

The St. Martin's Voice

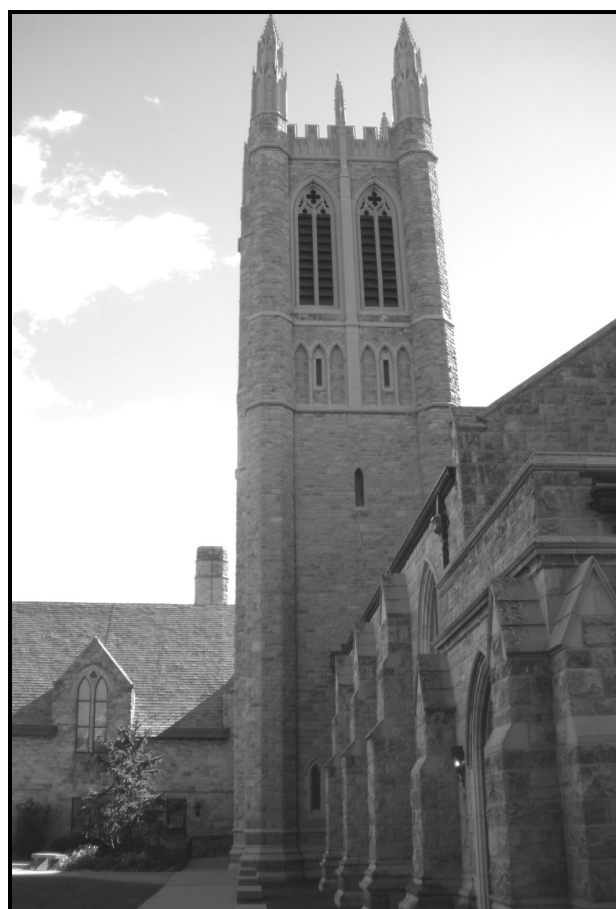
The Newsletter of St. Martin's Chamber Choir

“A Mighty Fortress” – Choir and Organ Spectacular

by Timothy J. Krueger, Artistic Director

The genesis of this concert came during a conversation with Dennis Keene, director of Voices of Ascension in New York City, and organist of Church of the Ascension. He remarked to me during a conducting lesson that he thinks Vaughan Williams' choral masterpiece is his setting of Psalm 90, “Lord, thou hast been our refuge.” I commented that it is one of the few choral works of RVW that I have never programmed. I also remarked on Charles Ives' unusual setting of the same text, and was pleased to find that Dennis agreed they would make an interesting pairing. Rounding out this grouping is Edward Bairstow's setting of Psalm 90 (although he

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Grace & St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, Colorado Springs
Dedicated: 1929

Architects: Frohman, Robb and Little
(Philip Frohman also designed Washington National Cathedral)

Photo: Brock Erickson

“A Mighty Fortress” Choral and Organ Spectacular

Concert sponsors – Robert & Juanita Kniss (June 10)

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

Saint John's Episcopal Cathedral
1350 Washington St., Denver, CO 80203

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

Grace & St. Stephen's Episcopal Church
601 N. Tejon St., Colorado Springs, CO 80903

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

303-298-1970 or www.StMartinsChamberChoir.org

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omits some verses and inserts verses from other psalms).

All three works call for organ accompaniment, and Ives also adds bells. Ives doesn't specify what kind of bells, but Dennis Keene told me he employed two sets of tubular ("orchestral") chimes and a gong, and I have opted for the same, employing two of Metro State's finest percussion students for the piece (thus concluding our unique cycle of collaborations with Metro's music department this season). The bells are to imitate distant church bells, and, typical for Ives, they bear no harmonic or rhythmic relation to one another, thus providing for the kind of random, aleatoric effect he so much enjoyed. The Bairstow and Vaughan Williams are more typical "big" church works, with pealing organ and high-soaring choir, and are sure to please.

The second half of the concert consists of a single work by Herbert Howells (1892-1983), his *Missa Aedis Christi*. When commissioned to write a liturgical work by an English cathedral, Howells enjoyed drawing his inspiration from the architecture of these various locations, tailoring the work to the atmosphere of the space. Hence, his service for St. Paul's Cathedral is monumental and soaring, requiring big voices and capacious lungs to perform; whereas the service for Gloucester Cathedral is lighter, with cascading soprano lines that he said reminded him of the incense wafting in the particular light he had often seen in that cathedral. His *Missa Aedis Christi*, written for Christ Church Cathedral, Oxford, is one of his least-performed liturgical works, although now that I am familiar with it, I cannot understand why. Perhaps inspired by the sheer ancient-ness of this cathedral and its plethora of Medieval monuments (it is England's smallest cathedral and doubles as the college chapel), Howells employs a strong dose of Lydian-mode harmonies here, harking back to an earlier time and sound, even though it comes relatively late in his own body of works (1961).

We perform this concert twice - but only once in Denver. The Sunday performance represents St.

Martin's first full foray to Colorado Springs (a small group performed there last year). If you have never seen Grace & St. Stephen's Episcopal Church and are up for the excursion, I would highly recommend it, for I consider this to be Colorado's single most beautiful church and its organ one of the state's finest.



10th Anniversary of 9/11 to be Commemorated in First Concert of New Season

Sunday, September 11, 2011 marks the 10th anniversary of the worst terrorist attacks ever committed on American soil. St. Martin's will remember those who died and those who remember them in a single performance called "Songs of Farewell."

The first half will consist entirely of works by American composers (Horatio Parker, William Schuman, Edwin Fissinger, Terry Schlenker, and others). The Hubert Parry *Songs of Farewell*, called "wonderfully thoughtful, melancholy, yet hopeful" by Artistic Director Tim Krueger, comprises the entire second half.

This special concert on a national day of remembrance will be held at Montview Presbyterian Church in Denver at 7:30 p.m. Discussions are being held about a possible live broadcast of the concert on Colorado Public Radio.



St. Martin's Chamber Choir Night at the Colorado Music Festival

Sunday, July 24, marks St. Martin's third consecutive summer being featured in a Colorado Music Festival concert. Music Director Michael Christie conducts the 7:30 p.m. performance of the CMF Chamber Orchestra at the historic Chautauqua Auditorium in Boulder. The first half includes Arvo Pärt's hypnotic *Fratres for Strings and Percussion* and Franz Josef Haydn's somber *Trauersymphonie*, so called because he requested that its slow movement be played at his funeral. The second half is the intimate and soul-penetrating *Requiem* by Gabriel Fauré, featuring the supple power of St. Martin's Chamber Choir and vocal soloists Stephen Powell, baritone, and Jae Ji Chang, soprano.

Friends of St. Martin's Chamber Choir are being offered a 25% discount for tickets to this concert. To order tickets, call the Chautauqua Box Office at 303-440-7666, daily from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., and mention "SMCC" as the discount code. Or purchase tickets online at <http://comusic.frontgatetickets.com>, also using the "SMCC" discount code. Discounted prices are \$36.75, \$31.50 and \$22.50 (Sections A, B and GA only). Tickets must be purchased between now and Saturday, July 23rd, and no password discounts will be offered on Sunday, July 24. Bring your friends and family - no limit to the number of tickets you order! Enjoy a pre-concert picnic on the Chautauqua lawn and take in the beautiful surroundings! For more information on the CMF Season, visit www.COMusic.org/goto/festival.

The concert will be repeated on Monday, July 25, at 7:30 p.m. at the Stanley Hotel in Estes Park, but there are no special SMCC discounts for that performance.

Buy Season Tickets for the 2011-2012 St. Martin's Chamber Choir Season!

Order forms will be available at the June 10 and 12 concerts for season tickets to the 2011-2012 St. Martin's Chamber Choir season.

There will be two discount levels for season ticket buyers next season. The greater discount (approximately **25%**) will be offered on every purchase of a **Full Season**, consisting of at least one ticket for each concert on the subscription season. Full Season subscriptions can be either Premium or General Admission. These Full Season tickets must be purchased by the first concert of the season on September 11, 2011.

The lesser discount (approximately **15%**) will be offered on every purchase of a **Design-Your-Own Season**, consisting of six or more tickets to your choice of concerts on the subscription season. These Design-Your-Own tickets must be purchased by October 31, 2011.

Watch for further details about St. Martin's 18th concert season, including a first-ever appearance at one of Denver's premier concert venues.

Help St. Martin's Go Green – Receive *Voice* Newsletters Online Only

As an effort to be more eco-conscious, and with rising printing and postage costs, St. Martin's Chamber Choir encourages you to opt for online-only delivery of the Choir's newsletter, *The St. Martin's Voice*.

To choose this option, simply send an e-mail to info@StMartinsChamberChoir.org, or call Executive Director Steve Grupe at 303-298-1970 - and ask to "Go Green."





St. Martin's Chamber Choir
2015 Glenarm Place, Denver, CO 80205-3121
Seventeenth Concert Season, 2010-11

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From the Artistic Director

As our 17th season draws to a close, I reflect on the personal generosity of so many supporters over these years. One hears over and over that only a small portion of ticket prices covers the actual cost of a concert. Even with St. Martin's at a healthy 40% figure, this means that *six out of every ten of our concerts have taken place directly because of our generous donors!* I am deeply grateful and humbled by your support, and I offer my heartfelt and personal thanks for your part in this.

But what of the future? As I look back on the current season - with the musical successes, the increasing visibility of St. Martin's, the Commissioning Fund appeal last November that has already resulted in the commissioning of two new works for next season - my eyes are drawn to the future. The past always points to the future, for good or ill. Success begets success, and visibility breeds familiarity, and our premieres of the afore-mentioned new works are tangible examples of harvesting fruit that was planted as mere seeds - your dollars - in last year's support.

In the coming weeks you will receive a request from us, again seeking your "seeds of support." These seeds, when multiplied, will add up to this growing organization's thriving success in the season and years ahead.

Timothy J. Krueger

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

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