

The St. Martin's Voice

The Newsletter of St. Martin's Chamber Choir

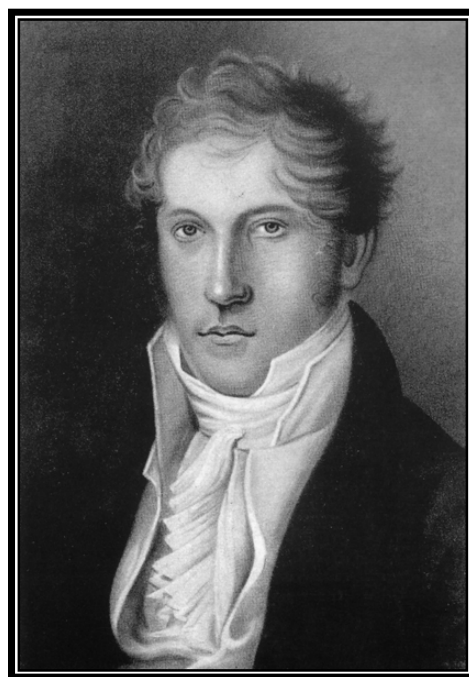
Chori Antiphoni

By Timothy J. Krueger, Artistic Director

A number of years ago, good friend and organist Richard Robertson put into my hands a score of a very unusual work, one that I had never heard of: Louis Spohr's Mass for Double Choir, Op. 54.

There were three things that intrigued me about this mass, as I got to know it. Firstly, Louis Spohr was one of those people very popular in his day (his fame even overshadowed his contemporary Beethoven during that time, believe it or not), but has been relegated to the ranks of footnotes and occasional performances since then. Those of you who have followed St. Martin's for years and are familiar with my programming know how this sort of historical phenomenon predisposes me to a particular composer!

Secondly, the mass was considered too difficult to perform in its day, and its premiere performance was



Louis Spohr

cancelled when it was found that the choir was not up to it.

And thirdly, this mass was for two *unequal* choirs -- i.e., for a large choir (*Coro di Maggiore*) and for a small choir (*Coro di Minore*). This unusual fact made me think that it would be the ideal piece to

See "Chori", page 2

Chori Antiphoni

With the Colorado Chorale

Concert sponsors – Colorado Council on the Arts
Robert & Juanita Kniss (Mar. 19)
Scientific and Cultural Facilities District,
Jefferson County (Mar. 20)

Friday, March 19th, 7:30 p.m.

St. John's Episcopal Cathedral, Denver

Saturday, March 20th, 7:30 p.m.

Wheat Ridge United Methodist Church, Wheat Ridge

Tickets: \$22 General Admission, \$5 Student; \$30 Premium (lim. avail.)

303-298-1970 or www.StMartinsChamberChoir.org

What's Inside?

<i>Chori Antiphoni</i>	1
Q&A about EFT	2
Upcoming Feasts of St. Martin	3
Group discounts available	3
St. Martin's in combined-choir concert of music of Whitacre	3
What's next for St. Martin's?	3

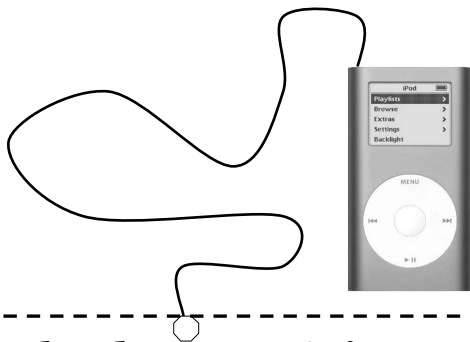
"Chori", cont. from page 1

program in a collaboration of SMCC with a larger choir.

Last year, when one of my tenors, Dr. Frank Eychaner, was selected by the Colorado Chorale to be their new director -- a group I knew fairly well because of other connections, including SMCC board members Mark Mulligan and Arianne Burger (both singers in CC), Micaëla Larsen Brown (a former CC singer), and my acquaintance with Dan Grace (CC's former director, and a fellow Colorado ACDA board member of mine), the opportunity to perform the Spohr rose up in my mind as we discussed a possible collaboration, with SMCC as the small choir and CC as the large choir.

It was not long before my meetings with Frank had produced a program of other fabulous double choir works that called for two choirs of unequal size, including Biebl's *Ave Maria*, Britten's *Hymn to the Virgin*, Kverno's *Ave maris stella*, and, in honor of the 325th anniversary of J.S. Bach's birth this year, Bach's *Motet #1, Singet dem Herrn*. Each choir will perform a handful of works on their own as well, with SMCC's contribution in this vein being two modern works, one by Terry Schlenker, the other by Eric Whitacre.

Get two choirs for the price of one, and some fabulous *a cappella* choral literature to boot! See you there!



Download St. Martin's recordings to your iPod, personal computer or other digital device!

All SMCC CDs and individual tracks are available for download through online digital retailers such as iTunes, Napster, Real/Rhapsody, eMusic and others. It's quick, it's easy, and you can keep the beautiful sound of St. Martin's with you wherever you go!

Q&A about "EFT"

Q: What does "EFT" stand for?

A: "EFT" stands for "Electronic Funds Transfer", which is a way to support St. Martin's through regular, automatic transfers directly from your bank to St. Martin's bank account.

Q: How does it work?

A: You simply fill out a simple form with your bank account information, choose the amount and frequency (monthly, quarterly, etc.) of your gift, large or small, and submit it to the St. Martin's office.

Q: Do I have to pay any processing fees?

A: No, there are no fees for you, and your full gift goes right to St. Martin's.

Q: Why is this a great idea for me?

A: Your gift is automatic and painless, and you'll be providing essential support to the choir.

Q: Why is this a super idea for St. Martin's?

A: We'll receive regular and predictable ongoing support from you and other donors, allowing us to do more precise planning during the coming year.

Q: How can I get started in making my EFT contribution?

A: Download the authorization form from the SMCC website (under "Support"), or email or call the office and we'll send a form to you. Just fill in the blanks with the details of your support wishes, mail the form back to us, and we'll take it from there!

More great Feasts of St. Martin

***Postponed:* S'Martin's Sense of Snow**

Our guided snowshoeing trek at Butler Gulch (Arapahoe National Forest) was postponed due to avalanche conditions. *Rescheduled date TBD. Cost: \$50 per person*

March 21st: Organ Crawl on Bach's B'day

Celebrate Bach's 325th birthday by touring three historic downtown Denver pipe organs with Dr. Joyce Shupe Kull. *Cost: \$60 per person*

April 24th: "Arise...and Come Away!"

Join us for this beautiful naturalist-led wildflower walk at Roxborough State Park. *Cost: \$40 per person*

May 2nd: Kammermusik

Frank Nowell and Rosemarie Murane present a solo and duo keyboard recital in Rosemarie's elegant home. *Cost: \$60 per person*

For more information about the 2009-10 **Feasts of St. Martin** you can call 303-298-1970, e-mail info@StMartinsChamberChoir.org, or visit www.StMartinsChamberChoir.org. Don't forget, you can make your reservations by phone or through the SMCC website!

Group discounts on SMCC tickets

Groups of 10 or more qualify for a 10% discount on the purchase price of tickets. Group rates must be arranged by advance purchase. Call 303-298-1970 or email info@stmartinschamberchoir.org to take advantage of this great opportunity to share the music of St. Martin's Chamber choir with your friends, and get discounted tickets too.

SMCC participates in "Whitacre conducts Whitacre" concert

In late February St. Martin's joined with the University of Denver Lamont Chorale and the local choir Kantorei in presenting a program of the music of wildly popular choral composer Eric Whitacre. Easily the most successful composer writing for choirs today, Whitacre conducted two performances with this combined choir, first at the Southwest Regional convention of the American Choral Director's Association, and again at a concert on the DU campus. The three choirs complemented each other very well, and the resulting ensemble delivered compelling performances of six of Whitacre's works to capacity audiences. Not only was it fascinating for the singers to work with a composer to realize his vision for his music, but St. Martin's greatly enjoyed the opportunity to meet and sing with our colleagues in Kantorei and the Lamont Chorale.

What's ahead for St. Martin's?

On June 11th and 13th St. Martin's Chamber Choir concludes the 2009-10 season "With Fresh Ears...", showcasing fascinating works from the 20th and 21st centuries. Philip Cannon's "Son of God", Zoltán Kodály's "The Traders", and "Bar xizam (Upward I rise)" by Abbie Betinis will be featured, and the centerpiece of the program will be the world premiere of Robert Baksa's Mass.

In addition to this exciting concert weekend, St. Martin's will offer "Edgy", a Feast fundraiser on Sunday, June 27th. This afternoon salon of cutting-edge chamber music at the home of Ann Levy, Denver's longtime champion of new music, will be performed by Daniel Kellogg, Assistant Professor of Composition at CU, and his wife, Hsing-ay Hsu, Pendulum New Music Series Artistic Administrator and Instructor at CU. Decadent treats will accompany this avant-garde gathering.

To receive "The Voice" by email only, just send a quick note to info@stmartinschamberchoir.org or call 303-298-1970



St. Martin's Chamber Choir
 2015 Glenarm Place, Denver, CO 80205
Sixteenth Concert Season, 2009-10

Non-Profit Org.
 US Postage
 Paid
 Denver, CO
 Permit #354

Chori Antiphoni
with the Colorado Chorale

- ☞ First-ever collaboration between St. Martin's Chamber Choir and the Colorado Chorale
- ☞ Rare performance of Louis Spohr's Mass (op. 54) for two choirs of unequal size
- ☞ Program also includes two-choir works by Britten, Kverno, J.S. Bach, Biebl and others

Where & When:

Friday, March 19th, 7:30 p.m.,
 St. John's Episcopal Cathedral,
 1350 Washington St., Denver

Saturday, March 20th, 7:30 p.m.
 Wheat Ridge United Methodist Church
 7530 W. 38th Ave., Wheat Ridge

St. Martin's Chamber Choir' 16th Season is sponsored by:

**Carson-Pfafflin
 Family Foundation**



THE DENVER FOUNDATION



NATIONAL
 ENDOWMENT
 FOR THE ARTS
 A great nation
 deserves great art.



Fine Arts
 Foundation



Scientific & Cultural
 Facilities District

Schramm
 Foundation

- - -

Galen and Ada
 Belle Spencer
 Foundation