



Choral Arts in New England

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

Encouraging Choral Excellence through Alfred Nash Patterson Grants

November 2015

2015-2016 CHORAL HIGHLIGHTS

Choral music continues to flourish in New England. Nearly 500 performances are listed on the Choral Arts New England events calendar between September 2015 and June 2016.

Here are just a few season highlights. See the online newsletter for a more complete list of highlights (with links), and see the online calendar (www.choralarts-newengland.org/Calendar) for the complete and up-to-date set.

Premieres and choral commissions (by composer)

This fall, New England choruses have already premiered works by Richard J. Clark, Mohammed Fairouz, and Jon Laukvik.

Eric Banks: New work on the life and death of David Kato Kusule. Coro Allegro [MA]: 5/22/16.

Matthew Fields: *Three Humanist Hymns*. New Haven Oratorio Choir [CT]: 12/11/15.

Ola Gjeilo: *Sunrise Mass* (R.I. Premiere). Rhode Island Civic Chorale & Orchestra [RI]: 3/12/16.

Ola Gjeilo: *Sunrise Mass* (Boston premiere). Dedham Choral Society [MA]: 4/3/16.

Christoph Graupner: *Welcher Glanz erhellt den Dampf* (What Brilliance Lights the Mist) (1717, Boston premiere). Oriana Consort [MA]: 12/4/15, 12/12/15, 12/13/15

Deana Ingraham Gurney: *Let Her In*. Women in Harmony [ME]: 1/22/16, 1/23/16.

Giya Kancheli: *Dixi* (U.S. premiere); Boston Symphony Orchestra/Tanglewood Festival Chorus [MA]: 3/24/16, 3/25/16, 3/26/16, 3/29/16.

John McDonald: *Uprights*. Master Singers [MA]: 5/7/16.

Polina Nazaykinskaya: commission. Seraphim Singers [MA]: 4/10/16, 4/17/16.

Bryan Niedermayer: *Autumn Moon*. Vernon Chorale [CT]: 12/12/15.

Arvo Pärt: *Adam's Lament* (Boston premiere). Cantata Singers [MA]: 5/20/16.

Juan Ramirez: *Suite Criolla* (Worcester premiere). Master Singers of Worcester [MA]: 4/30/16.

(continued inside)

ANN HOWARD JONES

2015 Lifetime Achievement Award Recipient

The 2015 recipient of the Alfred Nash Patterson Lifetime Achievement Award, Dr. Ann Howard Jones, is Professor Emerita of Music at Boston University, where she served for 24 years before her retirement this year. At Boston University, she was director of choral



Photo: Majie Zeller

activities, conducted the Symphonic and Chamber Choruses, supervised conducting students in the Concert Chorus and the Women's Chorale, taught graduate choral conducting, and administered the M.M. and D.M.A. programs in Choral Conducting. Dr. Jones was also the conductor of the B.U. Tanglewood Institute Young Artists' Vocal Program Chorus, an auditioned ensemble of high school singers who rehearse and perform at Tanglewood in the summer.

Recognized as a distinguished clinician, adjudicator, teacher and conductor, she has led all-state and regional choruses, workshops and masterclasses in the U.S., Europe, South America, Canada and Asia. Dr. Jones has been invited to teach and conduct at colleges, universities and conservatories nationwide, and has led conducting masterclasses for the American Guild of Organists, ACDA, MENC, and Chorus America.

From 1984 to 1998, Dr. Jones was the assistant conductor to the late Robert Shaw and the Atlanta Symphony choruses, where she was the

(continued on next page)

Ann Howard Jones (cont'd)

assistant conductor for choruses, sang in the alto section, assisted with the Robert Shaw Chamber Singers, and helped organize the Robert Shaw Institute. She sang and recorded with the Festival Singers both in France and in the U.S. After Shaw's death in 1999, Jones was invited to conduct the Robert Shaw Tribute Singers for American Choral Directors Association conferences in San Antonio and Orlando.

Jones has traveled with a group of Boston University graduate students to Padua and Venice, Italy, and to Oslo and Bergen, Norway, to perform and to study. In 2009, the graduate conducting students joined Jones at the national ACDA convention in Oklahoma City, where she was invited to prepare and conduct the world

premiere of a work by Dominick Argento. The conductors sang in the chorus and assisted in preparations for the performance.

Richard Cornell, interim director of the Boston University School of Music, has called Dr. Jones "a national force for choral art." In his words: "With regular annual concerts in Symphony Hall, she has brought the experience of great choral music to thousands. At the School of Music Professor Jones established one of the finest graduate choral conducting programs anywhere and trained a new generation of brilliant conductors, many of whom now hold important academic or professional positions. The work of that new generation of choral directors now extends her legacy."

Ann Howard Jones is a native of Iowa, and her degrees are from the University of Iowa.

2015 ALFRED NASH PATTERSON GRANTS

Choral Arts New England held its 31st annual Awards ceremony on November 4, 2015, at The College Club of Boston, Massachusetts, where grants were presented to 12 New England choruses.

Blue Heron Renaissance Choir, Auburndale, Mass., to support recording the Peterhouse Partbooks (final year of a four-year grant).

Cantilena Chamber Choir, Lenox, Mass., for a concert in Lenox on May 15, 2016 in honor of Tanglewood Music Center's 75th anniversary featuring works by former Tanglewood composition fellows, including Lukas Foss, Elliot Carter, Michael Gandolfi, Thomas Oboe Lee, and John Harbison.

Chorus pro Musica, Boston, Mass., for a 25-minute commissioned work for chorus and brass band by composer Andy Vores, called *Spencer the Rover*, to be premiered in Cambridge on March 12, 2016.

CONCORA (Connecticut Choral Artists), Hartford, Conn., for an innovative semi-staged performance of J.S. Bach's *St. John Passion* in Hartford on March 20, 2016.

Coro Allegro, Boston, Mass., for a collaborative project with Boston City Singers to expand Howard Frazin's oratorio *The Voice of Isaac* to include adult voices, and to perform it in Cambridge on March 13, 2016.

Emmanuel Music, Boston, Mass., to support their reconstruction of J.S. Bach's final passion, the *St. Mark Passion*, and its performance in Boston on March 19, 2016.

Journey Song Charitable Trust, Kensington, N.H., for a "Celebration of Hospice Music" in Exeter, N.H. on November 15, 2015, featuring the compositions and arrangements of Peter Amidon. Hospice music is meant to bring the comfort of vocal music, both secular and sacred, to those nearing the end of life.

Lorelei Ensemble, Cambridge, Mass., to support the commissioning of two new works by Tim Takach and Bryan Christian, to be premiered at a Christmas program in Boston on December 18–19, 2015.

Master Singers of Worcester, Worcester, Mass., for a concert in Worcester on October 25, 2015 that celebrates Armenian musical heritage and commemorates the 100th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide. The concert includes Dan Forrest's *Requiem for the Living* and a newly-commissioned work by Stephan Barnicle.

Vermont Chapter, American Choral Directors Association, Burlington, Vt., for the "Gather at the River" conference in Hanover, N.H. on June 26–27, 2015, which included workshops, seminars and performances open to all choral musicians.

Wescustago Youth Chorale, Yarmouth, Maine, to support hiring a one-year Development Coordinator to pursue opportunities that were identified through a strategic planning process.

Women in Harmony, Portland, Maine, for a performance of Diane Benjamin's *Where I Live (A Breast Cancer Oratorio)* in Portland on May 20–21, 2016, in partnership with the Cancer Community Center in Scarborough, Maine.

Choral Highlights (cont'd)

Michael Schachter: *Uriel*. Concord Chorus [MA]: 5/21/16.

Timothy Takach: *Winter Cycle* (Boston premiere). Oriana Consort [MA]: 12/4/15, 12/12/15, 12/13/15.

Patricia Van Ness: *Music for the Psalms*. Cappella Clausura [MA]: 5/7/16, 5/8/16.

Andy Vores: *Spencer the Rover*. Chorus pro Musica [MA]: 3/12/16.

Nicholas White: Two Carols on texts by David Evett. Boston Ceclia [MA]: 12/4/15, 12/6/15.

Major or especially interesting works

J.S. Bach: *St. John Passion*. Handel & Haydn Society [MA]: 3/11/16, 3/13/16; CONCORA [CT]: 3/20/16.

J.S. Bach: *St. Mark Passion* (reconstructed). Emmanuel Music [MA]: 5/19/16.

J. S. Bach: Mass in B Minor. Masterworks Chorale [MA]: 5/13/16; Handel Society of Dartmouth College [NH]: 5/14/16.

Ludwig van Beethoven: "Choral Fantasy"; Anton Dvorak: *Te Deum*. Con Brio [CT]: 4/17/16.

Ludwig van Beethoven: Symphony No. 9. Mendelssohn Choir of Connecticut/Greater Bridgeport Symphony [CT]: 12/12/15; Providence Singers/Rhode Island Philharmonic [RI]: 5/6/16, 5/7/16; New Bedford Symphony/Back Bay Chorale [MA]: 5/14/16, 5/15/16; Handel Society of Dartmouth College [NH]: 5/28/16.

Diane Benjamin: *Where I Live (A Breast Cancer Oratorio)*. Women in Harmony [ME]: 5/20/16, 5/21/16.

Hector Berlioz: *Te Deum; Resurrext*. Boston Symphony Orchestra/Tanglewood Festival Chorus [MA]: 2/25/16, 2/26/16, 2/27/16.

Leonard Bernstein: *Mass* (selections). Metropolitan Chorale of Brookline [MA]: 5/21/16

Johannes Brahms: *Ein deutsches Requiem*. Cantata Singers [MA]: 4/1/16; New Haven Oratorio Choir [CT]: 5/9/16.

Carson Coonan: *The Revelations of Divine Love (Metaphors from Sea and Sky)*. Commonwealth Chorale [MA]: 3/13/16.

Antonin Dvorak: *Te Deum*. Collaborative performance by a massed choir from high school choruses throughout Vermont, with the Vermont Youth Orchestra. Vermont Youth Orchestra [VT]: 1/31/16.

Edward Elgar: *Coronation Ode*; Georg Frederick Handel: *Zadock the Priest*. Eastern Connecticut Symphony Orchestra and Chorus [CT]: 4/30/16.

Dan Forrest: *Requiem for the Living*; Henry Mollicone: *Beatitude Mass for the Homeless*. Assabet Valley Mastersingers [MA]: 5/14/16.

Howard Frazin: *The Voice of Isaac*. Coro Allegro/Boston City Singers [MA]: 3/13/16.

G.F. Handel: *Alexander's Feast, or The Power of Music*. Assabet Valley Mastersingers [MA]: 3/13/16.

G.F. Handel: *Israel in Egypt*. Commonwealth Chorale [MA]: 11/21/15; Cantata Singers [MA]: 1/29/16, 1/31/16.

G.F. Handel: *Judas Maccabaeus*. Greenwich Choral Society [CT]: 3/5/16.

G.F. Handel: *Saul*. Handel & Haydn Society [MA]: 4/29/16, 5/1/16.

F.J. Haydn: *Die Schöpfung*. Newton Community Chorus [MA]: 1/30/16.

David Lang: *Love Fail* (new "choral" version). Lorelei Ensemble [MA]: 1/10/16.

Joyce Mekeel: *Toward the Source... (Concord, Massachusetts 1635-1775)*. Concord Orchestra/Spectrum Singers [MA]: 1/29/16, 1/30/16.

Felix Mendelssohn: *Elijah*. Hartford Chorale [CT]: 4/14/16.

Felix Mendelssohn: *Saint Paul*. Greenwich Choral Society [CT]: 5/7/16.

Claudio Monteverdi: *Vespers of 1610*. Yale Schola Cantorum [CT]: 4/15/16.

W.A. Mozart: Requiem. Handel & Haydn Society [MA]: 10/2/15, 10/4/15; Coro Allegro [MA]: 11/15/15; Arlington-Belmont Chorale [MA]: 12/13/15; Worcester Chorus [MA]: 3/4/16; Concord Chorale [MA]: 4/16/16, 4/17/16; Cappella Cantorum Masterworks Chorus [MA]: 4/20/16.

W.A. Mozart: *Die Zauberflöte*. Boston Baroque [MA]: 4/15/16, 4/16/16.

Carl Orff: *Carmina Burana*, with piano and percussion. New Haven Chorale [CT]: 4/21/16, 4/24/16.

Arvo Pärt: *Passio Domini Nostri Jesu Christi secundum Joannem*. Boston Choral Ensemble [MA]: 2/12/16.

Arvo Pärt: *Passio*. Yale Schola Cantorum [CT]: 2/21/16.

Edward E. Rice: *Evangeline, or The Belle of Acadia*. The Longfellow Chorus [ME]: 4/2/16, 4/3/16.

Gioachino Rossini: *Petite messe solennelle*. Metropolitan Chorale of Brookline [MA]: 11/21/15.

John Rutter: *Mass of the Children; A Choral Fanfare; O Clap Your Hands; Musica Dei donum*; other works. Heritage Chorale [MA]: 11/22/15.

John Rutter: *Mass of the Children*; Irving Fine: Choral settings from *Alice in Wonderland*. Masterworks Chorale [MA]: 3/11/16.

Richard St. Clair: *Dharma Chant: A Buddhist Oratorio in Three Parts*. Commonwealth Chorale [MA]: 5/21/16.

Giuseppe Verdi: *Otello*. Boston Youth Symphony Orchestras/Convivium Musicum/Voices Boston [MA]: 1/24/16.

Giuseppe Verdi: Requiem. Nashoba Valley Chorale [MA]: 4/23/16; Boston Philharmonic/Chorus pro Musica [MA]: 4/24/16; Oratorio Chorale [ME]: 5/14/16, 5/15/16; Chorus of Westerly [RI]: 5/14/16, 5/15/16.

Antonio Vivaldi: *Juditha Triumphans*. Boston Baroque [MA]: 10/23/15.

Andrew Lloyd Webber: *Jesus Christ Superstar*. Polymnia Choral Society [MA]: 6/3/16, 6/4/16.

James Whitbourn: *Annelies*. Polymnia Choral Society [MA]: 3/12/16.

Choral Arts New England
P.O. Box 608
Newton, MA 02456-0608

NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
BOSTON MA
PERMIT NO. 542

Encouraging Choral Excellence through Alfred Nash Patterson Grants

www.choralarts-newengland.org

CLASSROOM CANTATAS ONLINE LIBRARY OPENS

In 1990, the Cantata Singers developed a unique collaborative program with the Boston Public Schools, called Classroom Cantatas, in which elementary, middle and high school students create and perform their own musical “cantatas.” The program has since touched the lives of thousands of children.

In residencies that range from four-week after-school workshops to 18-session semester-long classes, students from participating schools work with Teaching Artists—musicians from Cantata Singers—to compose original songs about subjects they are studying in class or about larger cultural and historical issues. Working with the Teaching Artists, the students choose or create texts; then, in small groups, they compose songs from those texts, which are translated into standard music notation and assembled into larger cantatas.

The program culminates in a performance where all participating schools jointly present their work to an audience of teachers, families and friends.

In over two decades of Classroom Cantatas, students have composed and performed over 300

songs. Now most of that material has been made available online, at

www.cantatasingers.org/community/online-library

The library contains engraved scores for classroom cantatas and, in many cases, recordings of the music. The cantatas and recordings in this library are a resource for classroom teachers who need a catchy tune to help their students remember a math concept; music teachers looking to incorporate composition into their own classes; or anyone wishing to share our collective history and culture—from the civil rights movement, to stories of immigration and celebrating diversity—with young people.

IN MEMORIAM: ELAINE BOWDITCH

We regret to report the death, on October 1, 2015, of Elaine Panaretos Bowditch, one of the founders of Choral Arts New England, who served on our Board in virtually every capacity from 1985–1997. Elaine’s leadership and energy contributed greatly to our organization, and her life-long love of singing and of choruses was a constant inspiration. We remember her with gratitude and joy.