



# The St. Martin's Voice

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

## On Wings of Song: The Women of St. Martin's

*By Timothy J. Krueger, Artistic Director*

Just as last year's February program from the Men of St. Martin's proved that not all male chorus music is sailor songs and hunting choruses, this year I attempt to prove that not all music for women's chorus is sweetness and light.

While the Women of St. Martin's are doing a set of Shakespearean partsongs by Amy Beach that could be arguably classified as "light;" and the *Vier Gesänge* by Brahms, with the accompaniment of harp and two horns, is effectively "sweet" (but who can resist *anything* by Brahms?); the rest of the program is a varied collection of works that will put the lie to any prejudices one might have of cloying and precious treble choruses.

Foremost in this category of "unexpected" is a set of four pieces in the second half that include rather demanding and

even dissonant works by Brits Kenneth Leighton and Ralph Vaughn Williams, and Americans Samuel Barber and William Schuman.

The second work featuring the harp (and we are joined by the celebrated harpist Don Hilsberg) is Gustav Holst's "Choral Hymns from the *Rig Veda*," containing four songs of praise to the Hindu gods Indra, Varuna, Vena, and others.

Five brief duets for horns and women's chorus by Schubert, and sacred works by Schütz, Lana Walter, and Miklós Kocsár, round out this varied and eclectic program, sure to please. Plan to join the Women of St. Martin's on February 16<sup>th</sup> or 18<sup>th</sup> for a fascinating evening of music for treble voices.

### *On Wings of Song: The Women of St. Martin's*

**Friday, Feb. 16, 2007**

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

**Sunday, Feb. 18, 2007**

St. Elizabeth's Church  
Speer & Arapahoe,  
Auraria Campus, Denver

**Both concerts 7:30 p.m.**

Adults \$20; Seniors \$17; Students \$5

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

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## More Feasts to Tempt You

The Feasts of St. Martin continue to draw rave reviews and raise important funds for SMCC. Still to come on the menu of 2006-07 Feasts are:

☞ **A dim sum-mit** – Learn the basics of traditional Dim Sum from cooking expert Ginni Ishimatsu in this hands-on class. Participants will make potstickers from start to finish, as well as sample other traditional Dim Sum specialties. Other perks will include getting the inside scoop on where to eat Dim Sum in Denver, where to shop for ingredients, and recipes for various dishes.

Join us on **Saturday, Feb. 24 at 6:00 p.m.** for a relaxed evening of cooking, eating, and socializing. The cost is \$50.00 per person, and will be hosted by Ginni Ishimatsu, Greg Robbins, and Rosemary Stoffel. The location is 2275 So. Monroe St. To make reservations, call or email the St. Martin's office.

☞ **Come to Chez Krueger!** – Sophisticated early-evening aperitifs and entertainments at the home of Tim and MB Krueger [Sat. Mar. 10, 2007]

☞ **Musical transitions** – A fascinating discussion of those pivotal moments throughout music history where the avant-garde led to whole new musical languages. [Sat. Apr. 14, 2007]

☞ **Jazz overlooking the park** – Enjoy cool jazz from Donna Wickham in an elegant Cheesman Park penthouse [Sat. May 12, 2007]

☞ **Hike the high ridges** – Summit three 13ers and a 14er in this spectacular summer day in the high country. [Fri. Aug. 17, 2007]

To make your reservations, or for more information call 303-298-1970 or email [info@StMartinsChamberChoir.org](mailto:info@StMartinsChamberChoir.org).

## Does your employer match charitable gifts?

Many local employers have very generous charitable giving programs and are happy to match any donation you make to St. Martin's Chamber Choir dollar for dollar. Simply ask your Human Resources Department if they have a gift matching program, and if they do they'll either send an

## Boulder Philharmonic invites St. Martin's to provide the theme

On Saturday, February 24<sup>th</sup> the Boulder Philharmonic Orchestra will be performing Ralph Vaughan Williams' *Fantasia on a Theme of Thomas Tallis* on its concert at Macky Auditorium in Boulder. Conductor Michael Buttermann has invited St. Martins to perform the Tallis work, *Why fum'th in fight*, on which Vaughan Williams' fantasy is based. We're very honored to participate, and we hope you can join us and the BPO for this 7:30 p.m. program, which will also include Respighi's *Ancient Airs and Dances, Suite I*, Stravinsky's *Pulcinella*, and the *Concerto Grosso* by Ellen Taaffe Zwilich. More information can be found at [www.boulderphil.org](http://www.boulderphil.org) or by calling 303-449-1343 x2.

## But honey, what are they wearing?

If you've ever wondered about St. Martin's concert attire, you're not alone. Instead of choir robes or tuxedos and special dresses, St. Martin's performs in traditional and authentic English academic gowns. The gowns provide a unifying look to the choir, while allowing individual expression in the dress of each singer as well. In the early days of the choir Artistic Director Tim Krueger decided that the gowns he had seen in use by English academic choirs during his studies in England would most accurately reflect the group's dedication to educational outreach and to serious performance of the classic choral literature.

### *Still to come from SMCC in 2006-07*

**March 30 & April 1, 2007 - "The Seven Last Words", Haydn's masterpiece for choir and string quartet**

**June 1 & 3, 2007 - A Colorado Connection, featuring an encore performance of Terry Schlenker's Mass for Double Choir**

Full season details at

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

authorization to us or ask you to forward it to us. That's all there is to it...you can significantly increase your donation through a gift matching program today!

## A Message to All of Our Supporters

First, a big thank you to the 250 hardy souls who cleared their driveways, dug out their cars, slogged through snowdrifts, and made it, by golly, to the December 22 performance of "A Marian Christmas II" at St. Elizabeth's Church. It was an exhilarating occasion for everyone there. Because the big snow forced us to cancel the night before, only one concert, at Broomfield Auditorium, took place unimpeded. Still, we had two wonderful audiences. And for those of you who couldn't hear this beautiful program, you can look forward to St. Martin's next CD, titled — you guessed it! — "A Marian Christmas II." It will be ready in the fall.

We're now well into our 13<sup>th</sup> season, thanks to so many of you. Without your sustained interest and generosity, whether current or during previous seasons, we would have neither the audience nor the funding to carry on from year to year. What comes back to us as enthusiastic applause, spoken or written thanks, and financial support nourishes everything we do and gives meaning and significance to our efforts. Classical choral music-making at the highest level is our aim and our passion. You, our listeners and friends, are our indispensable cultural partners.

With so many worthy organizations asking for support — more than 17,000 in Colorado alone — each household has to make tough decisions about what to support and what not to. Last year the Rocky Mountain News reported that of the 100 most-populated cities, Denver ranks ninth in the number of nonprofits per capita ("Nonprofits compete in a crowded arena," RMN, 2/16/06). That's lots of competition! And we're keenly aware that we need to keep striving and growing in order to merit your continued support.

With three more exciting concert weekends still ahead of us this season, we hope you will seriously consider a modest gift to St. Martin's Chamber Choir at this time. As you may know, ticket and CD sales cover only about a third of our costs each year, so your ongoing support is lifeblood to the choir and its ability to "make a joyful noise" here in Denver and, with our CDs, beyond. No amount is too small.

Whether or not you give today, we want you to know how genuinely important you are to us, and how much we appreciate you.

Please clip the coupon, below & return with your contribution.

Yes, I want to support St. Martin's! Enclosed is my contribution of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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All contributions are fully tax-deductible.

Please make your check payable to **St. Martin's Chamber Choir** and mail it to SMCC, 2015 Glenarm Place, Denver, CO 80205, or call us with credit card information.

Contact us at 303-298-1970 or [info@stmartinschamberchoir.org](mailto:info@stmartinschamberchoir.org) if you want to set up a three year giving plan.

# *On Wings of Song: The Women of St. Martin's*

- A fascinating evening of music for treble voices
- Holst's "Choral Hymns from the *Rig Veda*", Brahms' *Vier Gesänge*, and works by Barber, Schuman, Beach, Vaughan Williams and others
- Harpist Don Hilsberg and two horns will accompany and complement the women's voices in the soaring acoustics of St. John's Cathedral and St. Elizabeth's Church

## **Where & When:**

**Friday, February 16, 2007, 7:30 p.m.**

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

**Sunday, February 18, 2007, 7:30 p.m.**

St. Elizabeth's Church  
Speer & Arapahoe, Auraria Campus, Denver

*For tickets call (303) 298-1970 or visit  
[www.StMartinsChamberChoir.org](http://www.StMartinsChamberChoir.org)*

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

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2015 Glenarm Place, Denver, CO 80205  
*Thirteenth Concert Season, 2006-07*

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