



The St. Martin's Voice

The Newsletter of St. Martin's Chamber Choir

“There Let the Pealing Organ...”

By Timothy J. Krueger, Artistic Director

*But let my due feet never fail
To walk the studious cloister's pale,
And love the high embowed roof,
With antique pillars massy-proof,
And storied windows richly dight,
Casting a dim religious light.*

*There let the pealing organ blow,
To the full-voiced choir below,
In service high and anthems clear,
As may with sweetness, through mine ear,
Dissolve me into ecstasies,
And bring all heaven before mine eyes.*

John Milton (1608-1674)
from *Il Penseroso*, 155-166

When I first encountered these strains by Milton, my entire psyche resonated with them. He wrote a pair of poems, *L'Allegro* and *Il Penseroso*, to highlight what he felt were the two different sides of the human character, the lively vs. the pensive, the social vs. the solitary, the passionate vs. the contemplative, the choleric vs. the phlegmatic, the Dionysian vs. the Apollonian, the heart vs. the head, even, one might say, the Romantic vs. the Classical (although to use these terms in reference to Milton would be quite anachronistic).

The above lines come from the second of the poems, describing that person who is most animated by the contemplative, solitary, even somber side of the human character; and the ecclesiastical

allusions (the monastic cloister; the high-arched cathedral pillars; the stained-glass windows; and the organ, high in its loft, accompanying the “full-voiced quire” [spelling updated] in the choir stalls below) have nothing, or at least very little, to do with theology or religion *per se*, and everything to do with atmosphere and ceremony and solemnity.

It is in this spirit that St. Martin's Chamber Choir presents the Finale concerts of its 12th Season, “There let the pealing organ...”, featuring festive works for choir and organ. I have attempted to balance large, extroverted anthems (Parry's “I was glad,” Finzi's “God is gone up,” Howells' *Te Deum*, and Dyson's “Hail, Universal Lord”) with richer, more intimate items (Brahms' *Geistliches Lied*, Balfour Gardiner's “Evening Hymn,” Rowley's “When the whole heart of man,” and

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“There Let the Pealing Organ...”

Weekend sponsor: **Stephen Dilts**,
Concert sponsors: **Robert & Juanita Kniss**

Friday, June 9, 2006

Sunday, June 11, 2006

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

Hamilton Hall, Newman Center,
University of Denver

Both concerts 7:30 p.m.

Adults \$18; Seniors \$15; Students \$10
(303) 298-1970 or www.StMartinsChamberChoir.org

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St. Andrew's Episcopal: Home, Sweet Home

St. Martin's is honored to call one of Denver's most beautiful historic churches its home. St. Andrew's Episcopal Church is a small, thriving inner-city parish, and it graciously makes office, library, and rehearsal space available to the choir. Thanks to the generosity of St. Andrew's, SMCC has a comfortable, welcoming home base, with the extra benefit of an acoustically warm, rich church sanctuary for rehearsing.

Artistic Director Tim Krueger is the choirmaster at St. Andrew's, where he leads a music program of high standards and quality. His church choir of 20 singers leads the Anglo-Catholic worship with great style, competence and commitment.



St. Andrew's, built in 1908, is listed on the National Register, and has recently undertaken several major stabilization and restoration projects. Originally called Trinity Memorial Parish, the congregation actually dates to 1874, and is the second-oldest Episcopal parish in Colorado. The parish's name was changed to St. Andrew's in the late 1910s, and through the struggles common to many urban churches it has emerged as a leader in community outreach.

From St. Martin's here's a heartfelt "Thank you, St. Andrew's, for your support. We hope to continue our special relationship for many years to come."

Songs of a Summer Night at the historic Schomp Mansion

Mark your calendars: Saturday June 17th is St. Martin's annual summer fundraiser *Songs of a Summer Night*. Enjoy the ambience of the historic Schomp Mansion, a 113 year old landmark located in the heart of a designated historic district, while sampling hors d'oeuvres, meeting SMCC supporters and performers, and enjoying musical selections in this intimate setting.

Solos, duets, and choral pieces from the choir will be performed throughout the evening, both a cappella and accompanied by piano. Hors d'oeuvres will be provided by Kevin Taylor Restaurant.

The Schomp Mansion is located at 680 Clarkson St. in Denver's North Country Club neighborhood. The festivities will begin at 7:00 p.m.

Tickets for *Songs of a Summer Night* are \$75 Individual, \$150 Patron (includes acknowledgment during the evening.) For more information call 303-298-1970 or email info@StMartinsChamberChoir.org. Please plan to join us for this special evening.

2005-06 is St. Martin's most successful season ever!

What a year! So far this season St. Martin's has seen a 20% growth in ticket sales and attendance, a 10% increase in CD sales, and a significant increase in contributions.

We love making music for you, and you've shown that you truly appreciate our contribution to the Colorado arts community and beyond.

Thank you for your continued generosity and faithful attendance...2006-07 will be even bigger and better!

We Do Email!

If you'd like to receive your copy of The St. Martin's Voice by email only, just let us know at info@StMartinsChamberChoir.org.

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Jackson's "Remember for good, O Lord"), in order to capture the many sides and colors possible in a choral/organ collaboration. There is even a world-premiere – "God's own descent" – Denver composer John White's setting of a Robert Frost poem, dedicated to St. Martin's Chamber Choir. And finally, the concert will conclude with one of masterpieces of the genre, Benjamin Britten's evocative setting of 18th century poet Christopher Smart's "Rejoice in the Lamb," a 15-minute *tour de force* for organ, soloists, and chorus.

It is the first time an entire concert of St. Martin's has been devoted to choral/organ works, and I encourage you to be a part of this festivity and history . . . and get ready for goose pimples (the modern way of saying "dissolve me into ecstasies")!

Coming from SMCC in 2006-07

**Sept. 2006 - Brahms *Liebeslieder*
Waltzes.**

**Dec. 2006 - A Marian Christmas II –
Marian works old and new**

**Feb. 2007 - The Women of St.
Martin's, with harp**

**Mar. 2007 - "Seven Last Words":
Haydn's masterpiece for choir
and string quartet**

**Jun. 2007 - Colorado Connection,
featuring an encore performance
of Terry Schlenker's *Mass for
Double Choir***

**Full season and subscription
details soon at**

www.StMartinsChamberChoir.org

Donor's Corner

By Robert Kniss

Tim Krueger and I first met after a handbell (!) concert at CU Boulder which he had beautifully brightened with a charming solo, and I knew I had to get acquainted. When he mentioned his academic research in England on the music of Parry, my response was "Charles Hubert Hastings Parry?" - and I knew we were on the same musical page.

A few years later, ten years ago now, Tim asked me to meet with him and Ernest Priest (of blessed memory), and we laid the foundations for the SMCC board. It has been a wonderfully fulfilling experience for me to be a strong supporter of this exceptional choral group over these many years, and Juanita I are privileged to be able to provide some small financial support to help make possible the exceptional programming that Tim is so creative in planning.

From the age of twelve I had been involved in church music, playing for Sunday School and then from the age of sixteen playing and directing children's and adult choirs, first at my home church in California and since 1950 at three churches in Denver. My studies in music at Occidental College with Howard Swan and David Craighead gave me a solid foundation in music techniques and familiarity with collegiate choral sound. However, I had always been drawn to and greatly appreciative of the distinctive "English Cathedral" sound, which we have since been privileged to hear in person on our ten visits to the UK. This "sound" was something I attempted to hold up as a goal (never really achieved) for all of my choirs: striving for pure vowel blend, minimum vibrato, precise intonation, exquisitely tuned triads and powerful dissonances, as well as rhythmic accuracy - all the things that make for a gloriously satisfying choral experience. And this is what I found to perfection in the performances of SMCC. It is always pure pleasure for us to revel in the sound of "our choir;" and we are looking forward to continuing our support in whatever ways will be possible.

If you'd like to share your thoughts about why you support SMCC, just contact us at info@StMartinsChamberChoir.org.

“There Let the Pealing Organ...”

- ⊙ Glorious works for chorus and organ by Howells, Dyson, Jackson, Brahms, Rowley and others.
- ⊙ World premiere of John White’s “God’s Own Descent”
- ⊙ Benjamin Britten’s masterpiece “Rejoice in the Lamb”
- ⊙ Guest organist Richard Robertson, associate organist at St. John’s Cathedral

Where & When:

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1350 Washington St., Denver

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2344 E Iliff Ave, Denver

Adults \$18; Seniors \$15; Students \$10
To reserve tickets call (303) 298-1970 or visit
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St. Martin’s Chamber Choir gratefully acknowledges the generous support of:

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Twelfth Concert Season, 2005-06

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