Asbury College Vocal Arts

News of Asbury College Choral & Vocal Activities – Winter 2007

The newsletter is available by US mail in black-and-white or we will notify you by e-mail as soon as the website version, which contains photos in full color, is available. Please notify the Alumni Office of your preference and don’t forget to update that office regularly with e-mail or other address changes.

Collegium Musicum Vocal Ensemble to Tour Italy

The Collegium Musicum Vocal Ensemble, an *a cappella* ensemble under the direction of Dr. Vicki Bell, Professor of Music Theory, is working hard to prepare for their performance tour of Italy in May of this year. A group of 32 singers (15 students and 17 alumni, plus 7 support staff) will first travel to Palestrina, birthplace of composer Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina. While there, the singers will rehearse and perform a joint concert with the Palestrina Voices under the direction of Maestro Renzo Cilia. The concert will take place in the Cathedral of St. Agapito, the church Palestrina actually attended.

Rome is the next stop on the Vocal Ensemble’s tour, and the choir will sing Masses in St. Peter’s Basilica and Santa Maria Maggiore, followed by a concert in St. Ignatius Church. Two of the group’s organists, Nathan Davy ’07 and Lisa Hall ’07, will perform an organ recital in St. Paul’s Church in Rome. A trip to Florence follows, where the choir will sing in the Church of Santa Maria dei Ricci.

The Vocal Ensemble’s fall semester was busy not only with preparations for the Italy tour but also with numerous on-campus performances as well as an appearance on the “Music at St. Paul’s Series” in Newport, Kentucky. On February 11th, at 2:30 p.m., the Vocal Ensemble also sang on the “Christ the King Cathedral Concert Series” in Lexington, Kentucky, joined by the Asbury College Concert Choir under the direction of Dr. Bea Holz. The two groups presented independent concert sets and then concluded their combined performance with Jacob Handl’s magnificent *Duo Seraphim* for antiphonal choirs.

... Take time to check out the Collegium Musicum Vocal Ensemble’s new website at [www.cmve.info](http://www.cmve.info) for additional information on the activities of this fine choir at Asbury College ...
Asbury College Opera presents Menotti’s *Amahl*...

Asbury’s Opera Workshop production of Gian Carlo Menotti’s *Amahl & the Night Visitors* was made possible through a generous grant from the Pauls Foundation of Chicago. Special thanks to alumna David Valkema ’88, Vice President of the Board of The Pauls Foundation, who not only facilitated the grant application but traveled from Chicago to support the cast on its opening night performance.

Current students in the *Amahl* production included Kristen Reynolds ’08 (Amahl’s Mother), Noah Jacobus ’09 (King Balthazar), Amanda Quiggins ’07 (The King’s Page), Nicole Bamford ’07 (The Dancer) and the Asbury College Concert Choir as the opera chorus of shepherds & villagers. Additional roles for children were played by Hannah Schell (Adam’s big sister, a freshman at West Jessamine High School), and the brother & sister combination of Jacob & Sarah Dorrell, (7th & 3rd graders, respectively,) children of Wilmore residents Cheryl & Kerry Dorrell ’90. A whimsical non-speaking role of the King’s Camel was also added to the opera and was played by freshmen Jason Ellwood & Andrew Miller.

The role of King Kaspar was played by David Goss, an Asbury Theological Seminary student who is a May candidate for the Master of Divinity degree. King Melchior was played by Captain Mike Himes who, along with his wife Cathy, serves as one of the Co-Directors of the Moulton Memorial Salvation Army Student Center in Wilmore.

*Amahl* was directed by Dr. Beatrice Holz, accompanied by the Asbury College Orchestra and conducted by Dr. Ronald Holz. Professor Virginia Bowles served as Lighting & Sound Director as well as House Manager. Lighting controllers were Bill Hall & Lee Peters, with Amanda Blevins ’06 running the spotlight. Sound controller was freshman Nate Craddock. The great Backstage Managers were Amanda Bailey and Sierra Leonard, current seniors, who also served, along with Ellen Adkison ’09, as Assistants to the Director. The Makeup Coordinator was Jodie Nichols ’09.

Performances included a school matinee for all fifth-graders of Wilmore Elementary School on Thursday morning, December 7th followed by public performances on Saturday evening, December 9th and Sunday afternoon, December 10th, 2006.

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Asbury College Women’s Choir

The Women’s Choir, under the direction of Professor Virginia Bowles, Assistant Professor of Voice and Vocal Coordinator, will be performing two concerts on campus this spring in addition to providing music for one of the college’s chapel services. The Women will also minister in music at the Thompson Hood Veterans’ Residence in Wilmore, KY. in April.
Concert Choir Spring Break Tour March 17\textsuperscript{th} - 25\textsuperscript{th}

The 46-member Asbury College Concert Choir is preparing for its biennial spring break tour. Covering a total of six states, the tour kicks off March 17 in Chicago where David Valkema’88, a member of the Chicago Lyric Opera Board, has arranged a backstage tour of the Chicago Lyric Opera House and an opportunity for the choir to see the Lyric Opera’s final production of the season – Poulenc’s \textit{Dialogue of the Carmelites}.

With the exception of the first Sunday morning, where the choir will present musical offerings as part of regular services, most of the other tour locations will feature the choir in full concerts. The tour concludes at the National Cathedral in Washington D.C., where the group will present a 30-minute choral prelude to the Eucharist Service.

- March 18–8:30, 9:00 & 10:30 a.m.—Wheatland Salem United Methodist Church, Naperville, Illinois
- March 18–6:00 p.m.—The Salvation Army Des Plaines Corps, Des Plaines, Illinois
- March 19–7:00 p.m.—St. Joseph First United Methodist Church, St. Joseph, Michigan
- March 20–7:00 p.m.—Smithville United Methodist Church, Smithville, Ohio
- March 21–7:00 p.m.—Christ United Methodist Church, Marietta, Ohio
- March 22–7:00 p.m.—Faith Evangelical Free Church, Mountain Lake Park, Maryland
- March 23–7:30 p.m.—CrossPoint United Methodist Church, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania
- March 24–6:00 p.m.—Salvation Army Adult Rehabilitation Center, Alexandria, Virginia
- March 25–10:30 a.m.—The National Cathedral, Washington D.C. (choral prelude to the Eucharist Service at 11)

Dr. Beatrice Holz, Director of the Concert Choir, hopes that many alumni will come out to support the choir. She would like to continue a tradition, begun by Dr. Don Donaldson during his tenure as Concert Choir Director, of inviting alumni, at the conclusion of each of the “full” tour concerts, to sing with the choir on Gilbert Martin’s arrangement of \textit{When I Survey the Wondrous Cross}. All our musical alums are cordially invited to come and participate!

"Were the whole realm of nature mine, that were a present far too small. Love so amazing, so divine, demands my soul, my life, my all. ...Amen."
Alumni & Friends...

- Beth (Hagie) Hoovler ’00 is currently residing in Fredericksburg, VA and is teaching 2nd grade in a public school as well as private voice & piano lessons in her home studio. After completing her music degree at Asbury, Beth went on to receive the Master’s Degree in Elementary Education from Niagara University. She and her husband, Chris (a middle school band director), are expecting a baby girl around June 25th!

- Congratulations are in order to this year’s All-Collegiate Honors Choir participants – senior Jacob Granados (tenor) and juniors Kristen Reynolds (soprano), Hannah Ahn (alto) and Matthew Riddle (bass). The All-Collegiate Choir sang a fine concert at the Kentucky Center for the Arts in Louisville on February 8th where it was a special pleasure to greet two recent music alums – Sarah (Fyock) Rapach ’04, who is teaching Vocal Music at Julius Marks Elementary School in Lexington KY, and Christa (Colton) Camilleri ’01, who teaches Vocal Music at Clark Middle School in Winchester KY (Clark County).

...From Dr. Schell comes this update on...

The Men’s Glee Club

The first musical offering of the Men’s Glee Club this semester will be a medley of Armed Services songs, Camp Kirkland’s “Salute to Our Patriots,” for the President’s Day Chapel on Feb. 19. The men will also be singing for the Scholarship Weekend Banquet at the Lexington Radisson on Feb. 23, at Wesley Retirement Village in Wilmore on April 12, and at Lexington Evangelical Methodist Church on April 15. The ensemble will also participate in two other campus concerts and one additional chapel. This fine group, directed by Dr. Mark Schell, is ably accompanied by sophomore Emma Swayne.

🎵 Note These Opportunities to Support the Vocal Arts ...

In the event that some of our alumni and friends would like to know of projects that are on our various “wish lists” for the vocal arts program area at Asbury College, let us clue you in on some of the things we are hoping to fund in the future.

- Voice Lesson Scholarships – Many students find it difficult to pay the added private lesson fees to cover the cost of one-on-one instruction and accompanist fees above and beyond their tuition. There is a named scholarship already established to assist instrumentalists. We hope the future will provide for needy voice students, too!

- International Opportunities for Musical Ministry – With the addition to the core curriculum of a Cross-Cultural Experience for every student, one “choral dream” is to develop an opportunity for our Concert Choir to be part of an international cultural exchange on non-touring (even-numbered) years. Though students would ultimately need to raise the funds for these experiences on their own, the establishment of a scholarship fund for needy students in this area would also be a great help, particularly for students whose parents serve on the mission field. (These students have often grown up in a foreign country and do not have the contacts to raise funds in the US.)

- NATS & ACDA Scholarships – Participation of our voice students in the state and regional NATS Student Auditions and of our Student ACDA Chapter members in regional and national conferences is often contingent upon the availability of a student’s personal funds for conference registration fees, or for such items as accompanist fees for the NATS Student Auditions, etc. These students could use the support of a conference scholarship fund.

- One really big wish list item is for an acoustical shell and additional risers for Hughes Auditorium, enabling more effective performance of choral masterworks in Hughes, especially those accompanied by the college orchestra.

If you are interested in helping with any of these, please contact one of us listed in the top left corner or contact the Office of Institutional Advancement. Your tax-deductible gifts will enhance the vocal arts programs and enrich the lives of our students!