D programs in Conway and Rus-

Recently, Santa Cruz has been helping the Arkansas Hospice ever since. Foundation board in its efforts to organize Thursday's A Fair to Remember fund-raiser at the has found the program a "com-Clear Channel Metroplex Events Center. The 55-year-old Santa committee recruiting sponsorships for the event. Weeks before the event, the group could already report success.

"Dr. Santa Cruz is one of we always dream about," said kansas Hospice. "She serves on the governing board, but she's helping us out on the foundation board very actively on the fund-raising for this event. Because of her efforts and efforts of other board members, we're approaching \$40,000 in commitments in sponsorships even before we have the event. Last year, our event raised \$40,000."

Money raised from the event will be earmarked to support indigent care. In 2002, charity care accounted for \$700,000 of Arkansas Hospice's budget, and in 2003 it may exceed \$1 million, according to Brazil. Arkansas Hospice remains a nonprofit in a field seeing more and more for-profit pro-

grams offering similar services. Reared in Pittsburgh, Santa Cruz moved to Arkansas in 1969 and was pursuing a master's degree in social work at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock in 1973 when pregnancy led her to the library at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences. Reading materials about childbirth, she had a revelation: Medicine would be in her future.

After completing her master's degree, Santa Cruz, then caring for a newborn, went back to

UALR to take science courses loved her and supported her. necessary to enter UAMS, where she graduated in 1979. After completing her residency, she joined what would become Evergreen has been her professional home

Arkansas Hospice, Santa Cruz prehensive and caring way to have end-of-life care." She par-Cruz has been involved with the ticularly remembers one former patient who was cared for at Ar- central Arkansas doctors and one kansas Hospice's North Little Rock facility.

this woman thrived there," San- form for a Nurses Day event at those rare board members that ta Cruz says. "Emotionally she St. Vincent. was better than I had ever seen Dee Brazil, executive director her because she had people Fair to Remember is available by of the Caring Friends of Ar- around her that cared for her and calling (501) 257-3400.

derful." Santa Cruz is the mother of one child, 29-year-old Erin Tulk, Internal Medicine. The practice an attorney who lives in Centreville, Va. In 1996, Santa Cruz married Steve Tucker, a flight in-As a referring physician for structor whom she met when

That was wonderful, truly won-

learning to pilot planes. A longtime member of the Arkansas Chamber Singers, Santa Cruz also performs with the B Flats, a band made up of eight lawyer. She is one of four women who sing for the group, which "It's a strange thing to say, but was founded six years ago to per-

More information about A

THE 2003-2004 SEASON

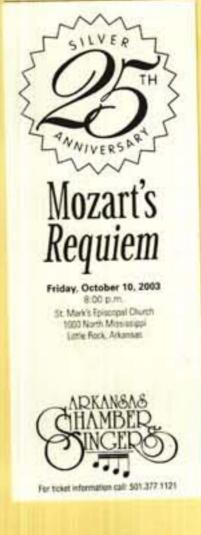


Mozart's Requiem

Friday, October 10, 2003 8:00 p.m.

St. Mark's Episcopal Church 1000 North Mississippi Little Rock, Arkansas





b As John Bapanevb

as Chamber Singers 1 for your support.

We hope you enjoyed the program and will attend our next concert.

DS # & proper go my og mr - pro 18:11

Arkansas Democrat W Gazette

Choir makes Requiem come alive

ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE

Arkansas Chamber Singers conductor John Erwin marshaled the largest vocal force in the choir's history for a forceful and impressive performance of the Requiem by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart on Friday night at the comfortably crowded St. Mark's Episcopal Church in Little Rock The concert opened the

Chamber Singers' 25th season. Erwin traded the volume and power of 55-plus singers, a necessity for balance against a 21piece orchestra, for the luxury of true dynamic contrast. (Whether an ensemble that large still can be truly called a "chamber" choir

is debatable.) Producing a true pianissimo sound is one of the most difficult things for a choir of any size to do, and it has been one of the Chamber Singers' special skills, alongside near-perfect dic-

The diction was there Friday night (I could hear every word in the complex fugal "Kyrie"), but most of the quiet passages were too loud - especially among the female voices - and the loud sections were loud enough to, well, almost wake the dead.

That was particularly effective in big movements - the "Dies irae" ("Day of wrath"); "Rex tremendae majestatis" ("King of awful majesty"), very crisply done; "Confutatis" (in which the male voices consign the damned to bitter flames while the female voices plead to be called among the blessed); and the "Osanna in excelsis" passages at the end of the "Sanctus" and "Benedictus"

But it meant sacrificing subtle things like the crescendo that extends over the three statements

Music

of the "Agnus Dei" ("Lamb of God"), which went from loud to louder, and the sudden hushes - the "et lux perpetua" ("and perpetual light") in the opening movement and the "Huic ergo parce Deus" ("Therefore, spare him, God") passage in the

"Lacrymosa" ("day of tears"). The four soloists - Christine Donahue, soprano; Suzanne Loerch, mezzo-soprano; Mathew Newman, tenor; and Stephen Edds, bass - were all superb, both individually and as members of

a well-balanced quartet. Members of the Arkansas Symphony Orchestra were very good, with the exception of some chancy clarinet tuning in the very beginning and one distinctive trombone clam. The three-

trombone choir was otherwise excellent, especially behind Edds in the "Tuba mirum" ("The trumpet spreads a wondrous

Erwin took the piece at comfortably fast tempos - the "Dies irae" never lingered, and the "Hostias" practically danced.

Friday, October 10, 2003

Choir starts season with Mozart Requiem

BY ERIC E. HARRISON ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT-GAZETTI

The Arkansas Chamber Singers will open their 2003-04 season with what director John Erwin says may be the group's first performance of the Requiem by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart tonight at Little Rock's

St. Mark's Episcopal Church. "I don't know that the Chamber Singers have done it in the recent past," he says. "This is a terrific way to begin our 25th

Soloists will be Christine erch, mezzo-soprano; Mathew Newman, tenor; and Stephen Edds, bass. Members of the Arkansas Symphony Orchestra will back the singers up.

Although Mozart's score calls says he'll be using clarinets.

ARKANSAS CHAMBER SINGERS 8 p.m. today, St. Mark's Episcopal Church, 1000 N. Mississippi St., Lit-

gang Amadeus Mozart's Requiem K.626 Tickets: \$15, \$10 students and sen-

"It's difficult to get [basset horns] and difficult to keep them in tune," he explains. "I promise we'll make them sound dark." The choir has swelled to 55

(501) 378-1121

members - an all-time high. "I've got some new members Donahue, soprano; Suzanne Lo- in the group who have elevated the level of each section, even stronger than last year," Erwin says. "Also, I needed a few more [singers] to balance the orches-

> Erwin, in his program notes, working when he died at age 35 of the work.

certain details that are irrefutable," Erwin says.

1791 when he received an anonymous commission to write a Requiem mass, (The commission came from Count Franz Walsegg-Stuppach to honor his

Mozart completed the "Requiem aeternam" and "Kyrie" opening movements while finishing The Magic Flute and start- and Richard Maunder. ing work on the opera La Clemenza di Tito. He wrote out the vocal parts and partly orfor dark-toned basset horns (a cites the inherent drama of the chestrated through the "Lachrysort of baritone clarinet), Erwin Requiem, on which Mozart was mosa" movement, the midpoint

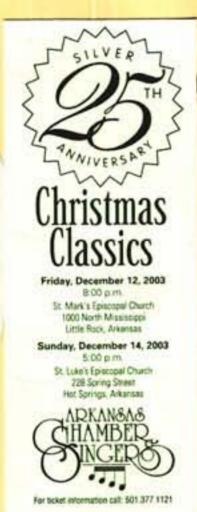
"Although the facts of the 1791 (amid dark but apparently composition of the Requiem are unfounded rumors that he had clouded somewhat with the as- been poisoned), Constanza, sistance of myths popularized by Mozart's widow, reportedly the movie Amadeus, there are asked composer Joseph Eybler to complete the Requiem. Then, not satisfied with Eybler's work, Mozart was working on the she gave the project to Mozart's opera The Magic Flute in July pupil Franz Sussmeyer. Sussmeyer, though he claims to have composed much of the latter half of the piece, probably was working with Mozart's sketches.

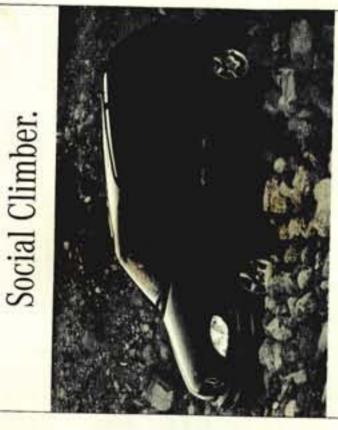
Erwin says after much historical research, he decided to go with the Sussmeyer version, passing up recent editions by Benjamin Britten, Franz Beyer

"There are lot of newer editions, but I decided to go with Sussmeyer because he was there at the time, it was the first version and perhaps it is more authentic," Erwin says.









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Arkansas Democrat-Gazette

Friday, December 12, 2003

Concert to trace Ave Maria through time

BY ERIC E HARRISON AREANSAS DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE

The Arkansas Chamber Singers, marking its silver anniversary this season, will hail the Virgin Mary and celebrate the ringing of bells, snow and the beauty of Christmas with a pair of concerts, tonight in Little Rock and Sunday in Hot Springs. "This will be an unusual

Christmas concert," says Music Director John Erwin, who will conduct the choir and members of the Celebration Ringers of St. James United Methodist Church.

the handbell choir ringing an Sergei Rachmaninoff) eras into and a selection of carols, inarrangement of Sperl Gallop the 20th century (Franz Biebl by Johann Strauss Jr., and will and Javier Busto). continue into the choir's per-

cert is a series of nine settings Ave Maria text. of the Ave Maria, the millenniaold Latin hymn to the Virgin soprano soloist in the Schubert and Hot Springs concerts.

ARKANSAS CHAMBER SINGERS 8 p.m. today, St. Mark's Episcopal Church, 1000 N. Mississippi St., Lit-tle Rock; 5 p.m. Sunday, St. Luke's Epis-copal Church, 228 Spring St., Hot Springs. St. James Celebration Ringers, John Erwin conducts. Tickets: \$15, \$10 students and senior citizens

(501) 377-1121

Mary, from the original medieval chant through the Renaissance (Jacques Arcadelt and Nicolas Gombert), Classical (Franz Schu"See Amid the Winter's Snow" The concert will open with Bruckner, Pietro Mascagni and Midwinter" by Harold Drake —

Erwin ties the portions of the formance of Alleluia: A New program together, noting that in Work Is Come on Hand by a custom dating to the Middle Michael Emery.

Ages, bell makers have inscribed The centerpiece of the con- on bells the first words of the

Suzanne Banister will be the

and Mascagni settings/ "We'll sing the Rachmaninoff in the original Russian," Erwin says; the rest will be in Latin.

The first half of the program will also include "Sicut locutus est" from the Magnificat by J.S. Bach; O magnum mysterium by Morten Lauridsen; and Robert Lucas Pearsall's setting of In Dul-

"The second half is a little bit a couple of "snow" pieces —
"See Amid the Winter's Snow" cluding four settings by Gustav

The audience will get to sing along on "O Come All Ye Faith-ful" and "Joy to the World." Many of the numbers will fea-

ture soloists from within the choir; in some cases the "cast" changes between the Little Rock

68 · SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2003 ·

Chamber Singers 'hail' before snow

BY ERIC E HARRISON ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE

Arkansas Chamber Singers Music Director John Erwin gave the audience nine "Hail Marys" at Friday night's "Signs of Christmas Time" concert at Little Rock's St. Mark's Epis-erally explored other Christcopal Church.

But it wasn't a penance - it was a joy.

Nine settings of the sacred Thirteen young members of text "Ave Maria" ("Hail Mary, the St. James United Methodist

latter to the same tune as the "Intermezzo" from Cavaliera Rusticana). A cappella renditions of settings by Anton Bruckner and Sergei Rachmaninoff (the latter in the original Russian) were particularly good; the Franz Biebl version was heartbreakingly loveMusic

mas themes — the ringing of ting of In Dulci Jubilo, "See bells and, without expecting to Amid the Winter's Snow" by be prophetic, snow.

full of grace") over nearly six
centuries of musical history
was the centerpiece of the concert's first half.

Church Celebration Ringers
were quite good in two tough
arrangements: Speri Galop by
Johann Strauss Jr. (at hand-Soprano Suzanne Banister bell pace it was more of a last soared nicely through the fator, but it was excellently played) and Toccata, an organ played by Charles Marie Widor.

quently sang.

And five ringers accompanied the choir's performance of Alleluia: A New Work Is Come on Hand by Michael En cry.

Various soloists excelled in Robert Lucas Pearsall's set-Amid the Winter's Snow" by John Goss, "In the Bleak Mid-winter" by Harold Drake and a four carol settings by Gustav

The audience got to sing along on "O Come All Ye Faith-ful" and "Joy to the World."

Erwin, singers and ringers will repeat the sounding joy at 5 p.m. Sunday at St. Luke's Episcopal Church, 228 Spring St., They also played the de rigueur "Ding Dong Merrily on High," which the choir subse-

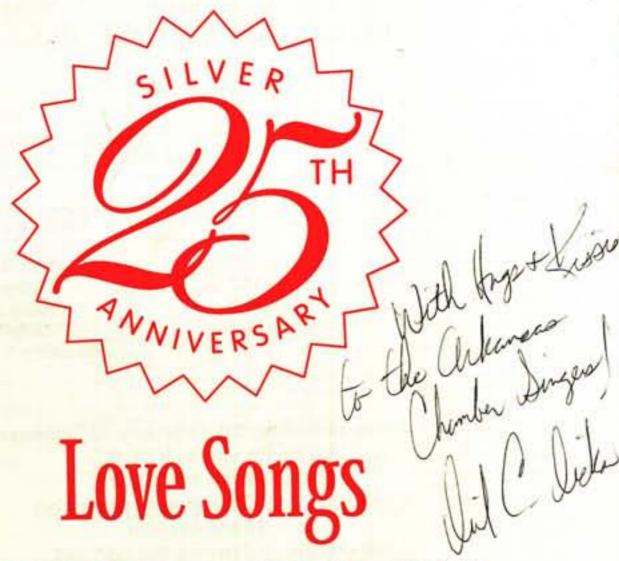


THE GENTLEMAN'S SHOP

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TELEPHONE (501) 664-3062

THE 2003-2004 SEASON



Friday, February 13, 2004 8:00 p.m.

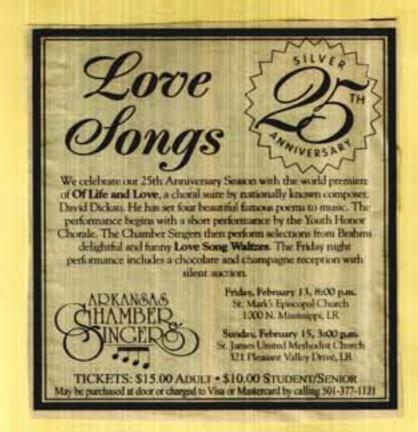
St. Mark's Episcopal Church 1000 North Mississippi Little Rock, Arkansas

Sunday, February 15, 2004

3:00 p.m.

St. James United Methodist Church 321 Pleasant Valley Drive Little Rock, Arkansas









Friday, February 13, 2004 8:00 PM St. Mark's Episcopal Church 1000 North Mississippi LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS

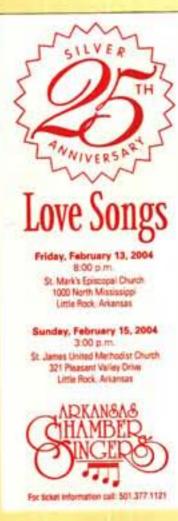
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CONCERTS

Love is in the air for Singers' silver jubilee

for this weekend's Little Rock Law conducts. concerts by the Arkansas Chamber Singers tonight at St. Mark's reception with silent auction fol-Episcopal Church and Sunday at lows tonight's performance. St. James United Methodist

mark its 25th anniversary season pretty much headed straight for with the world premiere of Of Dickau, a nationally known Life and Love by David Dickau, choral conductor and composcommissioned to mark the oc- er who teaches choral music

Waltzes (Love Song Waltzes) by Johannes Brahms. John Erwin

pers, K.339 (in Latin); "But Beau-transatiantic flight. tiful" by Johnny Burke and James

BY ERIC E. HARRISON Van Heusen; and Eugene Thamon Simpson's arrangement of the spiritual "Hold On!" Barry

A chocolate-and-champagne Erwin says when the Cham-

ber Singers board authorized a au: Of Life and Love (world pre-The ensemble will officially 25th anniversary commission, he and composition at Minnesota The program will also fea-ture 10 of the op.52 Liebelieder 70 miles south of Minneapo-

lis/St. Paul. Dickau's best known work is probably View From the Air, nesota two years ago, we dis-The Chamber Singers Youth composed for the Anne Mor-Honor Chorale will perform row and Charles H. Lindbergh "Laudate pueri" from Wolfgang Foundation in commemoration Amadeus Mozart's Solemn Ves- of Charles Lindbergh's historic

"We had performed a couple of four poems, which "deal with temporary," he adds.

ARKANSAS CHAMBER SINGERS 8 p.m. today, St. Mark's Episcopal Church, 1000 N. Mississippi St., Lit-tle Rock; 3 p.m. Sunday, St. James Unit-ed Methodist Church, 321 Pleasant Valley Drive, Little Rock, John Erwin, conductor, Brahms; selections from Liebeslieder Waltzes, op.52; Dick-

miere) Tickets: \$15, \$10 students, senior cit-

of his works about 10 years ago at [the University of Central Arkansas, where Erwin teaches and conducts), and when I met him at a conference in Mincussed the possibility of commissioning a work," Erwin says.

of the board, I jumped on it." The piece consists of settings

"When I got the approval

and loving, hence the title of the set," Dickau says in his program

The four pieces are conceived as a suite, with the progression of the texts and the music telling a story of awakening to love, opening oneself to love, loving through loss, and, finally, anticipating the return

The four pieces are "Awake, My Heart," based on a poem by Robert Bridges; "in time of daffodils" by e.e. cummings; Christina Rosette's "Echo"; and Thomas Campion's "Come, O Come, My Life's Delight." "It's really a joy," Erwin says of the work, "really beautiful."

He describes the style as neo-Romantic, but with challenging intervals and close harmonies - "not what I call far-out con-

"a lot of free rein" in composing Of Life and Love, asking only that it be in the style of one of his pieces Erwin liked.

"He wanted one piece a cappella, so three are with piano and there's one without."

Dickau chose as texts four poems he had admired but never set. Musicality was also a prime consideration.

"It could be a great text, beautiful, but it doesn't always have music in it," he explains. "These

Erwin says the 10 Brahms Love Song Waltzes, which the singers will perform in English,

complements the Dickau work. "Brahms does basically the same thing," he says. "He deals with all aspects of love. We have one from the real Romantic period, and one from the 21st century, but neo-Romantic."

Arkansas Chamber Singers will perform

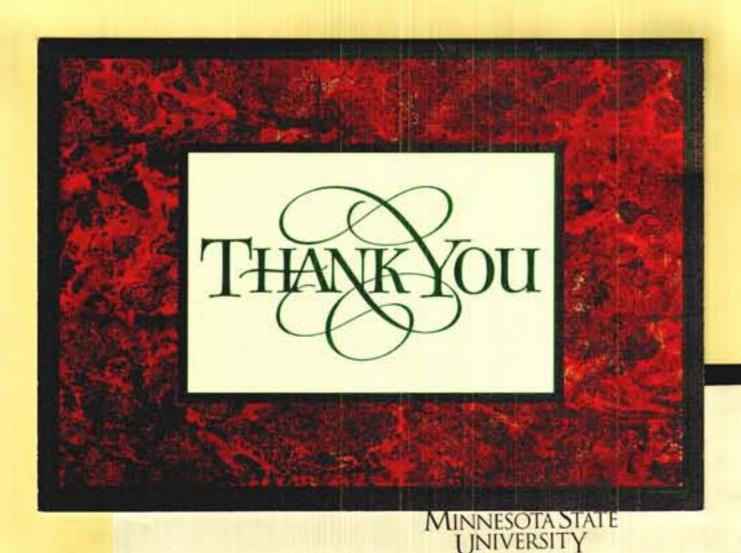
On Friday, February 13 and Sun-day, February 15 the Arkansas The Friday, February 13 perfor-Chamber Singers will perform the world premiere of "Of Life and Church, 1000 North Mississippi in Love," a choral suite by the nation- Little Rock beginning at 8 p.m. This ally known composer David Dickau. concert will be followed by a choco-Ticket prices are \$15 for adults and late and champagne reception with \$10 for seniors and students. This a silent auction in celebration of the highly anticipated work was com- 25th silver anniversary. sas Chamber Singers in honor of cert is at St. James United Method-

their 25th anniversary season. The concert will open with the Drive in Little Rock beginning at 3 youth honor chorale, followed by p.m. selections from Brahms' whimsical and funny Liebeslieder Waltzer 501-377-1121. (love song waltzes). The concert will

mance is at St. Mark's Episcopal

missioned especially for the Arkan- On Sunday, February 15 the conist Church, 321 Pleasant Valley

For more information please call



February 16, 2004

The Arkansas Chamber Singers P.O. Box 21002 Little Rock, Arkansas 72212

Dear Choir,

I am writing to thank you for the inspiring and beautiful premiere you gave "Of Life and Love" last weekend. It was a true joy to be in the audience and hear your dynamic performance. One of the pleasures of composing is to hear a choir take a piece of my music and make it their own. You really did that with "Of Life and Love." I could see the music in your faces as well as hear it in your beautiful sound. The performance was convincing and very well prepared in spite of a short rehearsal schedule following the holiday season. The suite will soon be "out there" in the repertoire but I will always be grateful to you for bringing it to life so well.

I also enjoyed meeting so many of you at the reception. I find that one of the aspects of composing I never anticipated but have come to appreciate is the chance to cross paths with so many people that I otherwise would not have the opportunity to meet. I especially enjoy meeting singers around the world because they are inevitably some of the most generous and likable people on the planet. You were no exception. As a matter of fact, both Anne and I commented that you were one of the warmest and most gracious groups of people we have ever had the pleasure of encountering.

Thank you also for the wonderful accommodations. The Capital Hotel is truly a gem. We thoroughly enjoyed our time there. Neither Anne nor I had ever been to Arkansas before. We enjoyed touring Little Rock and the surrounding area - and we saw quite a bit before the weather moved in. As for the snow, we apologize if we were in any way responsible!

Congratulations to you and your wonderful director for an outstanding premiere performance! I will always be grateful for having had the opportunity to compose for you. All the best to you in your continued music-making!

DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC 202 PERFORMING ARTS CENTER - MANKATO, MN 56001 PHONE 507-389-2118 (V) = 800-627-3529 or 711 (MRS/TTY) = FAX 507-389-2922 As Allimone Action Equal Operatory University

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HARRISON DAILY TIMES

Sunday, February 11, 2001

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Arkansas Chamber Singers



Tuesday, February 13, 7:00 p.m. Harrison High School Auditorium

Concert Association brings its versities. second concert of the season to Harrison. Sang All Day."

University of Central Arkansas, and graduate work at the rary period of today. has been director of the University of Missouri--Kansas One portion of this concert Tickets for this concert are Arkansas Chamber Singers City. Erwin also studied with consists of five Irish folk song \$10 for adults, \$5 for children since October, 1999. At UCA he Robert Shaw, Frieder Bernius, arrangements that run the and students under age 22. is Director of Choral Helmuth Rilling, Harold Decker, gamut of emotion reflecting the Advance tickets may be pur-Activities/Associate Professor of Weston Noble, Alfred Skoog condition of Ireland over the chased from Bank of America, Music. The UCA Concert Choir and Howard Swan. The pro- centuries. From the powerful Books Galore, Community First and the UCA Chamber Singers gram of "Choral Music from the Johnny I Hardly Knew Ye, the Bank, Edwards Grocery, have each earned national and British Isles" was challenging gripping, bittersweet Has Hudsons Supermarket, and international recognition for their and difficult for Erwin to develop Sorrow Thy Young Days Regions Bank. Tickets will also excellence. In addition, because of the vast amount of Shaded, the Irish penchant for be available at the box office Professor Erwin is a national excellent choral literature and expression in song in Sing, unless the performance has leader in the standards and the many choral composers of Sing, and the playful and flirta- sold out.

The 46-voice Erwin was raised and educat- renaissance, the composer understand the complicated Arkansas Chamber Singers ed in Arkansas, earning a William Byrd is the first musician Irish psyche. have performed the finest in Bachelor of Music Education presented. Other composers classical and contemporary from Arkansas State University represented are: baroque com- The concert closes with a set of music for 18 years. Directed by in 1966, where he was named poser John Blow, Sir Charles songs from Gilbert and Sullivan, Professor John M. Erwin, the Outstanding Graduate of the Villiers Stanford, Benjamin perhaps the most famous and Chamber Singers will present a University. He received his Britten, John Tavener, Gerald successful light opera comprogram of choral music from Master of Music Education from Finzi, Ralph Vaughn Williams, posers of their time. Featured the British Isles titled "My Spirit that university in 1968. Studies and Gilbert and Sullivan. These are selections from The Pirates at other institutions include composers represent the musi- of Penzance, The Mikado, A.B.D. for Doctor of Musical Arts cal styles of the renaissance all H.M.S Pinafore, and The Professor Erwin, from the from the University of Illinois the way through the contempo- Gondoliers.

The North Central Arkansas repertoire for colleges and uni- the highest caliber. Because of tious Come All and Tell My Ma, his position as the "Father of we are able to view a broad British Choral Music" during the range of emotion and better