



The St. Martin's Voice

The Quarterly Newsletter of St. Martin's Chamber Choir

From Darkness to Light

By Timothy J. Krueger,

St. Martin's Chamber Choir Artistic Director

The most dramatic moments of the Christian liturgy are certainly those that occur in Holy Week. Tracing the events that dominated that fateful week, the church has created liturgies that capture the anguish, pain, and disappointment experienced by Jesus' followers; the anger and hatred of his foes; and the joy and exultation of his final triumph. Regardless of one's belief in whether the events are historically factual or religiously significant, the metaphorical and archetypal elements of the story have a strong dramatic quality to them, and the music that has been created to accompany them is likewise some of the most poignant and compelling in all of sacred musical literature.

In an effort to present some of the drama and emotion inherent in this music, St. Martin's Chamber Choir presents

Tenebrae: From Darkness to Light. The first half of the

concert traces this journey through Holy Week with representative musical works from each of the main services (or liturgies). These services are Palm Sunday, Tenebrae, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter. For each of these five services, two works will be sung, one from the Renaissance, and one from the 18th, 19th, or 20th centuries. A great deal of stylistic/historic variety will therefore be included, while at the same time presenting a consistent

sense of movement from darkness (sorrow) to light (joy).

Composers represented during this first half of the concert include Anton Bruckner, Olivier Messiaen, William Byrd, Tomás Luis da Victoria, Charles Wood, Thomas Weelkes, and others.

The final work of the first half is a world premiere performance of an Easter anthem written for St. Martin's last year by Minneapolis composer Craig Carnahan. Many of you will recall our premiere of Craig's "Thou shalt know him" on our recent Christmas concerts, which met with a very enthusiastic response. We are thrilled to complete the pair of premieres in this concert with "Regina Coeli Laetare," a companion piece to "Thou shalt know him," written for and dedicated to St. Martin's at the same time.

The second half of the concert is a journey from darkness to light in a different way: This January, Denver composer John White, formerly professor of music theory and composition at Florida State University, presented to me a set of eight works called "The Canonical Hours" that he was hopeful St. Martin's would be interested in premiering. To make a long story short, I loved "The Canonical Hours," and chose to premiere it immediately rather than wait for next season. Each of the eight movements sets a text from one of the eight daily monastic services (sometimes called "the Hours"), from the pre-dawn office of Matins, through the morning offices of Prime and Terce, the mid-day offices of Sext, None, and Lauds, to the evening offices of Vespers and Compline. The listener in this respect completes a journey through one complete day, and, although the journey ends at bedtime (and hence, darkness again,) in this case it is a darkness not of sorrow (as in the early services of Holy Week), but of rest and sleep.

St. Martin's, I feel compelled to conclude, is not a church-affiliated choir, but an independent professional ensemble. Yet a vast

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Tenebrae: From Darkness to Light

Friday, March 18, 2005

7:30 p.m.

St. John's Episcopal Cathedral
1350 Washington St., Denver
[Sponsored by Robert & Juanita Kniss]

Sunday, March 20, 2005

7:30 p.m.

St. Elizabeth's Church
Auraria campus, Denver

Adults, \$18; Seniors, \$15;
Students, \$10

(303) 298-1970

www.StMartinsChamberChoir.org

Merle Troeger is New SMCC President

St. Martin's is pleased to announce that Merle Troeger has been named President of its Board of Directors. Merle's commitment to St. Martin's Chamber Choir will bring strong leadership and vision to the organization in the coming years.

After a 25 year career as a commercial litigation attorney in New York State and Colorado, Merle is now happily "jubilata," which she recently learned is the Spanish term for "retired".

Her interest in music goes back to childhood piano lessons, which she admits to actually enjoying. She studied organ in high school and college, and while working as summer organist for the Cooperstown (NY) Presbyterian Church she met future husband Tom, who was a frequent flute soloist there. Tom is now a professor at the Iliff School of Theology. Merle and Tom live in a southeast Denver home filled with art and music.

"It's a great honor to be president of the board of an organization whose mission is to perform choral music 'to the highest professional standard,'" Merle said in a recent interview. "Since the choir carries out this mission at each and every concert, it inspires me to do the best I can for the organization. In my capacity as Chair of the Development Committee, this has meant fundraising. It is terribly important that we support the great musicianship of this choir. The choir is, as Kyle McMillan of the *Denver Post* has said, 'one of Denver's gems.' For me, this means that the board needs to meet the same high standards in our realm of work that the choir sets in its musical and artistic arena. Thanks to the many dedicated persons who sit on our board, I can say that we do."

Winnebago, DeSoto, Harley-Davidson, John Deere, Trek, Boston Whaler...

Has your trusty old vehicle finally become yard art? Are you the keeper of a sidelined Suzuki, a retired Renault, or an awful Audi? Are you considering trading in that BMW convertible for a family minivan, or is your sensible

Chrysler sedan about to make way for a Sequoia über-SUV?

We've got a sensible solution for you. You can now support St. Martin's Chamber Choir by making a donation of **any vehicle, regardless of condition**. We'll accept cars, trucks, boats, motorcycles, vans, dirt bikes, tractors, mowers, golf carts, trailers and recreational vehicles, and probably a few others that we haven't thought of. Your vehicle donation will be sold at auction and the proceeds of the sale will support the choir. You'll get a tax write-off, and St. Martin's will benefit from your generosity.

Call our donation line at **303-308-2400** in the Denver metro area or **1-877-628-2277** across the state to donate your vehicle. We'll take care of all of the details at no cost to you, including picking up your vehicle. Be sure to specify "St. Martin's Chamber Choir" when asked which charity you are supporting. For more details you may call the St. Martin's office at 303-298-1970.

Marketing Brings St. Martin's to New Audiences

Does it seem like you're hearing a lot more about St. Martin's these days? If so, you're absolutely right. SMCC marketing outreach is at an all time high, and we're just getting started.

- ✓ The choir is regularly featured on Colorado Public Radio programs "Colorado Spotlight" and "Colorado Matters." Promotional spots are broadcast prior to every concert, and the group's recordings are heard as part of CPR music programming, including "Sacred Classics". In addition, St. Martin's CDs are played on classical music stations around the country.
- ✓ St. Martin's is currently in discussions with a national distributor of choral CDs. We hope to soon have our CDs available in classical

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majority of the best choral literature is sacred; and, particularly in the case of the music of Holy Week, I believe there is something very profound to be heard and experienced, regardless of one's religious beliefs. So please join St. Martin's for this metaphorical journey through shadows, by way of music both ancient and modern.

You Can Host a Feast of St. Martin

From the 14,270' summit of Gray's Peak to the inviting gardens of the Netherlands, St. Martin's supporters enjoyed wonderfully imaginative Feasts of St. Martin during the 2004-05 season. Noel Coward songs and sherry tasting, tempting desserts and Scarlatti, flute and harpsichord with champagne in the parlor; these were just some of the special benefit events offered by the choir this year.

Plans are already underway for next season's Feasts of St. Martin. Have you ever wanted to lead an exclusive tour of your favorite Colorado place? Do you have a unique interest that you would like to share with other St. Martin's supporters? If you have an idea for a Feast you'd like to host or attend, please contact the St. Martin's office for more information (303-298-1970). Hosting a Feast is a great way to enjoy the stimulating company of fellow music lovers, as well as supporting St. Martin's.

St. Martin's Chamber Choir

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www.StMartinsChamberChoir.org

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- music record stores across the country.
- ✓ Press releases about St. Martin's concerts and CDs are distributed to local newspaper and radio outlets via email and website submissions.
- ✓ Timely announcements of St. Martin's events are emailed to a growing list of supporters. These email messages have proved to be very popular and helpful to our audience, and you can request to be added to our list by contacting us at smcchoir@msn.com.

St. Martin's Voice on the Web

You can now view current issues of The St. Martin's Voice on the web at www.StMartinsChamberChoir.org. Reminders of upcoming events, profiles of volunteers, staff and singers, and special insights from Artistic Director Timothy Krueger about the next St. Martin's concert are only a few of the features that you can enjoy by downloading a copy of The St. Martin's Voice.

Still to Come in Our 2004-05 Season

St. Martin's Season Finale:

Choral Milestones

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

St. Paul Lutheran Church, Denver

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

St. Elizabeth's Church, Denver

Key works that influenced the history of choral music:

Examples of earliest polyphony; selection from Machaut *Notre Dame Mass*; Palestrina *Pope Marcellus Mass*; Allegri *Misereri*; Vaughan Williams *Kyrie* from *Mass in G Minor*, and more.

Tenebrae: From Darkness to Light

- ⦿ The emotional and spiritual journey of Holy Week through the music of Bruckner, Byrd, Victoria, Messiaen, and others
- ⦿ World premiere performances of John White's *The Canonical Hours* and Craig Carnahan's *Regina Coeli Laetare*
- ⦿ An exquisite evening of choral music from
St. Martin's Chamber Choir

Where & When:

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1350 Washington St., Denver

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Auraria campus, Denver

Adults, \$18; Seniors, \$15; Students, \$10
*To reserve tickets call (303) 298-1970 or visit
www.StMartinsChamberChoir.org*

St. Martin's Chamber Choir gratefully acknowledges the support of:

Carson-Pfafflin
Family Foundation



Fine Arts
Foundation

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Galen and Ada
Belle Spencer
Foundation



St. Martin's Chamber Choir

2015 Glenarm Place, Denver, CO 80205

Eleventh Concert Season, 2004-05

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