



The St. Martin's Voice

The Newsletter of St. Martin's Chamber Choir

King Solomon's Love Songs

By Timothy J. Krueger, Artistic Director

One does not ordinarily consider a concert of Sacred Music as the featured event on a date night. Yet the timing of this concert on the weekend preceding Valentine's Day is not an accident.

The presence of the book "The Song of Solomon" (sometimes more poetically called "The Song of Songs") in the Hebrew Scriptures is a mystery. A mildly erotic compendium of love poems, there is little or nothing overtly spiritual about it.

Yet it caught the fascination of Medieval Christians, who saw it as a metaphor for God's love for his Church, which is often referred to as feminine, or even as "the bride of Christ." This metaphor did not seem to work for more recent Christians – particularly Victorian Christians – especially as they encountered language such as: "Your stature is like a palm tree, and your breasts its clusters. Let me ascend into the tree to



Library of Congress - Currier & Ives, 1875

King Solomon's Love Songs

(Cameo Concerts)

Friday, February 11, 7:30 p.m.

Grace Lutheran Church, Boulder

Sunday, February 13, 4:00 p.m.

St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, Denver

Tickets: \$15 General Admission, \$5 Student

303-298-1970 or www.StMartinsChamberChoir.org

get its fruit." Not the stuff of Sunday School or puritanical preaching (what affect it might have on evangelism, however, has not been observed)!

There is a rich tradition from the Middle Ages and Renaissance, and a growing body from more recent times, which set these love poems to music, most of it celebrating the sensual nature of the text, and providing a glimpse into the alternately tender and passionate passages, and various composers' interpretations of them. Palestrina alone wrote an extended set of 29

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motets drawn from "The Song of Songs" (we will sing three of them).

I have selected works from as early as John Dunstable (1390-1453) and as late as William Walton (1902-1983) to illustrate many of the themes from "The Song of Songs," and, as is characteristic of Cameo Concerts, these will form the topic of my discussion with the audience.

I encourage you and a loved one to make a date of it!

MSCD's Women's Chamber Choir

Metropolitan State College of Denver's newest choral ensemble is the Women's Chamber Choir, under the direction of professor MB Krueger, Acting Director of Choral Activities. Sixteen to twenty women pass a competitive audition in order to sing in this group. The choir performs a variety of challenging *a cappella* choral music from all eras of music history. On the "King Solomon's Love Songs" program, the Women's Chamber Choir will perform *Ego flos campi* by Jacob Clemens non Papa, and will join the women of St. Martin's to sing *Tota pulchra es* from Maurice Durufle's Quatre Motets.



Metropolitan State College of Denver's Women's Chamber Choir

Upcoming 2011 Concerts & Events

Hosanna! Music of Palm Sunday

Friday, April 15, 7:30 p.m.

St. John's Episcopal Cathedral, Denver

Sunday, April 17, 4:00 p.m.

Montview Presbyterian Church, Denver

Tickets: \$30 Premium, \$22 General Admission, \$5 Student

A Mighty Fortress

Friday, June 10, 7:30 p.m.

St. John's Episcopal Cathedral, Denver

Sunday, June 12, 4:00 p.m.

Grace and St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, Colorado Springs

Tickets: \$30 Premium, \$22 General Admission, \$5 Student

Feast of St. Martin (a benefit for St. Martin's Chamber Choir)

"A Little Loft Music in LoDo"
(Chamber music and light dinner)

Friday, May 6, 2011, 7:30 p.m.

Admission: \$60

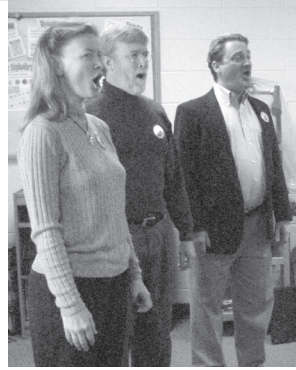
For more information call 303-298-1970
or see www.StMartinsChamberChoir.org

St. Martin's Sings in Schools and at Care Facilities

By Micäela Larsen Brown

St. Martin's Education & Outreach Committee has been back in action this year, with many activities culminating in the past three months.

Micaëla Larsen Brown led a quartet of St. Martin's singers in two workshops at Fairview Elementary School in Westminster in November. They worked with the students on breathsupport and tone production, but focused



heavily on ensemble singing.

In December, different quartets of St. Martin's singers provided mini-concerts of seasonal carols at two care centers in Wheat Ridge

(Sandalwood Manor and Christopher House).

St. Martin's Chamber Choir has begun a residency program with Green Mountain High School's elite choir, "Shadows." This residency was kicked off with a January 22 workshop involving Artistic Director Tim Krueger, an octet of St. Martin's singers, and the Green Mountain students. More information on that program will be included in the next issue of The Voice.

Feasts of St. Martin

February 6 Pipe Organ Crawl at Three Boulder Churches

Distinguished organist Joyce Shupe Kull will demonstrate and discuss the history of three Boulder church pipe organs in a February 6 "Organ Crawl" benefiting St. Martin's Chamber Choir.

The first stop on the "Crawl" is 2:00 p.m. at Grace Lutheran Church, 1001 13th Street, and its 1973 Schlicker organ. It continues to First United Methodist Church, 1421 Spruce Street, with its historic 1888 Roosevelt organ. The last Crawl stop is 1820 15th Street to hear First Presbyterian Church's 1979 Casavant organ and its Reuter organ in the chapel. The afternoon's finale will be a reception at the Boulder Museum of Contemporary Art (BMCA), 1750 13th Street.

Admission to all of the Organ Crawl activities is \$60 per person, and can be purchased by calling (303) 298-1970.

Joyce Shupe Kull holds a Doctor of Musical Arts Degree in Organ Performance and Literature from the University of Colorado, Boulder. She is a renowned performer, lecturer and author in organ performance and church music. She holds the American Guild of Organists Fellowship (FAGO) and Choir Master (ChM) Certificates. She is a member of the Anglican Association of Musicians and the American Choral Directors Association.



Admission \$60

303-298-1970 or

www.StMartinsChamberChoir.org

To purchase on the website, click on View St. Martin's entire 2010-11 Season and then click on Purchase Single Tickets at the bottom of the page.



St. Martin's Chamber Choir

2015 Glenarm Place, Denver, CO 80205-3121

Seventeenth Concert Season 2010-11

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From the Executive Director

We are most grateful for the tremendous response to the December appeal letter, which was both mailed to homes and printed in the most recent issue of *The Voice*.

In addition to several direct appeals throughout the year, we continue to welcome your support of several ongoing funds. The Mark Sheldon Fund remembers the beloved late singer and Board member, and is used to support the Mark Sheldon Conducting Intern and to fund the

audio recordings of St. Martin's Chamber Choir. The Repertoire Fund goes toward the purchase of new musical scores, and the Commissioning Fund enables commissions of new works by living composers. As always, every gift to St. Martin's Chamber Choir is deeply appreciated and carefully stewarded.

We hope to see you at one of the upcoming concerts or special events.

Steve Grupe

St. Martin's Chamber Choir's 17th Season is sponsored by:

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