

# Chorus!

CHORAL ARTS NEW ENGLAND

January 2013

Encouraging Choral Excellence through Alfred Nash Patterson Grants

Make a tax-deductible gift to Choral Arts New England and the Patterson Foundation as part of your planned giving!

## COMING UP SOON IN BOSTON CHORAL MUSIC

Here are some highlights of the spring choral season in the greater Boston area. There is far too much going on to print; for more, and for concert details, including links to performer web sites, check out our new online choral events calendar: [www.choralarts-newengland.org/Calendar](http://www.choralarts-newengland.org/Calendar).

### Premieres and choral commissions (by composer)

- Greg Bullen:** *The Orchard*. Coro Allegro, 6/2/13.  
**Peter Child:** *Meditations Upon The Lamb*. Chorus pro Musica, 5/31/13.  
**Mohammed Fairouz:** *Anything Can Happen*. Back Bay Chorale, 3/17/13.  
**Malcolm Hawkins:** *Martha and Lazarus*. Arlington-Belmont Chorale, 3/10/13 and 5/10/13.  
**Ruth Lomon:** commission. Cantemus Chamber Chorus, 4/27/13, 4/28/13.  
**Marjorie Merryman:** *Beauty, Grief and Grandeur* (First Boston Performance); James MacMillan: *The Seven Last Words from the Cross* (First Boston Performance). Cantata Singers, 3/17/13.  
**Brian Tate:** commission. Halalisa Singers, 4/27/13, 4/28/13.  
**Gwyneth Walker:** *The Midnight Ride of Paul Revere*. Lexington Pops Chorus, 1/18/13, 1/19/13.  
**Scott Wheeler:** "The Jabberwocky" (based on Lewis Carroll's poem). Cantilena, 5/4/13.  
**Jan Dismas Zelenka:** *Missa votiva* in E minor, ZWV 18 (First Boston Performance). Cantata Singers, 5/10/13.

### Major or especially interesting works

- Giacomo Carissimi: *Jephte*; Marc-Antoine Charpentier: *Missa Assumpta est Maria*; J.S. Bach: Cantata: "Gottes Zeit ist die allerbeste Zeit." Boston Baroque, 3/8/13-3/9/13.  
Giacomo Carissimi: *Jephte*; Morten Lauridsen: *Lux Aeterna*. Newton Community Chorus, 5/11/13.  
Antonin Dvorak: *Stabat Mater*. Newton Community Chorus, 1/26/13.  
George Frideric Handel: *Jephta*. Handel and Haydn Society, 5/3/13, 5/5/13.

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## SONJA DAHLGREN PRYOR

### 2012 Lifetime Achievement Award Recipient

Sonja Pryor recently celebrated her 50th anniversary as Music Director of Chorus North Shore in Rockport, Massachusetts. Ms. Pryor's charismatic personality and passion for musical excellence have developed this community chorus, which itself just completed its eightieth season, into a leading arts organization on Boston's North Shore, performing choral masterworks with orchestra and internationally known soloists and embarking on regular concert tours abroad.



A large ensemble open to all without audition, Chorus North Shore brings together singers of all ability levels and ages to learn and perform great choral works at a high artistic level. Under Ms. Pryor's leadership, the chorus regularly performs the challenging works of Mozart, Verdi, Mendelssohn, Handel, Stravinsky, Bernstein, and others for large and appreciative North Shore audiences. In 2005, the group created the Chorus North Shore Honors Youth Choir, a fully auditioned choir for youth age ten through high school which performs both on its own and as a featured performer with Chorus North Shore.

Music has been "Sunny" Pryor's lifelong calling. At age 15 she was already conducting the Junior Choir at her local church in Detroit, Michigan while also singing in three different choruses. She later earned a Bachelor of Arts degree with a major in voice from Gordon College in Wenham, Massachusetts and a Master of Sciences degree in Music Education from the University of New Hampshire. Ms. Pryor has studied under Robert Shaw, Frank Battisti, Robert Page, and Margaret

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## 2012 ALFRED NASH PATTERSON GRANTS

Choral Arts New England held its 28<sup>th</sup> annual awards ceremony on October 14, 2012 at the Commonwealth Club in Boston, where the following grants were presented. (*Concert dates listed are subject to change within the current season.*)

**Back Bay Chorale**, Boston Mass., for the premiere on March 17, 2013 of *Anything Can Happen*, a new choral work by Mohammed Fairouz, which includes poetry by Seamus Heaney and excerpts from the original Arabic-language gospel of Jesus.

**Bella Voce Women's Chorus of Vermont**, Essex Junction, Vt., for a concert on May 18, 2013 celebrating spirituals sung by those following the Underground Railroad through Vermont.

**Blue Heron Renaissance Choir**, Auburndale, Mass., a four-year grant to support recording the Peterhouse Partbooks, the largest and most important extant source of pre-Reformation English sacred music.

**Choral Art Society**, Portland, Maine, for *Vidimus Stellam*, a commissioned work for choir and brass performed on December 1 and 2, 2012 in Portland.

**Counterpoint**, Montpelier, Vt., to support high school ensemble workshops on choral singing in spring 2013 that will be professionally video-recorded.

**Greater Middletown Chorale**, Middletown, Conn., for performance on April 28, 2013 of *Letter from Italy, 1944: War's End*, a large-scale choral-theatrical work by Sarah Meneely-Kyder based on the life of a young physician and his family haunted by war.

**Greater New Haven Community Chorus**, New Haven, Conn., for a commissioned work to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the chorus.

**Lorelei Ensemble**, Cambridge, Mass., to commission two works for eight women's voices from emerging composers employing multimedia and electronic music and featuring elements of dance, video, lighting, and amplified voices. Performances will be May 10 and 12, 2013.

**New Hampshire Master Chorale**, Plymouth, NH, to support a commission on themes of Latin America and Spain to be performed on November 16–18, 2012.

**Treble Chorus of New England**, North Andover, Mass., to support hiring instrumentalists for the chorus's annual holiday concert on December 15, 2012.

**The Vermont Choral Union**, Essex Junction, Vt., to support travel and other expenses for a series of performances of primarily a cappella choral music in communities throughout Vermont.

## Sonja Dahlgren Pryor (cont'd)

Hillis of the Chicago Symphony Chorus. She has attended the Aspen Music Festival and the Adirondack Festival of Music and has conducted workshops in Massachusetts, Maine, Connecticut, New Hampshire, New York, and Michigan.

Ms. Pryor has been associated with music education for over 30 years. She has taught music to students from kindergarten through college. She served as Director of Music of the Hamilton-Wenham school district in Massachusetts and has taught at the University of New Hampshire, Gordon College, and Northern Essex Community College. She is often a guest lecturer at colleges and universities, and has lectured at the New England Conservatory for the National Association of Teachers of Singing. Ms. Pryor has been a church choir director in Michigan and Massachusetts, including Director of Choral Music at the Park Street Church in Boston. She is an active member of Chorus America and The American Choral Directors Association, and also serves on the Board of the Cuvilly Arts & Education Center in Ipswich, Massachusetts.

For her valuable contributions to music and music education, Ms. Pryor has been recognized by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts as an Outstanding Massachusetts Arts Educator. In 1999, she received the Walker Hancock Award for Lifetime Achievement in the Humanities.

## NEW LANGUAGE WEBSITE

Singers and choruses might be interested in a new commercial lyric diction website, called SingersBabel, which is devoted to helping singers be more expressive and communicative in foreign languages. It features web-based learning tools that include language tutorials, sound sets, and videos of over 300 word-for-word translations and IPA transcriptions with texts spoken at normal and at slow pace by native speakers.

There is a free limited-access user subscription and a three-day free trial subscription with full access. Ensemble subscriptions are available as well as institutional subscriptions for colleges and universities.

For all the details, visit [www.SingersBabel.com](http://www.SingersBabel.com)

## Boston-area choral highlights (cont'd)

George Frideric Handel: *Jephtha*. Sounds of Stow Festival Chorus, 3/24/13.  
Franz Joseph Haydn: *Mass in Time of War*; Igor Stravinsky: *Pulcinella* (complete). Rafael Frühbeck de Burgos, conductor. BSO/TFC, 2/21/13-2/23/13, 2/26/13.  
Gustav Mahler: Symphony No. 3. Daniele Gatti, conductor. BSO/TFC, 3/28/13-3/29/13, 3/30/13.  
John Stainer: *The Crucifixion*. King's Chapel, 3/24/13.  
Giuseppe Verdi: Requiem. Daniele Gatti, conductor. BSO/TFC, 1/17/13-1/19/13.  
Giuseppe Verdi: Requiem and *Stabat Mater*. Quincy Choral Society, 5/19/13.

### Old Favorites

Johannes Brahms: *A German Requiem*. Cambridge Community Chorus, 5/19/13  
Johannes Brahms: *Neue Liebeslieder Wälzer*; John Corigliano: *Liebeslied*; PDQ Bach: *Liebeslieder Polkas*. Masterworks Chorale, 5/17/13.  
Gabriel Fauré: Requiem. Newton Choral Society, 5/11/13.  
Gabriel Fauré: Requiem. New England Classical Singers, 5/5/13.  
Gabriel Fauré: Requiem, *Les Djinns*, *Le Ruisseau*, *Madrigal*, *Une Châtelaine en sa Tour*; Lili Boulanger: *Pie Jesu*, *Renouveau*, *Les Sirènes*, *Sous Bois*. Spectrum Singers, 4/18/13.  
Franz Josef Haydn: *The Creation*. Andover Choral Society, 1/27/13.  
Franz Josef Haydn: *The Creation*. Newton Choral Society, 3/24/13.  
Franz Josef Haydn: *Lord Nelson* Mass. Boston Baroque, 4/19/13-4/20/13.  
Franz Josef Haydn: *St. Nikolai* Mass, Andover Choral Society, 1/27/13.  
Karl Jenkins: *The Armed Man: A Mass for Peace*. Metropolitan Chorale of Brookline, 5/4/13  
Felix Mendelssohn: *Elijah*. Nashoba Valley Chorale, 1/12/13  
W.A. Mozart: Requiem. Back Bay Chorale, 3/17/13.  
W.A. Mozart: Requiem. Nashoba Valley Chorale, 4/27/13  
John Rutter: Requiem. Polymnia Choral Society, 3/17/13.  
Ralph Vaughan Williams: *Five Mystical Songs*, and other music by English and American composers. Heritage Chorale, 5/11/13.

### Special programs (a few of many)—Chronological.

Anton Bruckner: *Pange lingua* and *Christus factus est*; Herbert Howells: Requiem; Frank Martin: Mass for Double Choir. Cantata Singers, 1/18/13.  
Daniel Pinkham: *Wedding Cantata*; Eric Whitacre: *Five Hebrew Love Songs*; J. S. Bach: *Jesu mein Freude* (funeral motet). Chorus pro Musica, 3/10/13.

Josquin des Prez: *Deploration on the death of Ockegham*, Thomas Tallis: *Lamentations of Jeremiah* for men's voices, *Spem in alium*, three settings of "When David Heard that Absalom was Slain." Boston Choral Ensemble, 3/8/13, 3/10/13.  
Benjamin Britten: *Hymn to St. Cecilia* and *Sacred and Profane*; William Byrd: *Laudibus in sanctis*; Henry Purcell: "O Sing unto the Lord"; Nicholas White: *From Earth to Heaven*. Boston Cecilia, 3/16/13.  
Robert Schumann: *Four Double Choruses*; Marjorie Merryman: *Beauty, Grief and Grandeur* (First Boston Performance); James MacMillan: *The Seven Last Words from the Cross* (First Boston Performance). Cantata Singers, 3/17/13.  
Astor Piazzolla: *Portenos and Tangos*; Heitor Villa-Lobos: *Bachianas Brasileiras* No. 5, *Bachianas Brasileiras* No. 9 for Wordless Chorus, Mass in Honor of St. Sebastian; Alberto Ginastera: *Lamentations of Jeremiah*. Spectrum Singers, 3/23/13.  
Franz Joseph Haydn: *Mass in Time of War*; Alberto Ginastera: *Lamentations of Jeremiah*; Lee Hoiby: *Last Letter Home*; Peter Eldridge: *Come Home*. Coro Allegro, 4/7/13.  
**This Sacred Ground, Commemorating the 150th Anniversary of The Battle of Gettysburg:** Walt Whitman: "A Dirge for Two Veterans", settings by Gustav Holst, Harl McDonald and Charles Wood; David Diamond: *The Gettysburg Address*; Ralph Vaughan Williams: *Dona Nobis Pacem*. Dedham Choral Society, 4/21/13.  
**Celebrating Artists of the North Shore:** Ruth Lomon: commission (Premiere); Randall Thompson: *Frostiana*; John Purifoy: *Address to the Moon*; Charlene Archibeque: *The Cooling Shadow*; Daniel Pinkham: *The Tenth Muse*, Gwyneth Walker: *Tree of Peace, If Ever Two Were One*. Cantemus Chamber Chorus, 4/27/13, 4/28/13.  
**Poetic License:** Holmes: "Let Evening Come"; Daley: "The Lake Isle of Innisfree"; Persichetti: settings of e.e. cummings; Roger Bourland: settings of Alarcon. Cantilena, 5/4/13.  
Ned Rorem: *In Time of Pestilence*; Johannes Brahms: *Three Quartets* Op.31, *Four Quartets* Op.92, *Five Songs* Op.104. Master Singers, 5/11/13.  
Orazio Vecchi: *Night Games of Siena*. An Italian Madrigal Comedy with musical caricatures, tongue twisters, and madrigals of various humors. Exsultemus, 5/18/13, 5/19/13.  
Franz Schubert: Mass in G; Jennifer Higdon: *Southern Grace*; Greg Bullen: *The Orchard* (World Premiere). Coro Allegro, 6/2/13.

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## **SING SOMETHING SPECIAL- APPLY FOR A GRANT!**

Application deadline: February 28, 2013  
Forms and info: [www.choralarts-newengland.org](http://www.choralarts-newengland.org)

Every year Choral Arts New England gives special grants to support choral music. Most grants have been in the \$1,000-2,000 range, but requests for larger (or smaller) amounts will be considered. The money can be used to commission new music, hire instrumentalists, rent or purchase scores, pay travel expenses, or carry out a special project, either performing or non-performing. Grants are not generally given for regular operating expenses.

Applicant organizations must be non-profit and certified tax-exempt by the IRS. Choruses or any organizations that provide support to choral music are eligible, including church choirs and school or college choruses.

See the website for more details and a list of past projects. Grant decisions are made by mid-April.

## **SEND US YOUR NEWS!**

Choral Arts New England has published *Chorus!* since January 1986, with the goal of strengthening the choral community in our region. This year *we are adding an online extension to the newsletter* where there will be plenty of room to share events, announcements, concert reviews, and other information. The paper edition, with special announcements and highlights of the online edition, will continue to be published biannually.

Just visit [choralarts-newengland.org](http://choralarts-newengland.org) to see what your New England neighbors are up to, and please send us a letter or drop us a line with the latest happenings in your neck of the woods! Our address is [news@choralarts-newengland.org](mailto:news@choralarts-newengland.org).

## **ONLINE CHORAL CALENDAR**

The new Choral Arts New England events calendar lists concerts and other events in all the New England states. It's easy to use, and easy to submit your own events so others can discover them. Just visit:

[www.choralarts-newengland.org/Calendar/](http://www.choralarts-newengland.org/Calendar/)