

# The St. Martin's Voice

*The Newsletter of St. Martin's Chamber Choir*

## “It is Finished...”

*By Timothy J. Krueger, Artistic Director*

Some of the most evocative of all choral music, in my opinion, comes from the Christian celebration of Holy Week – that week which precedes Easter, and which commemorates the events leading up to the betrayal, trial, crucifixion and death of Jesus. This low point in the Christian year – the defeat and death of God, so to speak – has inspired composers for a thousand years to create some of the most heart-wrenching and poignant music of any genre or style.

One of the typical liturgies of this period is the "Stations of the Cross," a devotional exercise that employs fourteen events (drawn either from scripture or holy tradition, and depicted as "scenes"



around the interior of a church) to lead the participant's mind and emotions along that path traced by Jesus on the day of his crucifixion.

St. Martin's Chamber Choir acknowledges this tradition in its next concert, "It is Finished...": *Stations of the Cross*.

Sixteen choral works (one for each of the fourteen stations, plus a choral "prelude" and "postlude") make up the program of this concert, spanning from the Renaissance (Palestrina, di Lasso, Tallis) through the 17<sup>th</sup> century (Schütz, Casciolini), the 18<sup>th</sup> (Lotti, Reutter,

Gasparini), the 19<sup>th</sup> (Mendelssohn, Bruckner), the 20<sup>th</sup> (Casals, Raminsh), and even into the 21<sup>st</sup> century (two world premieres, by St. Martin's own "composers in residence" M. Susan Brown and Terry Schlenker).

Between each choral number is a brief reading setting the scene for each Station. We are pleased and honored to have two very gifted readers for the concerts: On Friday, Stephanie Wendt, the

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### ***“It is Finished...”: Stations of the Cross***

**Friday, April 7, 2006**

**7:30 p.m.**

St. John's Episcopal Cathedral  
1350 Washington St., Denver

**Sunday, April 9, 2006**

**7:30 p.m.**

St. Elizabeth's Church  
Auraria campus, Denver

Adults, \$18; Seniors, \$15;

Students, \$10

**(303) 298-1970**

[www.StMartinsChamberChoir.org](http://www.StMartinsChamberChoir.org)

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## More Critical Praise for SMCC Recordings

Listen to what the prestigious *American Record Guide* has to say in its April/May 2006 issue about St. Martin's 2004 CD release "The Unknown Masterpiece":

- ☒ "The choir performs at a level of refinement and assurance that is seldom heard in concert performances. Pinpoint intonation, rhythmic precision, luxuriant tone, and deep interpretations—this group has it all."
- ☒ "This Denver-based choir, recorded in concerts in their 2003-04 season, does better work than many I've heard in studio recordings from respected labels. They further offer a remarkable selection of worthwhile new music for a cappella choir..."
- ☒ "[Terry Schlenker's Mass for Double Choir is] a lush and rarefied piece of strong sacred power and appeal. Name any spiritual emotion typically evoked by the Latin mass: hushed mystery, crushing grief, ecstatic joy, or abject reverence—and you'll find it here. The music—performed here for the first time anywhere—is radiant and ethereal, built on modal (and other ancient) foundations, deftly translated into striking and original modern musical language."
- ☒ "[Timothy Krueger's] very effective Evening Service in the Edwardian Mode: compact and expressive settings of the classic Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis texts that mark him as a choral composer to reckon with."

To read the *American Record Guide's* full review please visit the St. Martin's website and click on the link "New Acclaim for 'The Unknown Masterpiece'".



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**Donate your vehicle to support SMCC!**

**Info: 303-308-2400 or 1-877-628-2277**

## Once upon a time in St. Martin's Chapel...

Did you know that St. Martin's began as a group of friends gathered together by Artistic Director and founder Tim Krueger to give a concert of English Romantic-era partsongs? Tim had long had the dream of creating a professional choir in Denver, and this was his first step in realizing that dream. In the spring of 1994 Tim and a dozen singers from the St. John's Episcopal Cathedral choir prepared a program called *Dreams All Too Brief*. That first concert on June 11, 1994 in the Cathedral's little St. Martin's Chapel was the genesis of the professional ensemble that you see today. Four singers from that original concert are still in the choir: Tom Keyse, Jen Courtney-Keyse, Glen McGrath, and David Farwig.

Since those humble beginnings, St. Martin's has presented hundreds of concerts for thousands of people, recorded seven acclaimed CDs, become a professional organization both in its recognition of the group's musicians and in its administration, and established itself as an important part of Colorado's rich cultural life.

Make your reservation today for  
one of the remaining  
*Feasts of St. Martin*  
For 2005-06

**Some "in-chanted" evening** – Monastic echoes in Tavener and Pärt, served with classic Greek cuisine. **April 22, 2006. Nearly SOLD OUT!**

**Plum dandy...** – Wines from Plum Creek Cellars, gourmet cheeses from the Truffle, and southwestern native art. **May 6, 2006.**

**Bag a fourteener** – An unforgettable hike to the top of 14,060 foot peak of Mt. Bierstadt. **June 3, 2006. Nearly SOLD OUT!**

**Lofty choir and organ lofts** – Tour the pipe organs of St. John's Cathedral and Hamilton Recital Hall, and much more. **June 4 & 11, 2006.**

Complete information at  
[www.StMartinsChamberChoir.org/Feasts0506.htm](http://www.StMartinsChamberChoir.org/Feasts0506.htm)  
Make your reservations today by contacting the St. Martin's office at 303-298-1970 or [info@StMartinsChamberChoir.org](mailto:info@StMartinsChamberChoir.org)

*"Finished", cont. from page 1*

current host of the "Sacred Classics" program on KVOD, will do the readings; and on Sunday we will be joined by Monika Vischer, also a classical music host on KVOD, and former "Sacred Classics" host. It is especially appropriate for Stephanie and Monika to join us for this purpose, as the original conceiver and creator of the "Sacred Classics" program was the late Mark Sheldon, a member of St. Martin's Chamber Choir, the ensemble's first assistant conductor, and the dedicatee of the *Mark Sheldon Memorial Fund*, through which St. Martin's funds all its recordings. "Sacred Classics" has now been syndicated nationally, and is carried by 8 classical radio stations across the country and by the NPR network.

## Still to come from St. Martin's in the 2005-06 Season

June 9 & 11, 2006  
"There Let the Pealing Organ..."

St. Martin's 2005-06 season concludes  
with festive works for organ and choir,  
culminating with Britten's masterpiece  
*Rejoice in the Lamb*.

Full season details at  
[www.StMartinsChamberChoir.org](http://www.StMartinsChamberChoir.org)

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## Donor's Corner

By Brock Erickson, Executive Director

Welcome to a new feature of *The St. Martin's Voice* called "Donor's Corner". Supporters of St. Martin's Chamber Choir will be offering their thoughts and perspective on what the choir means to them and to their community, and why they choose to support St. Martin's.

As Executive Director, I'd like to begin this series myself, because long before I became the group's administrator I was a St. Martin's singer and Board member. When I began singing with St. Martin's 10 years ago I immediately recognized it as a very special and unique phenomenon: a chamber choir exclusively devoted to performing serious choral music at a very high level. It was quite literally the choir I had been searching for my entire musical life. When the Board of Directors was formed in 1997 I was honored to be selected by the singers as their representative to the Board, and after several years I became a regular elected member. I served on the Board until September 2004, when I was hired as Executive Director.

There are very few arts organizations who dare to specialize. The larger culture seems to want groups that try to be all things to all people, but St. Martin's has never followed that road. Artistic Director Tim Krueger's vision for the group has always been that of a group of serious, professional musicians who are dedicated to performing choral chamber music, and to truly enjoy making music together. I love jazz, spirituals and other forms of choral music, but at this point in my life I thirst for something different, and St. Martin's focus on "serious" music fills a real need in me. I support St. Martin's Chamber Choir because it offers to its faithful audiences and to me something that is truly unique. Both Colorado's cultural scene and my own life are far richer for it.

If you'd like to tell St. Martin's Chamber Choir's friends why you've chosen to support this unusual, vital arts organization, simply write or email the St. Martin's office and we'll include your thoughts in a future issue of *The Voice*.

# *“It is Finished...”:* *Stations of the Cross*

- ⦿ A beautiful Lenten observance, including Renaissance motets and modern sacred classics by Bruckner, Schütz, Casals, Palestrina, Mendelssohn and others
- ⦿ World premieres from Terry Schlenker and M. Susan Brown
- ⦿ Special guests: CPR’s Stephanie Wendt and Monika Vischer



## **Where & When:**

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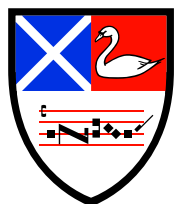
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*Twelfth Concert Season, 2005-06*

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