

The St. Martin's Voice

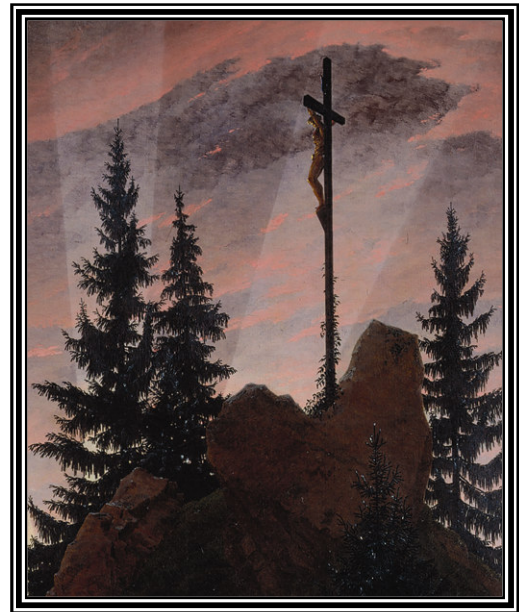
The Newsletter of St. Martin's Chamber Choir

Passio Christi

By Timothy J. Krueger, Artistic Director

Second only to the predictable popularity of our Christmas concerts, the Lenten concert has always been our best-attended concerts of the year. And this year's offerings are sure to please, with one of the Renaissance's finest pieces, the *Lamentations I & II* of Thomas Tallis (1515-1585) beginning the concert, and modern American composer John Ferguson's *Christus* ending it. The latter is a set of six pieces, most of them based on a hymn or plainchant melody, scored for a *cappella* chorus and solo viola. Ferguson is the professor of sacred music and organ at St. Olaf College. Matthew Dane, principal violist of the Colorado Music Festival at Chautauqua, will join the choir on these works. Indeed, it was Matt who introduced me to the set about a year-and-a-half ago (when it numbered only four pieces. Ferguson has since added two more works to the set!).

Rounding out the concert will be shorter works by



Das Kreuz im Gebirge (detail),
Caspar David Friedrich (1744-1840)

Johann Kuhnau (1660-1722) and Jonathan Battishill (1738-1831), both conducted by this year's Mark Sheldon conducting intern Jill Schroeder.

A very special feature of the Friday night concert (Apr. 3) will be the presence of the advanced

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Passio Christi

Concert sponsors:
Robert and Juanita Kniss (April 3rd)

Friday, April 3rd, 7:30 p.m.,
St. John's Episcopal Cathedral, Denver

Saturday, April 4th, 7:30 p.m.,
First Congregational Church, Boulder

Tickets: \$25 Premium (Lim. Avail.), \$20 Adult,
\$18 Senior, Student \$5

(303) 298-1970 or www.StMartinsChamberChoir.org

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More praise from the "American Record Guide" for SMCC recordings

In its March/April 2009 issue, the *American Record Guide* reviewed two of St. Martin's CDs, "A Glimpse of Heaven" and "O Taste and See". In writing about the former, the ARG says "*The St Martin's Chamber Choir brings world-class luster to Denver's choral scene. There aren't many American chamber choirs that can top them. Their singing is invariably smooth, sensitive, sonorous, and technically flawless. [We have] reviewed their records with great pleasure in recent years. They're beautifully recorded here, and the booklet is more than adequate. If you follow the best American choirs, their work belongs on your shelf.*" What more can we say? (Well, we could point out that you can purchase "A Glimpse of Heaven" and other SMCC recordings directly from the SMCC office, or from Amazon.com, Gothic-Catalog.com, or by digital download from iTunes.com, Napster.com, eMusic.com, etc.)

Artistic Director Krueger garners kudos from Boulder press

In addition to his role as founder and Artistic Director of St. Martin's Chamber Choir, Tim Krueger serves as chorus master of both the Colorado Music Festival and the Boulder Bach Festival. It was with the latter organization that Tim attracted rave reviews in mid-March for his interpretation of two of J.S. Bach's seldom-performed "Lutheran" Masses. The *Boulder Daily Camera* said that "*Under the sure-handed direction of Timothy Krueger, the festival chorus made a strong argument for these neglected works. Krueger has near-legendary status in the area's choral music scene, and he has an unusual understanding of Bach as a composer and as a man.*" The reviewer also referred to Krueger's "*revelatory leadership*" and his "*irreproachable choral direction*". Congratulations, Tim!

St. Martin's winds up its 15th Anniversary Season in June with

Enlightenment A Cappella

Be sure not to miss St. Martin's June 5 & 7 season finale "Enlightenment A Cappella", a fascinating program of unaccompanied choral music of the 18th century. Virtually all choral works written during the Age of Enlightenment were accompanied by basso continuo, but Artistic Director Tim Krueger has researched works intended to be performed without instrumental accompaniment. This will also be the program for St. Martin's Chamber Choir's next CD, so join us in June for a preview!

Friday, June 5, 2009, 7:30 p.m., Baha'i Center of Metro Denver, 225 E. Bayaud Ave., Denver

Sunday, Jun. 7, 2009, 3:00 p.m., St. John's Episcopal Cathedral, 1350 Washington St., Denver

You can find more concert details and purchase tickets at www.StMartinsChamberChoir.org or 303-298-1970.

Coming soon from St. Martin's:

The Waking: Choral Music of Terry Schlenker

From newly recorded premieres such as *The Waking*, *Of the Father's Love Begotten*, and *Brennen's Lullaby*, to long-time audience favorites *Timor et Tremor*, *O Come*, *O Come Emmanuel* and the *Mass for Double Choir*, this CD of the compositions of St. Martin's own Terry Schlenker is sure to be a hit. Plan to get your copy soon, and we'll let you know as soon as they arrive.

St. Martin's selects Denver South and Green Mountain high schools for 2009-10 choral residencies

We're pleased to announce the selection of Denver South High School and Green Mountain High School as the area choral programs who will take part in SMCC's residency program next season. Both schools have excellent choral groups, and both are eager to work with SMCC singers in a workshop setting. More details about these residencies will appear here early in the 2009-10 season.

Spanish Guitarra - A House Recital

A stunning art-filled LoDo loft will be the setting for an evening of music from renowned guitarist Alex Komodore. This intimate chamber recital will be accompanied by champagne and desserts.

Saturday evening, May 23rd, \$60 per person

For more information on this and other upcoming Feasts of St. Martin call 303-298-1970, e-mail info@StMartinsChamberChoir.org, or visit www.StMartinsChamberChoir.org.

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choir of East High School, directed by William Taylor. St. Martin's has held two residency workshops with the East High School choir since January, and they will be performing Leo Nestor's setting of *Jesu, dulcis memoria*, as well as joining St. Martin's in the slow movement from J. S. Bach's Motet #1, *Singet dem Herrn* for double choir. On Saturday night, St. Martin's will perform the Bach alone, with a solo quartet singing the part of one of the choirs.

Please note that the concerts this weekend are, exceptionally for us, on Friday and Saturday nights, not Sunday.



You can receive the St. Martin's Voice newsletter by e-mail

Postage is going up again next month, and one of the easiest ways you can make a contribution to St. Martin's is by electing to have the **St. Martin's Voice** e-mailed to you instead of using postal mail. All you have to do is send an e-mail to info@stmartinschamberchoir.org saying you'd like the electronic version of the newsletter, and we'll take care of the rest. Thanks for helping us control costs and serve you as efficiently as possible.

Purchase your St. Martin's concert and Feast tickets online

Concert tickets and Feast of St. Martin reservations can now be purchased through the St. Martin's website! Just log on to www.StMartinsChamberChoir.org and securely purchase your tickets for any upcoming SMCC event.

Passio Christi

- ☞ Thomas Tallis' *Lamentations of Jeremiah, I & II*
- ☞ *Christus* for choir & viola, by John Ferguson
- ☞ Other works by Jonathan Battishill, Johann Kuhnau and J. S. Bach
- ☞ Guest soloist Matt Dane, principal viola of the Colorado Music Festival Orchestra
- ☞ SMCC is joined for Bach motet by the select choir from Denver East High School

Where & When:

Friday, April 3rd, 7:30 p.m.,
St. John's Episcopal Cathedral,
1350 Washington St., Denver

Saturday, April 4th, 7:30 p.m.,
First Congregational Church,
1128 Pine St., Boulder

For tickets call (303) 298-1970 or visit
www.StMartinsChamberChoir.org

St. Martin's Chamber Choir' 15th Season is sponsored in part by:

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