



# The St. Martin's Voice

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

## Double Your Holiday Joy with Double the Concerts!

by Timothy J. Krueger, Artistic Director

If you love to hear St. Martin's Chamber Choir during the Holidays, then let me assume that *more is better!* This year St. Martin's will present two completely different holiday concerts, and it is my hope that you can attend both!

The first is **Bach's *Weihnachtsoratorium* ("Christmas Oratorio")** in collaboration with the Pro Musica Colorado Chamber Orchestra on **Dec. 2 and 3**. The Christmas Oratorio is to Germany what Handel's *Messiah* is to English-speaking lands – the most beloved classical Christmas work of all, bits of it performed by every church choir of any size and ability. Bach masterfully



depicts the various phases of the Christmas story, from the angels to the shepherds to the magi, and it is considered one of his four masterworks for chorus and orchestra (the other three being the Mass in b Minor and the two Passions). This tends to be the least-heard of the four masterpieces, but, to my ears, it is the most winsome of them all – a treasury of Bachian melody, one gorgeous chorus and aria after another. If you end up foregoing *Messiah* this year in favor of Bach, you will not be disappointed!

Then on **Dec. 16 and 18** the choir performs alone in **"Caroling, Caroling!"**, an *a cappella* cornucopia of carols. The concert is named after the featured works – a set of carols by early 20<sup>th</sup>-century clergyman Bates Burt

### Bach's "Christmas Oratorio"

Friday, December 2, 2011, 7:30 p.m.

St. Paul Lutheran Church  
1600 Grant St., Denver

Saturday, December 3, 2011, 7:30 p.m.

First United Methodist Church  
1421 Spruce St., Boulder

### "Caroling, Caroling"

Friday, December 16, 2011, 7:30 p.m.

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

Sunday, December 18, 2011, 4:00 p.m.

King Center Concert Hall  
Auraria Campus, Denver

Tickets: \$35 Premium; \$24 General Admission, \$5 Student

303-298-1970 or [www.StMartinsChamberChoir.org](http://www.StMartinsChamberChoir.org)

*"Concerts", cont. from page 1*

and his son Alfred Burt, a jazz musician. Together, the two wrote an *a cappella* Christmas carol every year for several decades. We will be performing five of them, together with modern carols by Bates Burt's great-granddaughter Abbie Betinis, who lives in Minneapolis and keeps up the tradition of composing a carol every Christmas. Also on the program are a few ancient carols, a few Victorian gems, and a few modern arrangements – *something for everyone.*

## St. Martin's Bulletin Board

### Postal Mail Delivery of "Voice" Newsletter

Let us know by phone or e-mail if you wish to continue receiving the The St. Martin's Voice by postal mail, beginning May 2012.

### Concert Volunteers Needed

Additional volunteers are always needed to help at St. Martin's concerts. Distribute programs, take tickets, sell CDs – and get free concert admission. Contact Chip Rovetta at 303-470-5705 or [rovetta@juno.com](mailto:rovetta@juno.com).

### Food Drive for Dec. 2 Concert

Help us collect food for the needy at the December 2 concert, benefitting Metro CareRing. MCR requests gift certificates and on-line cash donations rather than actual food cans and boxes. Go to [www.metrocarering.org](http://www.metrocarering.org) and click on "Donate." Instructions will also be included in the program book.

### CD Special through December

"A Marian Christmas" and "A Marian Christmas II" are on sale for the special price of \$10 each through the end of December. Purchase them at any of the December concerts or call the office.

### Creator Mundi's "Gallery Days" to Benefit St. Martin's

Creator Mundi, 2910 E. Third Ave. in Cherry Creek North is donating 15% of all gallery and online sales ([www.creatormundi.com](http://www.creatormundi.com)) between December 4 and 11 to St. Martin's Chamber Choir. You must specify our special code: **StMartin80205**.

## Coming from SMCC in 2012

### Requiem for a King (with the Baroque Chamber Orchestra of Colorado)

*Fri. Mar. 2, 7:30 p.m., Gates Concert Hall, Univ. of Denver*

### "Nearer My God to Thee": Remembering the Titanic (Cameo Concert)

*Fri., Apr. 13, 7:30 p.m., Grace Luth. Church, Boulder*

*Sat., Apr. 14, 7:30 p.m., St. Andrew's Episc. Church*

*Sun., Apr. 15, 4:00 p.m., St. Andrew's Episc. Church*

### A Parcel of Premieres

*Fri., Jun. 8, 7:30 p.m., Montview Blvd. Presb. Church*

*Sun., Jun. 10, 4:00 p.m., King Center Concert Hall,*

*Auraria Campus*

All performances are in Denver unless otherwise noted.

For more information contact St. Martin's at 303-298-1970 or visit [www.StMartinsChamberChoir.org](http://www.StMartinsChamberChoir.org).

### Four "Feasts of St. Martin" Planned between January and June 2012.

Save these dates, and watch for further details soon:

Jan. 6 – Sherry Tasting

Feb. 4 – Concert of Avant-Garde Choral Music

May 5 – Denver Organ Crawl

June 23 – Chamber Music and Light Supper

### Christmas Cards for Sale

Boxed Christmas cards with the cover image from "A Marian Christmas II" – a 1790 Madonna and Child after Guido Reni, with the inside message "Peace."

A box of 8 cards and envelopes is \$15. Purchase them at any of the December concerts or call the office.

### Apology

We regret the late delivery of the October newsletter and the poor print quality of the donation appeal letter that went out about the same time.

## Kniss Season Sponsorship a Giving Legacy

**Robert and Juanita Kniss** have been a part of St. Martin's since attending the very first concert in 1994. By 1996, Bob helped found the first SMCC Board over a lunch with Tim Krueger and the Rev. Ernest Priest. His interest has never waned since.

I sat down with Bob Kniss to talk about their sponsorship of the 2011-12 season – a first sponsorship of an entire St. Martin's season.

*Steve Grupe, SMCC Executive Director:* What about your life has helped shape your interest in St. Martin's?

*Bob Kniss:* I was born in Los Angeles and attended Occidental College, where I earned BAs in Music and French/Spanish. At Occidental I had the fortune to study organ under David Craighead and choral music under Howard Swan and Roger Wagner. I have been involved in church music ever since my first organist job at age 16. I have served five different churches in my life, primarily Christ Methodist and Park Hill United Church of Christ in Denver, all this while teaching 20 years in the Denver Public Schools, mostly at Manual High School teaching French and Spanish. And I am also an ordained Methodist Deacon!

*SG:* You have been married to Juanita for 49 years, and your life together has been blessed with 2 children. Is she also a musician?

*BK:* Well, not in the same way as I, though we did meet when she sang in my church choir. Juanita and I had parallel careers in education. We both hold MA degrees in education from DU. She attended Akron University prior to moving to Denver. She pursued additional studies in psychology and sociology and taught many years in the DPS system, mostly at South High School. We share a great love for music.

*SG:* What are some of your fondest memories from 18 seasons of St. Martin's concerts?

*BK:* Two experiences especially stand out. One was the first Marian Christmas concert at the Basilica of the Immaculate Conception. The other was much more recent – the October 2010 Brahms *Requiem* accompanied by two pianists playing Brahms' own reduction of the orchestral score. I also have fond memories of producing



the early St. Martin's CDs that have now become so beloved. Juanita and I have always treasured St. Martin's for its exquisite performance quality.

*SG:* What motivated you and Juanita to make this Season Sponsorship gift?

*BK:* We feel very blessed in our own lives. Our family members are well taken care of. We have chosen to give to certain groups that we find the most personally satisfying, among them St. Martin's and Saint John's Cathedral. I would have to say that my close relationship with St. Martin's has been the most deeply gratifying of all.

### Sponsorship Opportunities

**Sponsorship opportunities** are still available for individual concerts during the 2011-12 season. Sponsorship of a single concert is \$500, and sponsorship of a concert weekend is \$1000.

For information, call Steve Grupe at 303-298-1970.



**St. Martin's Chamber Choir**  
2015 Glenarm Place, Denver, CO 80205-3121  
*Eighteenth Concert Season, 2011-12*

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**Saturday, December 3, 2011, 7:30 p.m.**

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1421 Spruce St., Boulder

- J.S. Bach's monumental, profound telling of the Nativity story
- St. Martin's is joined by the Pro Musica Colorado Chamber Orchestra and outstanding vocal soloists

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King Center Concert Hall  
Auraria Campus, Denver

- Carols by Bates Burt and son Alfred Burt, as well as great-granddaughter Abbie Betinis
- Traditional and unfamiliar carols, from medieval to modern

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St. Martin's Chamber Choir's 18<sup>th</sup> Season is sponsored by:

**Carson-Pfafflin Family  
Foundation**

**Mammel Foundation**

**Robert and Juanita Kniss**



**Schramm  
Foundation**

**Galen and Ada  
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