



The St. Martin's Voice

The Newsletter of St. Martin's Chamber Choir

Gradus ad Parnassum

By Timothy J. Krueger, Artistic Director

I can honestly say that I have not been as excited about an upcoming St. Martin's concert as *Gradus ad Parnassum* in a very long time! The joining together of two of Denver's finest classical music ensembles for the first time, **St. Martin's** and the **Baroque Chamber Orchestra of Colorado**, is a match made in heaven, and I am very much looking forward to us working together.

Frank Nowell (BCOC's co-founder and Artistic Director) and I devised this program over breakfast more than a year ago. It centers around the rarely performed but truly monumental *Kaiserrequiem* ("Imperial Requiem") by Johann Joseph Fux (1660-1741). Written for the widow of one of the Austrian Emperors, and reserved for funerals of prominent members of the Hapsburg royal family for more than a century afterwards, it is certainly the finest example of a Baroque-era *concertante* requiem



Detail of the Soprano I part from manuscript of Fux *Kaiserrequiem*

(only Biber's approaches it in scale and quality), and perhaps one could even say one of the finest pre-Mozart requiems of all. These performances represent a regional premiere of this rare and exciting work, which would have certainly been a model well-known to Mozart when writing his own requiem 50 years later.

Preceding the Fux, St. Martin's will be featured in Palestrina's *Stabat Mater*, a large work for a *cappella* double choir; the Orchestra will be featured in Corelli's *Concerto Grosso* Op. 6, No. 6; and the two will join

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Gradus ad Parnassum with the Baroque Chamber Orchestra of Colorado

**Friday, Feb. 15, Bethany Lutheran Church,
Cherry Hills Village**

**Saturday, Feb. 16, First United Methodist
Church, Boulder**

Sunday, Feb. 17, St. Elizabeth's Church, Denver

All concerts begin at 7:30 p.m.

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

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

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forces in a *colla parte* performance of Bach's motet *Der Geist hilft unser Schwachheit auf*.

If I had to pick a single concert program this season to be sure not to miss, *Gradus ad Parnassum* would be that program. I sincerely hope you can join us for these truly historic concerts.

Thank you to our generous sponsors of *Gradus ad Parnassum*

February 15, 16 and 17 concerts

Colorado Council on the Arts
George Magnuson and Carrie Doehring
Greg Robbins

February 15 concert, Cherry Hills Village

Arapahoe County Cultural Council,
Scientific and Cultural Facilities
District (SCFD)

February 16 concert, Boulder

Sue and Fritz Ieuter
Dr. Tom Riis
Dave and Kay Norris
Nancy Sheffield

Remaining concerts in St. Martin's 2007-08 Season

***Gradus ad Parnassum: with the Baroque
Chamber Orchestra of Colorado***
February 15, 16 & 17, 2008

This Joyful Eastertide
April 4 & 6, 2008

Masterworks for Double Choir
June 6 & 8, 2008

All concerts begin at 7:30 p.m., except June 8th (4:00 p.m.)

Details at www.StMartinsChamberChoir.org or by
calling 303-298-1970

Music soothes the soul

By Geni Eacker

Music soothes the soul. There are many people who have educated ears, and hear choral music for its technical side: the movement of the notes, the dissonance, the perfections and imperfections of voices. There are also many, like myself, who hear music through our soul...our emotions. Certainly the words, the rhythms, dissonance, and the blend of the voices affect what our soul hears. We don't, however, necessarily hear the educated nuances. We feel the music and that moves us.

My love for St. Martin's Chamber Choir started about 12 years ago. Through those years, I've watched the group change, and heard the glory of the music and voices grow. At the time that I learned about St. Martin's and started listening to their music, I was also being introduced to The Tallis Scholars and The Cambridge Singers. Very recently I listened to the Cambridge Singers' CD "Faire is the Heaven". John Rutter is a famous and well thought of composer and director, and The Cambridge Singers are known as incredible performers of choral music. There are several pieces on that CD that St. Martin's has also performed, including Vaughan Williams' "O Taste and See". Each time I listen to the Cambridge Singers version, and then to St. Martin's, I come away valuing St. Martin's more and more. Their version, to my soul, is warmer than the Cambridge Singers'. The voice of the soprano soloist for St. Martin's touches the notes in a gentle, warm way, which I find missing in the soloist for the Cambridge Singers. I've been to England and have not had the good fortune to hear the Cambridge Singers live, but I do live in Denver with the great gift of seeing and hearing St. Martin's live three to four times a year. Each concert I go to has a warmth and depth that I cherish. I find it not only in the atmosphere of St. Elizabeth's Church, my favorite place to hear St. Martins, but in the faces of the performers, in the movements of their bodies as they delight in what they are singing, and in the beauty I hear from their voices, blended beautifully by Director Tim Krueger's skill, education and talent. I find myself blessed by living here, where I have access to the beauty and peacefulness that the group brings to me in each concert and in each recording, and I never have to go further than my home town.

A Special Message to All of Our Supporters

What is there to say but “Wow!”? After our wildly successful concerts in December, St. Martin's is definitely on a roll. The choir's 14th season is shaping up to be the best yet, and our singers, volunteers, audiences, and Board members have never been so excited about the bright future of our organization.

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.

In just a few weeks we'll be presenting our first concert collaboration with the Baroque Chamber Orchestra of Colorado, one of the finest early music ensembles in the region. April brings a joyful program of the music of Easter, and June's concert of *a cappella* double-choir favorites promises to be a stunning conclusion to this landmark season.

We hope you will seriously consider a modest gift to St. Martin's Chamber Choir at this time. Ticket and CD revenues cover less than half of the expenses necessary for St. Martin's to bring this wonderful music to you year after year. No donation is too small, and every gift is greatly appreciated.

Whether or not you give today, we want you to know how genuinely important you are to us, and how much we value your support of St. Martin's Chamber Choir.

Please clip the coupon below & return with your contribution.

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Yes, I want to support St. Martin's! Enclosed is my tax-deductible contribution of \$ _____

Name _____

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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@stmartinchamberchoir.org if you want to set up a three year giving plan.

Gradus ad Parnassum

- St. Martin's Chamber Choir and the Baroque Chamber Orchestra of Colorado, together at last!
- Regional premiere of Johann Joseph Fux's *Kaiserrequiem* ("Imperial Requiem")
- Also featuring Palestrina's *Stabat Mater*, J.S. Bach's *Der Geist hilft*, and Corelli's Concerto Grosso Op. 6, No. 6

Where & When:

Friday, February 15, 2008, 7:30 p.m.
Bethany Lutheran Church,
4500 E. Hampden Ave., Cherry Hills Village

Saturday, February 16, 2008, 7:30 p.m.
First United Methodist Church
1421 Spruce St., Boulder

Sunday, February 17, 2008, 7:30 p.m.
St. Elizabeth's Church
Speer & Arapahoe, Auraria Campus, Denver

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

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

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2015 Glenarm Place, Denver, CO 80205
Fourteenth Concert Season, 2007-08

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