

The St. Martin's Voice

The Quarterly Newsletter of St. Martin's Chamber Choir

“Choral Milestones” 11th Season Finale Concert

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

I've always shied away from general titles for concerts like "Choral Gems," or "Choral Masterpieces," because this implies that the rest of what we perform is somehow mediocre or sub-standard! Along these lines, there is something that strikes me as vaguely presumptuous in naming a concert "Choral Milestones," for almost everything I program for St. Martin's is something that I consider a milestone in one way or another. I have grown comfortable with naming this concert "Choral Milestones" only by strictly defining what I mean by the word "milestone." This personal definition is "a choral work that either a) significantly affected the progress of music history, or b) was the foremost representative of a specific genre that, as a category, was important to the advance of music history."

Choral Milestones

Friday, June 10, 2005
7:30 p.m.

St. Paul Lutheran Church
1600 Grant St., Denver

Sunday, June 12, 2005
7:30 p.m.

St. Elizabeth's Church
Auraria campus, Denver

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

www.StMartinsChamberChoir.org

Palestrina's (1525-1594) glorious *Missa Papae Marcelli*, reputed to have "saved church music" by convincing the bishops at the

Council of Trent not to ban polyphony; Gregorio Allegri's (1582-1652) justly famous *Miserere*, reserved for exclusive performance by the papal choir for almost 200 years due to its haunting effect; and Claude Debussy's (1860-1918) *Trois Chansons*, forming by themselves almost the entire body of a *cappella* Impressionistic music.

In the second category are a pair of partsongs by Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847), which were key in the resurrection of a *cappella* choral music in the early 19th century, after almost 200 years of the dominance of *basso continuo* accompaniment of all choral music; Johannes Brahms' (1833-1893) motet *Warum ist das Licht gegeben?*, as representative of the heights achieved by the German Romantics in crafting choral music that was both completely Romantic in flavor, yet completely Classical in construction; and finally, a world premiere of a piece by Denver composer Terry Schlenker, *Timor et Tremor*, written in the early months of 2005 for and dedicated to St. Martin's Chamber Choir, and representative of the importance in all eras of performing newly composed music, which is very near and dear to my heart as a choir director.

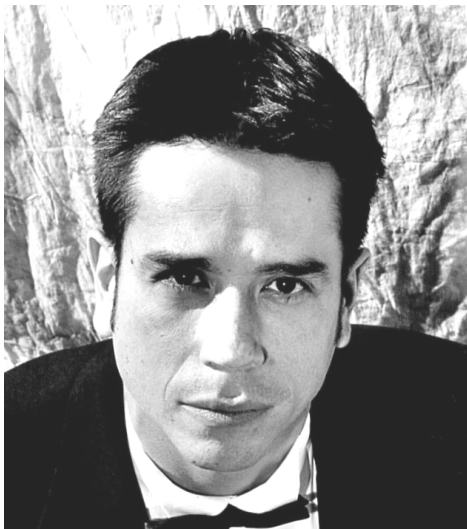
It is a varied and eclectic program, unusual for St. Martin's in covering so much history in a single concert; but typical of St. Martin's in its scholarly approach and strict programming parameters. I hope that you can join us for this final performance of St. Martin's 11th Season, itself promising to be something of a "milestone."

Performer Profile: David Farwig

Assistant conductor and baritone David Farwig is certainly a familiar face and voice to St. Martin's audiences, but we thought you might like to get to know him a little better.

"I come from a musical family; both of my parents were performers and singers of South American folkloric music", David said recently. "My father is originally from Halle, Germany, and my mother, an accomplished mezzo-soprano, is from Santa Cruz, Bolivia. They both immigrated to the US from Bolivia in 1960."

David grew up in Littleton, Colorado and has degrees in vocal performance and music education from Adams State



David Farwig

College (Alamosa) and Metropolitan State College of Denver respectively. In 2004 he completed his Master of Music degree in Choral Conducting at the University of Denver's Lamont School of Music. He also spent seven years as a member of the U.S. Air Force Singing Sergeants, an elite ensemble based in Washington, DC.

"I've always loved the sciences, and actually began college as a biology major planning for a career in medicine, but in my junior year I fell in love with choral music. I decided to follow my heart, and I changed my major to music."

As a free-lance concert artist David has sung with various professional choruses and orchestras through the country including the Orchestra of St. Luke with the Robert Shaw Festival Singers, the National Symphony with Leonard Slatkin, the Santa Fe Desert Chorale, and Conspirare with Craig Hella Johnson. He has a particular fondness for Baroque solo performance, and in 2003 he was awarded the "Virginia Best Adams Fellowship" at the Carmel Bach Festival. The following summer he was the recipient of the "New Young Artist Fellowship" at the Victoria Bach Festival for aspiring Baroque soloists.

When asked what he finds most rewarding about conducting choirs, David replied "I really enjoy going beyond what the audience will hear. Some of my favorite moments as a singer have been during the rehearsal process. Conducting allows me to expand my own musical expression; I try to reach for the hearts of the singers, and to enrich our souls as we work together."

*Coming in October 2005
from St. Martin's Chamber Choir*

"England Expects..."

A rollicking evening of songs of the sea celebrating the 200th anniversary of Horatio Lord Nelson's victory at the battle of Trafalgar.

*Full details of the 2005-2006
season to be announced soon!*

Brannan Supports SMCC through Grocery Certificate Program

One of the newest corporate supporters of St. Martin's Chamber Choir is Brannan Sand & Gravel Company. An innovative safety incentive program that rewards Brannan employees with King Soopers grocery certificates also provides a generous donation to St. Martin's. Certificates are purchased from King Soopers at a 5% discount, and those savings are then given to St. Martin's as a tax-deductible contribution.

Brannan Sand & Gravel is a large asphalt paving contractor and supplier of concrete. Founded in 1906, this Denver firm constructs paving projects ranging from your local convenience store parking lot to major contracts at Denver International Airport.

For information about helping your company set up a King Soopers grocery certificate program to benefit your employees and St. Martin's please contact the SMCC office.

Thanks, Brannan Sand & Gravel, for your creative support of St. Martin's Chamber Choir

St. Martin's Chamber Choir

2015 Glenarm Place
Denver, CO 80205

Phone:

(303) 298-1970

Fax:

(303) 296-6234

E-Mail:

smcchoir@msn.com

Visit us on the Web at:

www.StMartinsChamberChoir.org

Songs of a Summer Night

Mark your calendars for Friday, July 8th, when Jeremy and Susan Shamos host "Songs of a Summer Night" to benefit St. Martin's Chamber Choir. Stroll in the cool of a midsummer evening at one of Denver's truly elegant homes. You'll be entertained in the Shamos's beautiful gardens with a tempting selection of the bawdy "catches" of Henry Purcell, at the special request of Jeremy. A light buffet supper will complement the lively conversation and music.

For more information on how you can join this very special gathering please contact the St. Martin's office at 303-298-1970 or smcchoir@msn.com.

Denver Students Paint to the Music of Allegri

An unusual collaboration between some Park Hill K-8 teachers and Denver's St Martin's Chamber Choir is giving 23 middle school students the opportunity to produce paintings inspired by music, then to see their artwork on display at a public concert.

The students listened to the 16th century choral piece *Miserere* by Gregorio Allegri as the inspiration for their paintings. Before the students heard the work, St. Martin's artistic director Tim Krueger spoke to the students about the piece's history. The students then created paintings based on their emotional reaction to the piece. "Some of the paintings clearly have a somber feel, while others are more abstract and open to interpretation," said art instructor Cristina Sandoval, project coordinator at Park Hill K-8. "This connection between music and art was a wonderful opportunity to allow imagination to run free."

The Allegri *Miserere* will be performed on St. Martin's season finale concert "Choral Milestones" June 10th & 12th. The students' artworks will be displayed at the concerts, and the artists, their parents, teachers and school staff have been invited to attend.

Choral Milestones

- ⦿ 2004-2005 Season Finale Concert
- ⦿ Key works in the history of choral music including Allegri's *Miserere*, Palestrina's *Missa Papae Marcelli*, *Warum* by Brahms
- ⦿ Also featuring works by Machaut, Mendelssohn, Debussy
- ⦿ World premiere from Denver composer Terry Schlenker

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St. Martin's Chamber Choir

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