



# The St. Martin's Voice

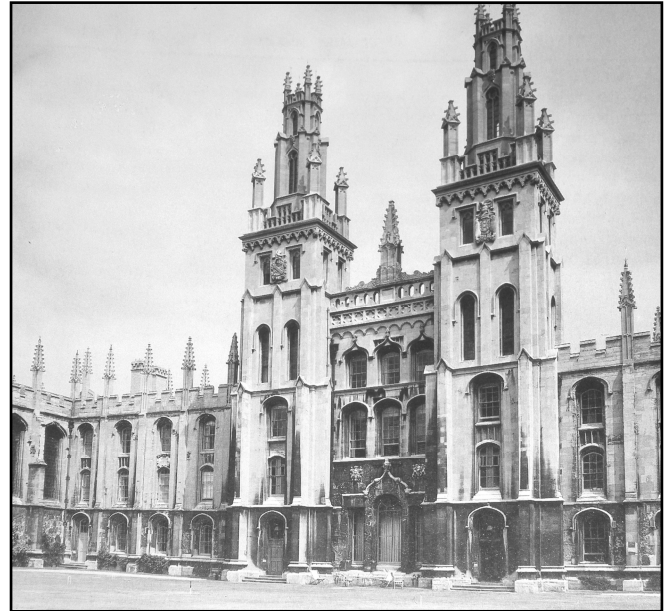
The Newsletter of St. Martin's Chamber Choir

## Enlightenment A Cappella

By Timothy J. Krueger, Artistic Director

The stylistic transitions from era to era have always fascinated me. In the early 17th century, when European art moved from the Renaissance to the Baroque era, a stylistic divide emerged based on function -- sacred vs. secular, or the church vs. the stage. The older style of polyphonic voice-leading, usually *a cappella* and identified with Palestrina, was the sacred style; and a new "*concertato*" style, usually homophonic, with increased use of dissonance as a vehicle for word painting, built on new forms like ritornello, sonata, various national dances, etc., and accompanied by instruments, was the secular.

This functional distinction, though dying, lasted into the next stylistic era, the Classical. Although there was an increasing acceptance of the secular style in church (witness the Masses of Haydn and Mozart, and the Cantatas and Oratorios of Bach and Handel, with recitatives and arias that were indistinguishable from their operatic cousins), there remained a diminishing group of largely conservative



All Souls' College, Oxford, of 1716-35

composers who still composed sacred *a cappella* works in the old style (*stile antico*).

This led to a sort of stylistic dualism -- almost a musical schizophrenia, if you will -- during the middle of the 18th century where the structure, texture, and scoring of the piece are redolent of the Renaissance, yet the harmonic vocabulary was distinctly Baroque and/or Classical.

See "Enlightenment", page 3

## Enlightenment A Cappella

Concert sponsors:  
Robert and Juanita Kniss (June 7<sup>th</sup>)

Friday, June 5<sup>th</sup>, 7:30 p.m.,  
Baha'i Center of Metro Denver

Sunday, June 7<sup>th</sup>, 3:00 p.m.,  
St. John's Episcopal Cathedral, Denver

Tickets: \$25 Premium (Lim. Avail.), \$20 Adult,  
\$18 Senior, Student \$5

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

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*Musings from a St. Martin's singer*

## Music's Healing Powers

Music has powers to heal. That statement really shouldn't be a surprise to anyone. We've all read or heard about study after study....the burn patients who need less pain meds when they're exposed to certain kinds of music....music that causes felons in prison to become less violent....the dairy cows that yielded more milk when Mozart was piped into their barns....plants that flourished or died, depending on the sounds/music they were exposed to....even the studies that showed patients recovered more quickly from surgery if certain kinds of music were played while they were under anesthesia.

It seems obvious to me that our physical bodies respond to music in more ways than the toe-tapping and tune-humming that comes most immediately when listening to music. Our bodies respond on a deeper level, to vibration. Music is rhythm and melody. They seem so separate when I teach them to elementary school students, but in a way, they're the same thing. Rhythm is based on a pulse, a beat, flowing through time & space, and melody is based on tones, but each note is a flow of vibrations. For example, concert "A" flows at a frequency of 440 cycles per second, so in a sense, rhythm and melody are both based on vibration. Our bodies have their own internal vibrations, but we also respond to outside vibrations, from the slowest vibrations (the rhythms of the moon, and the seasons) to the snappy beat of an upbeat piece of music we hear. Given that, it seems natural to me that there would be certain kinds of music that would have a more powerful healing effect than others. We could get scientific here and discuss how music affects the alpha and beta brain waves, but I'm no scientist. So I will just say that I *believe* that music influences more than just the brain: I truly think that it has a much more *visceral* effect on us. So many times, I've gone in to a concert feeling tired and sluggish, and emerged feeling stimulated and energized, and not just mentally, but physically as well. This is not to say "Throw out that prescription medication and just listen to the right music." But how much more effective will the healing process be when music is added to the treatment!

To take things a step further (and make them more

personal from a singer's perspective,) as healing as listening to music can be, *singing* magnifies the therapy! It's more than just the deep, restorative breathing involved in singing, although that's a lot of it. For most (or all) of us singers in St. Martin's, we haven't had to think much about the deep diaphragmatic breathing since our first years of voice lessons. Singing just demands it, so it's pretty automatic. But that's still not to say that I don't notice how much better I feel, physically, even 30 minutes into a rehearsal. Beyond the breathing, though, it's the vibrations of the tones and the sound flowing through my instrument. I can't count the number of times I went in to a choir rehearsal feeling really crummy (it's particularly noticeable when I have a pesky head cold) and I emerge feeling ever so much better. The breathing restores my energy and the vibration of the tones quickly clears up my sinuses. It's a powerful drug! We singers have the honor of *being* the instrument, and we benefit from the music resonating within our own bodies in a way an instrumentalist really can't. By singing with a choir, I have the resonance of the sound within my body, *and* the blending of other voices that creates a woven whole that vibrates through all of us. Together we make powerful medicine music. Let the healing begin!

### You can purchase your St. Martin's tickets and recordings online

SMCC season subscriptions, concert and Feast of St. Martin tickets, and SMCC recordings can all be purchased online. For tickets just log on to [www.StMartinsChamberChoir.org](http://www.StMartinsChamberChoir.org) and securely make your purchase for any upcoming SMCC event. Buy CDs at [www.Gothic-catalog.com](http://www.Gothic-catalog.com) or [www.Amazon.com](http://www.Amazon.com), or download our music at iTunes or any online digital retailer.

### Support SMCC via EFT!

A practically painless way to support St. Martin's is to have your periodic contribution electronically transferred from your bank to us. Visit [www.StMartinsChamberChoir.org/support.htm](http://www.StMartinsChamberChoir.org/support.htm) for more information.

*Enlightenment, from Page 1*

This is the music that I have chosen for this concert -- rare gems that, because they do not fit into one era or the other, were passed over by historians and choirmasters alike, either as old-fashioned, or, in some cases, paradoxically, as not sacred enough.

Aside from a rarely-performed early Mozart motet (his first choral piece, K. 20, "God is our refuge," written when he was 9 during a tour to London), most of the composers' names are not readily recognizable -- Graun, Biechteler, Kuhnau, Biber, Pitoni, Arnold, Blow, Doles, Homilius, etc., but this is a concert of music that is as emotionally deep as it is intellectually fascinating. In fact, isn't that a good way to describe St. Martin's concerts in general? See you there!

## *Final Feasts of St. Martin for 2008-09*

**"See, Nature, rejoicing, has shone us  
the way..."**

..."with innocent revels to welcome the day."  
This cheery Feast is an organized, progressive garden tour near Cheesman Park in Denver.  
Sat. June 13, 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m., \$40 per person

### **Water Music**

A poolside gourmet brunch in Denver's historic Montclair neighborhood, accompanied by nautically-inspired music.  
Sunday, August 2, 11:30 a.m., \$50 per person

### **A 14-er Trek**

Make a high-country hike summiting Democrat, Lincoln and Bross mountains in a single day.  
Saturday, August 29, All day, \$40 per person

For more information on the Feasts of St. Martin call  
303-298-1970, e-mail  
[info@StMartinsChamberChoir.org](mailto:info@StMartinsChamberChoir.org), or visit  
[www.StMartinsChamberChoir.org](http://www.StMartinsChamberChoir.org).

## **First Sneak-Peek at SMCC's 2009-10 Concert Season!**

- I. **Music of the Tsars** – All Russian program  
Sept. 25 & 27, 2009
- II. **The Unknown Masterpiece** – Cameo concert  
with Masses by Bernardi and Kalliwoda  
Nov. 6 & 8, 2009
- III. **"Noël, Noël!"**, with the Baroque Chamber Orch. of  
Colorado – Charpentier *Messe de Minuit*  
Dec. 18, 19 & 20, 2009
- IV. **Deconstructing Bach** – Cameo concert  
explaining Bach fugues and motets  
Feb. 5, 6 & 7, 2010
- V. **Chori Antiphoni**, with the Colorado Chorale –  
Spohr Mass for Double Choir  
Mar. 19 & 20, 2010
- VI. **"With Fresh Ears...": Music of the 20<sup>th</sup> and  
21<sup>st</sup> Centuries** – Baksa Mass, Kodaly, Cannon  
Jun. 11 & 13, 2010

*More info soon at [info@StMartinsChamberChoir.org](mailto:info@StMartinsChamberChoir.org)*

## **St. Martin's bids a fond farewell to three stalwart singers**

Three St. Martin's singers will be leaving the choir after the June concerts, and we want to take this opportunity to acknowledge them and their contributions.

**Tom Keyse** and **Jen Courtney-Keyse** are St. Martin's two remaining founding members, and it was with real sadness that we received the announcement of their approaching retirement from the choir. Since 1994 they have set a high standard for professionalism and dedication. In many important ways Tom and Jen exemplify the personality of St. Martin's Chamber Choir.

Heading for greener (or at least different) musical pastures this summer is **Danielle Reutter-Harrah**, who has in the last several years become both an audience and singer favorite for her musicianship and her wonderful voice. Our loss is San Francisco Conservatory's gain, and we wish her the very best in her continuing development as a professional singer.

# Enlightenment *A Cappella*

- ☞ St. Martin's Chamber Choir concludes its triumphant 15<sup>th</sup> season
- ☞ Fascinating concert of *a cappella* gems from an age of almost universally accompanied choral music
- ☞ Works by 18<sup>th</sup> Century composers Graun, Homilius, Pitoni, Blow, Pisarri, Arnold and many others

## Where & When:

**Friday, June 5<sup>th</sup>, 7:30 p.m.,**  
Baha'i Center of Metro Denver  
225 E. Bayaud Ave., Denver

**Sunday, June 7<sup>th</sup>, 3:00 p.m.,**  
St. John's Episcopal Cathedral,  
1350 Washington St., Denver

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

St. Martin's Chamber Choir's 15<sup>th</sup> Season is sponsored in part by:

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*Fifteenth Concert Season, 2008-09*

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