



The St. Martin's Voice

The Newsletter of St. Martin's Chamber Choir

“The Composer’s Choice”

A Cameo Concert

By Timothy J. Krueger, Artistic Director

It has always been of interest to me how composers approach a text and set it to music, having done some of it myself. Assuming it is desirable to make the music match the text, there are several established techniques that are available; and myriad ways within those techniques to creatively accomplish the task.

For instance, should a composer merely match the general mood or feel of the text in the music? Or can he or she be even more specific, matching the contour of a melody to the meaning of the words? And what of shifts in mood or meaning? And most fascinating of all, is it possible for differing interpretations of a text to be revealed in the way two individuals choose to set a text?

In "The Composer's Choice," 10 of St. Martin's singers will present 4 pairs of songs (i.e., 8 pieces), singing them side-



by-side, and asking for audience reflections and observations both before and afterwards, in an attempt to reveal some of these issues to our consciousness.

For instance, taking the Shakespearean text "Full Fathom Five" (from *The Tempest*), and seeing how Romantic era English composer Charles Wood sets it, compared to living American composer Robert Baksa, is to reveal that the two interpret the text very differently. William Blake's poem "The Lamb,"

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“The Composer’s Choice”

A Cameo Concert

**Friday, November 14, 7:30 p.m.,
The Lab at Belmar, Lakewood**

**Sunday, November 16, 3:00 p.m.,
Chautauqua Community House, Boulder**

General Admission \$15, Student \$5

(303) 298-1970 or www.StMartinsChamberChoir.org

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George Herbert's "Sweet Day, So Cool," and the sacred text "O sacrum convivium" are the other texts, with composers as varied as the Italian Baroque composer Giuseppi Antonio Bernabei and contemporary French composer Olivier Messiaen. John Tavener, Ralph Vaughan Williams, and Hubert Parry round out the list of composers examined in this unique and stimulating new concert concept.



Chautauqua Community House, Boulder

Here are great ways to support St. Martin's Chamber Choir:

- 1- Sign up for EFT/ACH monthly or semi-monthly direct deposit donations
- 2- Contribute to the choir's general fund or the Mark Sheldon Memorial Fund
- 3- Purchase musical scores for the choir through the St. Martin's Repertoire Fund
- 4- Donate any kind of unwanted vehicle
- 5- Make a gift of stock
- 6- Show your support with a multi-year pledge

More info at
info@StMartinsChamberChoir.org or
303-298-1970

Still to come in St. Martin's Chamber Choir's 2008-09 15th Anniversary Season

III. Thou Little Tiny Child: Christmas with St. Martin's, featuring a *cappella* works which focus on the vulnerability of the infant Jesus, and a performance of the Saint-Saens *Christmas Oratorio* with string quintet, harp and organ.

Fri., Dec. 19, Sat., Dec. 20, Sun., Dec 21, 2008

IV. February, 1809 (Cameo Concert^{*}): We observe the February 2009 bicentennial of the births of 19th century giants Mendelssohn, Darwin and Lincoln.

Fri., Feb. 13 & Sun., Feb. 15, 2009

V. Passio Christi: a program of moving Lenten works featuring the *Lamentations of Jeremiah* by Thomas Tallis and John Ferguson's *Christus* for choir and viola.

Fri., Apr. 3 & Sat., Apr. 4, 2009

VI. Enlightenment A Cappella – Unaccompanied choral music of the 18th century, a time generally associated with *basso continuo*.

Fri., Jun. 5 & Sun., Jun. 7, 2009

Find more information and purchase tickets at
www.StMartinsChamberChoir.org or
303-298-1970

** Cameo Concert: \ 'ka-mē-,ō 'kän(t)-sərt \, N., SMCC choral performance, one hour in length, less expensive tickets, unusual programming, unconventional venues, audience participation.*

Purchase your tickets online

Concert tickets can now be purchased through the St. Martin's website! Just log on to www.StMartinsChamberChoir.org, go to the 2008-09 Concert Season page, and securely purchase your tickets for any upcoming SMCC performance.

2008-09 Mark Sheldon Fund Conducting Intern

By Micaëla Larsen Brown

A warm welcome to Jill Schroeder, who is this year's Mark Sheldon Conducting Intern. Those who attended St. Martin's first concert didn't get to see Jill conduct, but if you were watching closely, you might have noticed her singing among the sopranos. When she wasn't singing, she hopped down to the orchestra to play French horn!

Jill is finishing up her Master's degree in Vocal Performance and Conducting. She enjoys both instrumental and choral conducting. Initially, she was most interested in orchestral conducting, but took a class in choral conducting specifically to work with Catherine Sailer (the co-conductor

of the September concert.) Since then, she finds herself drawn more and more to choral conducting.

Jill grew up in a small town in Oklahoma, in a very musical family. Her younger years were rife with piano lessons and church choirs, but she rebelled against her family's musical leanings and wanted to be a softball player! That was her dream for many years. Near the

end of high school, though, she discovered that she has more of a musician's temperament. She also discovered a deep love for music and the lessons she'd been made to take were no longer a chore but a pleasure.

Jill's ideal career would



involve teaching in a small liberal arts college. She likes the kind of places where students can get their fingers in a lot of pies.

When not studying, Jill loves to spend time with family and adores traveling. (She's been to five of the seven continents!)

We're thrilled to have Jill's talent and cheerful personality with us this year and we look forward to experiencing Jill's first conducting with St. Martin's at the next concert. Welcome, Jill!

Feasts of St. Martin for 2008-09

2. **A Chautauqua Cameo** – Elegant dinner at the Chautauqua Community House
3. **Our Jolly Wassail Sing-a-long** – Join with SMCC singers in celebrating the holidays
4. **Finlaw's Phantoms at "The Ellie"** – Backstage opera house tour with Ellie Caulkins
5. **Fête-ing the Muse - A St. Martin's CD Debut, A Composer Is Celebrated!** – Terry Schlenker's music
6. **Why Practice Makes Perfect** – Special "open" St. Martin's rehearsal
7. **"If Music Be the Food of Love..."** – Sumptuous dinner with accompanying wines
8. **Spanish Guitarra** - A house recital by Alex Komodore
9. **"See, Nature, rejoicing, has shone us the way..."** - Tours of Capitol Hill gardens
10. **Water Music** – A poolside brunch with nautical music
11. **A 14-er Trek** – Conquer Democrat, Lincoln and Bross peaks in one day

For more information visit

[www.StMartinsChamberChoir.org/Feasts 2008-09.htm](http://www.StMartinsChamberChoir.org/Feasts%202008-09.htm).
Make your reservations today by calling 303-298-1970 or
by emailing info@StMartinsChamberChoir.org.



“The Composer’s Choice”

A Cameo Concert

- ☞ Compare, contrast and discuss choral settings of selected texts by various composers
- ☞ Performance is one hour in length, with bargain ticket pricing
- ☞ Unconventional concert venues
- ☞ Settings by Messiaen, Parry, Tavener, Wood, Vaughan Williams, Bernabei and others

Where & When:

Friday, November 14, 7:30 p.m.,
The Lab at Belmar,
404 S. Upham St., Lakewood

Sunday, November 16, 3:00 p.m.,
Chautauqua Community House,
900 Baseline Rd., Boulder

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

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

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St. Martin’s Chamber Choir
2015 Glenarm Place, Denver, CO 80205
Fifteenth Concert Season, 2008-09

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