



# The St. Martin's Voice

*The Newsletter of St. Martin's Chamber Choir*

## Love Songs and Twilight

*By Timothy J. Krueger, Artistic Director*

I have debated, with St. Martin's Chamber Choir about to commence its 13th Season, whether I should make any attempt to downplay the number, with its connotations of bad luck. But, not being a superstitious person (except about baseball), I have decided instead to diffuse any ill omens with the programming of a set of such rosy and pleasant works that bad luck will not even *think* of showing its face at our concerts. I speak of the Brahms *Liebeslieder Walzer* ("Love Song Waltzes").

I have never met anyone who has either heard or sung the set of 18 waltzes who does not instantly adore them. They are not, with minor exceptions, difficult for the choir; and the complexity of the piano part is kindly divided between four hands rather than two. The poems that Brahms chose to include, even he admitted were little more than folksy doggerel verse. Yet the resulting warmth and gaiety, with subtle underpinnings of melancholy (universal in Brahms' music), create works of rare beauty and grace. Tamara Goldstein and Mutsumi Moteki (piano faculty at Metropolitan State College and the University of Colorado, respectively) join St. Martin's for these wonderful works.

The concert will begin with three Renaissance works -- settings from the Old Testament book "Song of Songs" (or "Song of Solomon" -- a book about erotic love) by the early-17th century German composer Melchior Franck. I am impressed with the sensuousness and sensitivity of these settings -- not something one usually associates with Germans or German music! Perhaps, had Franck lived in another era, we might associate Impressionism with Germany instead of France!

The *Serenade to Music* by Ralph Vaughan Williams makes its second appearance with St. Martin's Chamber Choir, this time with Tamara Goldstein, pianist, and Jesse O'Shell, violin. I felt the gentle beauty of this piece, with its shaded corners of moonlight and chromatic harmonies, would fit well in this program.

*See "Love Songs" on page 3*

### *Love Songs and Twilight*

*Weekend sponsor: Trautman Farms*

**Friday, Sept. 22, 2006**

Bethany Lutheran Church  
4500 E. Hampden Ave.,  
Cherry Hills Village

**Sunday, Sept. 24, 2006**

Broomfield Auditorium  
3 Community Park Rd.,  
Broomfield

**Both concerts 7:30 p.m.**

Adults \$20; Seniors \$17; Students \$5

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

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## The Feasts are back!

St. Martin's Chamber Choir's first "Feasts" fundraiser of the season, "A Fall morning's walk", is set for Saturday, September 30<sup>th</sup> in Boulder. Enjoy autumn under the Flatirons with Colorado naturalist Diane Wells, who will guide your walk along Boulder's Chautauqua Open Space and Mountain Parks trails. Afterwards, enjoy brunch at the historic Chautauqua Dining Hall. A short visit to a family cottage on the grounds will round off this fall Feast. Tickets are \$50 per person, and the hosts for this event are Don and Bea French. For more information call 303-298-1970 or email [info@StMartinsChamberChoir.org](mailto:info@StMartinsChamberChoir.org).

Other Feasts on the 2006-07 menu:

- ☞ Music almost divine – Join in a rousing early American shape-note "singing"
- ☞ "It is Finished: Stations of the Cross" CD release celebration – St. Martin's eighth CD recording
- ☞ St. Martin's holiday sing-along – Join with St. Martin's singers in sight-reading seasonal music
- ☞ The glorious human voice – Soprano Elizabeth Weigle performs in this intimate house concert
- ☞ A dim sum-mit – A hands-on appetizing demonstration with delicious rewards
- ☞ Come to Chez Krueger! – Sophisticated early-evening aperitifs and entertainments at the home of Tim and MB Krueger
- ☞ Musical transitions – A fascinating discussion of those pivotal moments throughout music history where the avant-garde led to whole new musical languages.
- ☞ Wildflower walk – Naturalist and Native Plant Master Stephen Dilts leads this spring walk through beautiful Roxborough State Park.
- ☞ Jazz overlooking the park – Enjoy cool jazz from Donna Wickham in an elegant Cheesman Park penthouse
- ☞ Hike the high ridges – Summit three 13ers and a 14er in this spectacular summer day in the high country

Look for your invitation to the Feasts in the mail soon, or contact the SMCC office for information about making your reservations.

## St. Martin's reaches out to students

As part of SMCC's continuing efforts to attract more young listeners to its concerts, the price of a student ticket has been lowered to \$5.00. A student subscription for the entire season is only \$20.00. In late August SMCC season information was mailed to more than 130 metro area high school choral directors.

The choir will also expand its outreach to schools during the season with in-school presentations and cooperative interdisciplinary programs. For more information about St. Martin's Educational Outreach visit the Education section of the SMCC website.

## Calendar notice: SMCC at Barnes & Noble on November 30<sup>th</sup>

As you plan your holiday shopping this year be sure to mark Thursday, November 30<sup>th</sup> on your calendar. St. Martin's will be at Barnes & Noble, Denver West that evening, and a percentage of every purchase will benefit the choir. What a great way to buy those special gifts and support the choir at no additional cost to you. For more info contact the St. Martin's office.

## Are you volunteer material?

We're always looking for dedicated supporters of the St. Martin's to serve as volunteers. We welcome help with concert staffing, mailings, fundraisers. Please contact us today to learn how you can help. Thanks!

### *The St. Martin's Voice by email*

If you'd like to receive your copy of The St. Martin's Voice by email only, just let us know at [info@StMartinsChamberChoir.org](mailto:info@StMartinsChamberChoir.org).

*"Love Songs", cont. from page 1*

As Mozart did not write a single *a cappella* piece (with the possible exception of the very early "God is our refuge"), it is difficult for St. Martin's to participate in this important 250th anniversary year celebration of his birth. But I would wager that his *Sei Notturmi* ("Six Nocturnes") have not made a recent appearance on a live concert in Colorado, and therefore will form a unique part of our tribute to the great master. These works, all for three voices (SAB) and an unspecified accompaniment (Mozart preferred basset horns, but they are more often done with a string trio or piano), are poems dealing with nighttime by the great 18th century Italian poet Metastasio. St. Martin's will combine solo trio passages with choral in the hopes of showing these unusual and rarely-performed works to best advantage.

Finally, a brief work by Kodály called *Esti Dal* ("Evening Song") will introduce our Mark Sheldon Conducting Intern for this season, Gabrielle Dietrich (read more about her in the accompanying article).

Join us for this sensuous musical walk in an evening garden, and help us prove that we have nothing to fear from our 13th Season!

**Still to come from SMCC in 2006-07**

**Dec. 2006 - A Marian Christmas II – Marian works old and new**

**Feb. 2007 – On Wings of Song: The Women of St. Martin's, with harp**

**Mar. 2007 - "The Seven Last Words", Haydn's masterpiece for choir and string quartet**

**Jun. 2007 – A Colorado Connection, featuring an encore performance of Terry Schlenker's *Mass for Double Choir***

**Full season and subscription details at**

**[www.StMartinsChamberChoir.org](http://www.StMartinsChamberChoir.org)**

## St. Martin's 2006-07 Mark Sheldon Fund Conducting Intern is named

St. Martin's Chamber Choir recently announced the selection of Gabrielle Dietrich as the group's second Mark Sheldon Memorial Fund Conducting Intern.

Gabrielle earned her Bachelor of Music degree in music education from the University of the Pacific, where she had extensive conducting opportunities. During summer programs at Portland State University she also obtained certifications in Kodály Pedagogy. In 2005 Gabrielle completed her Master of Music in choral conducting at the University of Colorado, Boulder. She was a graduate assistant conductor of three choirs at CU, and also gained experience in choir management.



In 2005 Gabrielle was a Fulbright Grant Alternate, and was awarded an academic year fellowship from the Hungarian Scholarship Board for a year of study at the Zoltán Kodály Pedagogical Institute of Music in Kecskemét, Hungary, where she obtained a General Diploma in Kodály Methodology.

Our new intern brings unique talents and experience to St. Martin's, and the year promises to be rewarding for both her and the choir. The internship in conducting, rehearsal and concert management and arts administration is underwritten by the Mark Sheldon Memorial Fund, established to further the musical legacy of former St. Martin's assistant conductor and singer Mark Sheldon.

# Love Songs and Twilight

- ⦿ Brahms' *Liebeslieder Waltzes* for choir and piano four-hands with guest artists Tamara Goldstein and Mutsumi Moteki
- ⦿ Program also includes Vaughn Williams' *Serenade to Music*, Mozart's *Sei Nottorni*, M. Franck's *Drei Gesänge*, and Kodály's *Esti Dal*
- ⦿ Beautiful music of love, longing, and the romance of eventide.

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

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*Thirteenth Concert Season, 2006-07*

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