

The St. Martin's Voice

The Newsletter of St. Martin's Chamber Choir

“Gloria in Excelsis...”

By Timothy J. Krueger,
St. Martin's Chamber Choir Artistic Director

Although it is doubtful that the angels on that Christmas night in Palestine were singing to the shepherds in Latin, "*Gloria in excelsis*" is the beginning of their joyful tidings, translated into that revered ecclesiastical language of a later time. "Glory to God in the highest; and peace, good will towards men," is a more recent translation (although not the *most* recent, which would certainly replace the word "men" with something more gender-inclusive!).

In St. Martin's tenth annual Christmas concert, these words form the inspiration for nearly everything that will be sung. Beginning with "*Gloria in excelsis Deo*" by the English Tudor composer Thomas

Weelkes, and going right through to the loud shouts of "Glory to God in the highest" that are the final words of the joyful and exciting "Shepherd's Story" by Los Angeles composer J.A.C. Redford that will conclude the concert, the audience will be treated to a banquet of song, mimicking the songs of the angels on that frosty night over 2000 years ago.

Along the way there will be some arrangements of familiar carols by Charles Wood, John Rutter, and Reginald Jacques; some lovely French carols by Canadian composer Peter

Mathews; a haunting set of Latin motets by the great French 20th century composer Francis Poulenc; a couple ancient Christmas works by the likes of Samuel Scheidt and the already-mentioned Weelkes; and some modern pieces by Herbert Howells, Eric Whitacre, and Vijay Singh.

The one note of solemnity in the evening will be the world-premiere of "Music for the Victims of our Earth" by Denver composer John White. Mr. White wrote this piece exactly one year ago to honor the tens of thousands who died in the Asian tsunami on December 26, 2004. He wrote it for and dedicated it to St. Martin's Chamber Choir, and I decided that premiering it near the first anniversary of the actual tragedy would be appropriate, especially given that 2005 has been a year of many natural disasters, from hurricanes Katrina and Rita to the earthquake in Pakistan.

I look forward to seeing you all, and musically wishing you "Happy Holidays" in this joyful concert, echoing the song of the angels, "*Gloria in excelsis...*"

“Gloria in Excelsis...”

Friday, December 16, 2005
7:30 p.m.

Broomfield Auditorium
3 Community Park Rd.,
Broomfield

Saturday December 17, 2005
7:30 p.m.

St. Paul Lutheran Church
1600 Grant, Denver

Sunday, December 18, 2005
7:30 p.m.

St. Elizabeth's Church
Auraria campus, Denver

Adults, \$18; Seniors, \$15;
Students, \$10
(303) 298-1970

www.StMartinsChamberChoir.org

What's Inside?

“Gloria in Excelsis...”	1
Mark Sheldon Memorial Fund	2
“A Marian Christmas” reviewed	2
Remaining 2005-06 Feasts	2
One More Tax Deduction	3
Why “St. Martin's”?	3
SMCC Concert Schedule	3
“Monastic Echoes” CD Available	3

Mark Sheldon Fund Update

Since its inception two years ago the Mark Sheldon Memorial Fund has grown to be a very important part of St. Martin's Chamber Choir's program of outreach. Established after the death on December 9, 2003 of Mark Sheldon, St. Martin's singer, assistant conductor, and KVOD classical music host, the fund began with gifts made in Mark's memory by many generous donors. The Board of Directors decided that this fund should be used to underwrite the choir's future recording projects and a conducting intern position, and would be replenished by all proceeds from the sales of St. Martin's CDs. This has proved to be a very successful plan, as the Mark Sheldon Fund has covered all production costs of two new recordings, "The Unknown Masterpiece" (2004) and "Monastic Echoes" (2005). Two previous CD titles have also been reprinted, and this autumn our first conducting intern, Heather Kohl, began her work with the choir. A graduate student at the University of Denver, Heather has been involved in all aspects of St. Martin's operations, both artistic and administrative, and will be conducting the choir at concerts throughout the season. More information about Heather and her conducting internship will appear in the February issue of *The St. Martin's Voice*.

To make a contribution to the Mark Sheldon Memorial Fund simply note on your check that you want your gift to go the Mark Sheldon Fund. You'll be supporting Mark's musical legacy in a very tangible way by allowing St. Martin's to share Mark's passion for choral music through our education and recording outreach programs.

Check Out These Rave Reviews for "A Marian Christmas"

ClassicsToday.com enthuses that *A Marian Christmas* "...features top-notch ensemble singing and uniformly fine engineering... This terrific Denver-based choir, founded in 1994, has accomplished in ensemble blend and balance, and in the finer details of tone and uniformity of expression, what many choirs spend many more years perfecting (this recording was made in 1998, only four years into the group's existence!).

"St. Martin's Chamber Choir is one of the finest American

ensembles you'll hear on recordings, and it couldn't represent itself more advantageously than in this repertoire. Christmas and choral music fans--this is one not to miss."

American Record Guide emphatically agrees, calling the CD "A simply marvelous program of un-hackneyed music, fresh and resting in the ears with great beauty. This quiet, simple, mothering music is just right for Christmas Eve. ...The Denver-based unaccompanied St Martin's Chamber Choir is a marvel in itself--16 voices, men and women, delicately balanced and blended in a soothing radiance."

Reserve Now For One of the Remaining *Feasts of St. Martin* For 2005-06

Capriccio Italien – A tour of unique Italian gardens.
January 20, 2006. **SOLD OUT!**

Glass treasures – Learn about vintage glassware, and about your glass heirlooms. February 25, 2006.

Interview with a muse – An evening with composer Terry Schlenker. March 10, 2006. **SOLD OUT!**

Some "in-chanted" evening – The monastic influences of Tavener and Pärt, served with classic Greek cuisine. April 22, 2006.

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.

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

Make your reservations today by contacting the
St. Martin's office at 303-298-1970 or
info@StMartinsChamberChoir.org

Just One More Tax Deduction!

The tax year is almost over, but there's still time to squeeze in one more tax deduction. You can donate **any vehicle** to St. Martin's Chamber Choir, including cars, trucks, boats, motorcycles, vans, dirt bikes, tractors, mowers, golf carts, trailers and recreational vehicles. A portion of the proceeds of the sale of your vehicle will support St. Martin's Chamber Choir, and you'll benefit as well.

Just call the donation line at **303-308-2400** in the Denver metro area or **1-877-628-2277** across Colorado to donate your vehicle. Be sure to specify "St. Martin's Chamber Choir" when asked which charity you are supporting. For more details please visit the SMCC website at www.StMartinsChamberChoir.org and go to "Support".

Why is St. Martin's called "St. Martin's"?

St. Martin's Chamber Choir's first performance in June 1994 was given in St. Martin's Chapel at St. John's Episcopal Cathedral in Denver. The chapel is named for St. Martin of Tours, the 4th century bishop of Tours, France. Built as the Cathedral's children's chapel, the intimate space provided an ideal concert venue for the fledgling ensemble. As the choir and its audiences grew, performances moved to other acoustically rich spaces in the Denver area, but the name "St. Martin's" stuck, and today provides a unique identity for a group with strong roots in sacred music and an adventurous programming philosophy encompassing a wide range of choral music.

St. Martin's Chamber Choir

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Visit us on the Web at:

www.StMartinsChamberChoir.org

Still to come in the 2005-06 Season

February 10 and 12, 2006

"My Full Heart Forth...": The Men of St. Martin's

April 7 & 9, 2006

"It is Finished...": Stations of the Cross

June 9 & 11, 2006

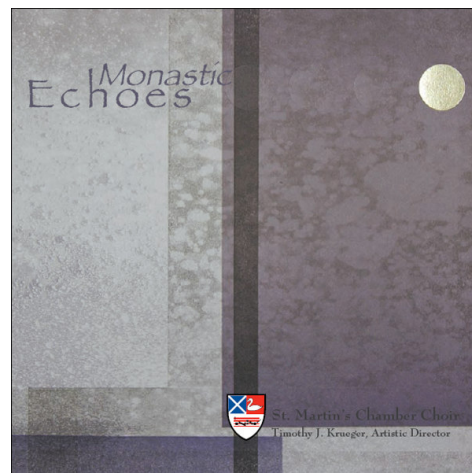
"There Let the Pealing Organ..."

Full season details at

www.StMartinsChamberChoir.org

"Monastic Echoes" available at December concerts

St. Martin's Chamber Choir's newest CD, "Monastic Echoes" is now available to the public. Featuring Colorado composer John White's "The Canonical Hours", a work that uses Medieval Latin poems to illuminate the eight hours of the liturgical day, "Monastic Echoes" also



includes the women of St. Martin's performing the *Te lucis ante terminum* plainchants from the evening service of Vespers. Terry Schlenker's *Timor et Tremor* and Craig Carnahan's *Thou Shalt Know Him* round out this beautiful new recording.

"Monastic Echoes" may be purchased at the December concerts, or by contacting the St. Martin's office.

“Gloria in Excelsis...”

- ⊙ Celebrate the beauty of the season with great choral music both old and new
- ⊙ Works by Poulenc, Weelkes, Mathews, Redford, Rutter, Jacques, Scheidt, Whitacre Howells, and others
- ⊙ World-premiere of “Music for the Victims of Our Earth” by John White, written to honor the victims of last December’s Asian tsunami

Where & When:

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1600 Grant, Denver

Sunday, December 18, 2005, 7:30 p.m.

St. Elizabeth's Church
Speer and Arapahoe, Auraria campus, Denver

Adults, \$18; Seniors, \$15; Students, \$10

To reserve tickets call (303) 298-1970 or visit

www.StMartinsChamberChoir.org

St. Martin’s Chamber Choir gratefully acknowledges the generous support of:

Carson-Pfafflin
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Galen and Ada
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Foundation



St. Martin’s Chamber Choir

2015 Glenarm Place, Denver, CO 80205

Twelfth Concert Season, 2005-06

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