



ST. MARTIN'S CHAMBER CHOIR

TIMOTHY J. KRUEGER, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

21ST SEASON

THE ST. MARTIN'S VOICE

NEWSLETTER OF ST MARTIN'S CHAMBER CHOIR

21ST CONCERT SEASON 2014-2015 | DECEMBER 2014 - VOL. XVII NO. 3

A Cambridge Christmas

BY TIMOTHY J. KRUEGER, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

In the hushed moment before the service begins, the boy choristers of King's College, Cambridge, shiver in apprehension of the fateful moment when their choirmaster Sir David Willcocks will point at one of them, and his will be the tremulous voice heard round the globe beginning the tune *Irby*, better known as "Once in Royal David's City."

In like fashion, the sopranos of St. Martin's Chamber Choir will await the finger of fate from me, indicating which one will sing the same words and tune to begin our 2014 holiday concerts, "A Cambridge Christmas."

The choirs of Cambridge are world famous, especially that of King's College by way of the annual Lessons & Carols service (and broadcast) on Christmas Eve alluded to in the story above. But the other college choirs (Trinity, St. John's, Gonville & Caius among them), though less famous, are as equally accomplished and, taken together, these choirs have been responsible for the creation of some of the world's most recognizable Christmas music.

This Christmas concert will highlight some of this music, including five arrangements by Sir David Willcocks of beloved carols that will be sung together by choir and audience at the concert, accompanied by the glorious organs of the churches where we will be performing. Other beloved carols by Vaughan Williams, Howells, Stanford, Rutter, and Mendelssohn will complement the above; and a handful of still others – very fresh and new, commissioned by King's College for its Lessons & Carols services – such as contemporary works by John Tavener, Judith Weir, and Jonathan Dove, will add some piquancy to the mixture.

The guest organist for this concert is Ralph Valentine, head of music for thirty-some years at Choate-Rosemary Hall in Connecticut, and currently the organist of St. Andrew's Episcopal Church in Denver. He will assist the choir in raising the rafters at

Montview Presbyterian Church, Saint John's Episcopal Cathedral, and Holy Cross Lutheran Church, where three of Denver's finest organs will peal forth in honor of the season.

I hope you will join us at one of these concerts! I look forward to seeing you, and hearing you join in on "God rest ye merry, gentlemen," "O come, all ye faithful," and "The First Nowell." ✦



REMEMBER SMCC!
TUESDAY THE 9TH IS COLORADO GIVES DAY!

DECEMBER CONCERTS

FRIDAY DEC 12 7:30 PM

Montview Boulevard Presbyterian Church :: 1980 Dahlia St :: Denver 80220

SUNDAY DEC 14 3:00 PM

Holy Cross Lutheran Church :: 4500 Wadsworth Boulevard :: Wheat Ridge 80033

FRIDAY DEC 19 7:30 PM

Saint John's Episcopal Cathedral :: 1350 Washington St :: Denver 80203

PARKING

- Fri Dec 12 Parking lot south of the church; free street parking
- Sun Dec 14 Parking lot east of the church
- Fri Dec 19 Parking lot south of the church (small); Morey School (enter off 13th Ave between Emerson and Clarkson); Parking lot north of the church (between 14th Ave and Colfax, except immediately west of Argonaut Liquors)

TICKETS

- PREMIUM (front and center) \$35
- GENERAL ADMISSION \$25
- STUDENT \$10

stmartinschamberchoir.org
303-298-1970 or at the door



Like us on Facebook





A Cambridge Christmas

Ralph Valentine, Guest Organist



Ralph Valentine, Organist at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church in Denver, holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from Harvard University and a Master of Sacred Music degree from Union Theological Seminary in New York City. After graduation, Ralph began teaching at Choate Rosemary Hall, a college preparatory school in Wallingford, Connecticut, where

he served as Head of Music, Choral Director, School Organist, and Instructor in Theory, Harmony, Counterpoint, Music History, Composition, Organ, and Harpsichord for forty-two years. A past Dean of the New Haven Chapter of the American Guild of Organists, Ralph also completed thirty-four years as Organist and Choirmaster at St. John's Episcopal Church in West Hartford, Connecticut. He has been active as a recitalist, organ consultant, workshop leader, accompanist, and composer. ✦

The Year of The Singer

Each of four St. Martin's fundraising letters during the 2014-15 season will feature a different singer, telling what it means to be a part of this organization. St. Martin's is a professional choir – that is, each singer is paid for every concert, rehearsal, school workshop, community outreach event and recording session. This adds an additional layer to our expense budget that many choirs do not have – choirs that have a core of paid singers or are completely amateur (volunteer). All St. Martin's singers have “day jobs;” their SMCC pay is modest and hardly commensurate for the expertise and dedication they bring to the group. Your donations of any amount help us to attract and retain the finest singers in the region. We are fortunate to have them – and YOU! ✦



Santa Fe Desert Chorale

TO PERFORM IN DENVER FOR THE FIRST TIME

On Tuesday, February 24, 2015, the esteemed Santa Fe Desert Chorale and St. Martins Chamber Choir appear on the same concert at Montview Boulevard Presbyterian Church. As one of the nation's premiere professional ensembles, the Desert Chorale comprises 24 singers from across the country. Currently under the baton of music director Joshua Habermann, the Chorale has assembled in New Mexico for more than 33 years to perform repertoire spanning seven centuries, from medieval polyphony to contemporary and avant garde works. With more than 30 performances each year, the Desert Chorale has been lauded for its ability to sing more than 1,000 years of vocal masterpieces. The Chorale performs at historical sites in Santa Fe such as the Cathedral Basilica of St. Francis, the Loretto Chapel and other venues. In Denver the ensemble will perform its acclaimed “Dancing the Mystery” repertoire en route to the national conference of the American Choral Directors Association in Salt Lake City, a prestigious invitation-only appearance. Plan now to experience this rare concert by two regional professional choirs. ✦

