Asbury College Vocal Arts

News of Asbury College Choral & Vocal Activities for Alumni & Friends – Summer 2006

The newsletter is available by US mail in black-and-white or by e-mail with photos in full color. Please let the Alumni Office know of your preference and e-mail address or other address changes.

Dr. Craig Hodges Honored for Service at Asbury

On April 25, 2006, the Asbury College Concert Choir honored Dr. Craig Hodges at their final concert of the year. (Dr. Hodges will be living in Wilmore but will not be teaching at the college next year.) Choir officers Kristen Reynolds ’08 and Amanda Blevins ’06 represented the Concert Choir in making a presentation to Dr. Hodges and assuring him that he will be dearly missed but that he will remain forever in our hearts as a loved mentor and fellow music-maker for the Kingdom. Thank you, Dr. Hodges, for sacrificial service, excellent leadership, and for being an example of holy living among us.

Asbury College Women’s Choir in Carnegie Hall

The Asbury College Women’s Choir was privileged with an invitation to sing Gwyneth Walker’s Six Songs for Women’s Voices in its premier with the chamber orchestra accompaniment of the New England Symphonic Ensemble at Carnegie Hall. Though the initial November dates were not possible, the choir was able to raise the funds to be part of the second performance of the Walker songs in Carnegie Hall on April 24, 2006, performed with Ralph Vaughan Williams’ Magnificat. The combined women’s choir included three other choirs from California and one from New Jersey. The Women’s Choir (conducted by Dr. Beatrice Holz from 1987-2006) is indebted to the generous gifts of friends, family & alumni for making this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity a reality.
Opera Workshop Grant from The Pauls Foundation

Asbury's desire to revitalize its Opera Workshop program and make it an annual offering was made possible through a generous grant from the Pauls Foundation of Chicago. Special thanks to alumna David Valkema, who serves as Vice President of the Board of The Pauls Foundation, and to Earl Ogata of the Office for Institutional Advancement, who assisted in writing the grant for the opera. Gilbert & Sullivan’s Mikado was presented to over 200 eighth-grade students who came from Boyle County on January 31, 2006 and then in three evening performances February 24, 2006 in Akers Auditorium directed by Dr. Beatrice Holz.

Amahl & the Night Visitors coming to Asbury

Thanks to the continuing support of The Pauls Foundation, Asbury now begins its first sequential-year production in the field of opera. Gian Carlo Menotti’s Amahl & the Night Visitors is the story of the Three Kings on their pilgrimage. When they seek food & lodging at the home of a poor woman with a crippled son, a miracle of healing occurs through faith in the Child the Wise Men seek. Join us for this opera, featuring Adam Schell (son of Dr. Mark & Cheryl Schell ’87) in the role of Amahl. The opera will be accompanied by the Asbury College Orchestra in a performance for students from Wilmore Elementary School as well as in performances for the public on Saturday, 12/9 at 7:30 pm and on Sunday, 12/10 at 3 pm. For tickets, please call 859-858-3511 extension 2250.

Reunion Choir conducted by Dr. Don Donaldson

The Asbury College Choir Reunion weekend was a great success. About 50 alumni from the 1950's to the current graduates rehearsed for four and a half hours. The rehearsals were filled with humor, memories and great music. Dr. Don Donaldson’s famous quote will be remembered for years to come. “If it is not right, it is wrong.” Thanks, Dr. D! On Sunday’s concert, June 25th, the choir sang Song of Triumph, E’en So, Lord Jesus, Quickly Come, Majesty and Glory, Cross Cry, and other wonderful anthems. An especially memorable moment came as the choir ended the program in Hughes Auditorium with When I Survey the Wondrous Cross. "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."
Men’s Glee Club & Handbell Choir continue touring tradition

The members of the Men’s Glee Club spent their Spring Break touring with the members of the Wesley Memorial Handbell Choir. This year’s tour, March 18-26, included First Baptist Church in Newport KY, First United Methodist Church in Columbus IN; Westchester UMC and Zion Lutheran Church in Portland IN; Galion Free Methodist Church in Galion OH; Smithville UMC in Smithville OH; Mansfield Christian School in Mansfield OH; Sandy Lake Wesleyan Church in Sandy Lake PA; Broad Street UMC in Weston WV; and Bagby UMC in Grayson KY. The groups are indebted to these wonderful hosts for their hospitality and hard work. They are also very grateful to Cheryl Schell (’87) for her tireless efforts in the role of Tour Coordinator this year. Each concert was a delightful experience and the groups were well-received by each church and school. The Men’s Glee Club and its new director, Dr. Mark Schell, look forward to the opportunity to tour again in the Spring of 2009!

Do YOU have a suggested location for one of our touring groups? If so, please let the Music Department know. The Concert Choir will be touring March 17-25, 2007, followed by the Women’s Choir in spring of 2008 and the Men’s Glee Club & Handbell Choir in spring of 2009.

Collegium Vocal Ensemble to Tour Italy in May 2007

The Vocal Ensemble is the youngest of Asbury’s choral groups. Instituted in the fall of 2000 as a part of the Collegium Musicum, the a cappella chamber choir is comprised of 16-18 singers. While the focus of the repertoire is the choral music of the Renaissance, established masterpieces of all periods, as well as new works, are performed. Dr. Vicki Bell, Professor of Music Theory, is the founding director as well as the present conductor for the ensemble.

The Vocal Ensemble supplements its on-campus performance schedule with occasional off-campus events, as in the spring of 2005, when the singers performed at Washington National Cathedral.

The 2006-2007 academic year will be a busy one for the Vocal Ensemble. The group will perform on the St. Paul’s Cathedral Series in Newport, Ky, as well as the Christ the King Concert Series in Lexington, Ky. In May of 2007, a number of the present singers will be joined by various alumni of the Collegium Musicum Vocal Ensemble for a nine-day tour of Italy.

While in Italy, the Vocal Ensemble will sing Masses in St. Peter’s Basilica and Santa Maria Maggiore, and will also perform a concert in St. Ignatius Church in Rome. The singers will then travel to Florence, where they will sing a Mass in the Baptistery, followed by a concert in the church of Santa Maria Ricci.
News of Alumni and Friends...

- Shawn Okpebholo ’03 is A.B.D. at the College-Conservatory of Music of the University of Cincinnati, having completed all course work, recitals, and comprehensive exams for the D.M.A. in Musical Composition. Shawn will begin teaching this fall at Northern Kentucky University.

- Heidi (Morris) Pelkey ’91, begins teaching as a part-time Instructor in Music Education at Western Michigan University this fall.

- Two of this year’s graduates, Enoch Jacobus and Wes Sillaman, will pursue graduate studies in Music Composition at the University of Louisville beginning fall of ’06.

- Charlotte Hortin Foster ’96 teaches at Bannington High School, Los Angeles. An active member of the Arts Council for decisions regarding music education in LA, Charlotte plans to start her MA in Music Education with a Choral Emphasis in Long Beach CA this fall.

- Scott Adams ’04 recently completed a Master’s degree in Music Composition at the University of Louisville.


- Norman Reinhardt ’01 has just completed his third year as an artist with Houston Grand Opera Studio. His numerous roles included, among others, Missail/Boyar in Boris Godunov, Ernesto in Don Pasquale, Lamplighter/Drunkard in The Little Prince (I guess his Asbury background wasn’t helpful for that!), the Messenger in Il Trovatore, Arbace in Idomeneo, Romeo & Tony in The Two Faces of Romeo and Juliet, and Meleagros in the world premier of Lysistrata.

Norman will make his European recital debut on Tuesday, 9/19/06 at the Wigmore Hall in London.

🎵 Some Final Notes...

Let the Alumni Office know if you would like to receive this by e-mail with the newsletter in the future by e-mail as an attachment in full color. You can update your address information on the “Eagle’s Nest” (the alumni page of the website) if you like, or send it to the Alumni Office. Please send newsletter info, however, using the contact info to the left.