



*30 years of friendship and song*

BARBARA BERNER  
Artistic Director

# Choir Notes

30TH ANNIVERSARY SEASON

Fall 2007

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## A 30th season to celebrate

THIS YEAR, THE ST. LOUIS CHILDREN'S CHOIRS celebrate 30 years of friendship and song. New compositions commissioned for the anniversary highlight the season and will feature every ensemble in showcasing a new work for children's voices.

The youngest ensemble, Music Makers, will be the first choir to premiere one of these commissioned works, a Scottish lullaby arranged for them by conductor-composer Mandy Miller from Scotland.

Ms. Miller, a well-loved and accomplished guest musician, will spend a week with the Children's Choirs in preparation for the premiere and celebration of Scottish music at the Family & Friends Concerts on October 20th and 21st. These Family & Friends Concerts are free of charge as a gift to the community.

Christmas carols and festive songs of the season will fill the air at the annual Holiday Concert at Powell Hall on Sunday, December 8th featuring all 500 voices of The St. Louis Children's Choirs. Also in December, Choristers and Concert Choir will sing in a set of three "Classical Christmas" concerts with the Saint Louis Symphony Orchestra.

The celebration continues in the new year with Family & Friends Concerts in March plus a special Benefit Concert featuring soprano Miran Halen and violinist David Halen with flutist Mark Sparks



at The Sheldon Concert Hall in April. David Halen is the Concertmaster of the Saint Louis Symphony Orchestra and Mark Sparks is Principal Flutist. The invitation to attend these performances comes with heartfelt appreciation for the continuing support of our friends and neighbors in the St. Louis community.

In May 2008, Concert Choir performs the popular "Carmina Burana" with the Saint Louis Symphony Orchestra and Chorus, guaranteed to enliven Powell Hall for the final concerts of the Symphony season.

Topping off an amazing season is the 30th Anniversary Gala on May 18, 2008. A warm invitation is extended to all alumni of the choirs to come sing at Powell Hall. Featured composers and guest instrumentalists will join the Children's Choirs for this joy-filled gathering and premiere of our final commissioned compositions of the season. This is a concert you won't want to miss! We look forward to seeing you for this celebration of 30 years of singing!

This outstanding anniversary season comes to a close with an international tour to Australia in June 2008. Singing in joint concerts with acclaimed Australian children's choirs in Brisbane, Sydney, and Melbourne, Concert Choir members will meet new friends and share their love of music. A workshop with an Australian composer and a tour down the eastern coastline of Australia will round out the two-week adventure in the "Land Down Under".

Artistic Director Barbara Berner invites you to come celebrate the 30th Anniversary season with the Children's Choirs and witness the power of music to transform young lives.

## Conductor-composer brings a touch of Scotland to October concerts

October is known for its treats. Our's is the first commissioned choral work of the 30th Anniversary season to be premiered at the Family & Friends Concerts under the baton of its composer, Mandy Miller. Internationally recognized Ms. Miller has composed and arranged *Dream Angus*, a beautiful Scottish lullaby, for the youngest ensemble, Music Makers. In Scottish lore Angus is the keeper of dreams – similar to the sandman in America. This first commission is the generous gift of Mark and Rita Zipay in gratitude for their daughter Christiana's nine years in the Children's Choirs.

The concerts take place on Saturday, October 20th and Sunday, October 21st at Washington University's E. Desmond Lee Concert Hall. As part of the program, each choir level will sing an engaging Scottish melody. One such melody is the beautiful *Banks O' Doon* with lyrics penned by the Scottish Bard Robert Burns (1759-1796). In preparation for the concerts, Ms. Miller will spend the rehearsal week prior to the performance with the Choirs.

This first concert will be a reunion of sorts. A number of the Choir's directors have known Mandy Miller through her work with The Choral Music Experience Institute (CME). Concert Choir met Ms. Miller when they attended CME Institutes as visiting young artists on tour to Sweden (1998), Scotland (2000) and Wales (2003). Ms. Miller serves as Executive Director of the CME Institute with Founder and Director Dr. Doreen Rao. She regularly teaches conducting on the faculty of the Institute.



*30 years of friendship & song*



*Conductor-composer Mandy Miller*

Ms. Miller comes to us from the east coast of Scotland. She studied Music Education in Dundee before embarking on a teaching career. She has been leading young voices as Head of Music at Lochgelly High School since 1987 and travels extensively in Europe with her school choirs and Pipe Band. She is in her thirteenth year as Choral Director of Dunfermline Choral Union and has recently launched a children's community choir, the Dunfermline Junior Chorus.

In November, the Dunfermline Junior Chorus will fly to New York City to sing at Carnegie Hall in a children's choir festival conducted by composer Nick Page. This young choir regularly performs in their "own" Carnegie Hall in Dunfermline, the birthplace of Andrew Carnegie.

Please join us in welcoming this talented and inspiring musician as she conducts the music of Scotland at our Family & Friends Concerts.

## New commissioned works top season

**W**here do new songs come from? How does a composer know what to write? Does a musician hear the whole song in their head before they write it down? The children of each ensemble in the Children's Choirs will be able to ask these kinds of questions as they meet many of our featured composers and premiere new compositions throughout the 2007–08 season. This 30th Anniversary will feature eight new choral works written for The St. Louis Children's Choirs.

Composers include: Mandy Miller from Scotland, Imant Raminsh from British Columbia, Bob Chilcott from London, England, Daniel Gawthrop from Virginia, David Brunner from Florida, Rollo Dilworth and Lee Kesselman from Illinois, and Andrea Ramsey from Arkansas. Composer Lee Kesselman will be attending the upcoming October Family & Friends Concerts to hear several of his arrangements of Scottish folksongs performed by Concert Choir. He is also the commissioned composer for the Children's Choir directed by Miss Davis and is writing a piece to be premiered by them next spring.

The new commissioned work for Choristers by Daniel Gawthrop will feature the Arianna String Quartet from the University of Missouri, St. Louis. Saint Louis Symphony concertmaster David Halen will be the featured guest artist in the premiere of a work written for Concert Choir by Imant Raminsh at the Benefit Concert on April 6, 2008 at The Sheldon.

Composers were chosen by the director of each ensemble on the basis of their artistic merit, — the

caliber and quality of each composer's work and the integrity of their published repertoire. In most cases, the composers know The St. Louis Children's Choirs, having heard the children's performances over the years on national and international tours, at festivals, workshops and Choral Music Experience Institutes, and at performances for the American Choral Directors Association conventions.

The works were commissioned with the help of private sponsorships by choir families and friends, and a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts – Challenge America: Reaching Every Community. One of the sponsorships came unexpectedly from a devoted retired music teacher who has attended many Children's Choir concerts. She called the

Artistic Director and offered to sponsor a commission as a gift to our children in gratitude for their beautiful singing and as a tribute to the many children she taught over the years.

Manuscripts are now arriving. The children's interaction with their composers and guest instrumentalists is about to begin. We look forward to sharing songs of inspiration, hope, and celebration during this anniversary year.

Of special note: If you would like to help sponsor one of these works, please contact Artistic Director Barbara Berner. We are grateful for the advance support of five families and a National Endowment for the Arts grant award to help support these commissions.

**Our thanks  
to the  
following  
sponsors  
of new  
commissions**

**Mark and Rita Zipay**  
Music Maker's Commission  
Composer/Mandy Miller

**Carna Manthey**  
Children's Choir Commission  
(Mrs. Broyles)  
Composer/Bob Chilcott

**George and Jackie Paletta**  
Chorale Commission  
Composer/Rollo Dilworth

**John and Caryn Lamping**  
Choristers Commission  
Composer/Daniel Gawthrop

**Robert and Nancy Mohr**  
Concert Choir Commission  
Composer/Imant Raminsh

**Commissions  
available for  
sponsorship**

Children's Choir (Miss Davis)  
Composer/Lee Kesselman

Young Men's Ensemble  
Composer/Andrea Ramsey

Chamber Singers  
Composer/David Brunner

If you would like to help sponsor one of these works, please contact Artistic Director Barbara Berner.

A National Endowment for the Arts – Challenge America: Reaching Every Community grant award has also helped to support this project.

## June 2007: Concert Choir Performs Premiere at Disney Concert Hall

Our Concert Choir was the featured children's choir for the world premiere of the new choral version of Leonard Bernstein's *Mass* at the Walt Disney Concert Hall last June.

Concert Choir members found the incredible musical variety of Bernstein's *Mass* both challenging and rewarding. Dr. Doreen Rao, distinguished professor and director of choral programs at the University of Toronto, conducted the premiere.

Directors and professional musicians praised the focused concentration, beautiful tone quality, and attention to detail our young artists brought to their performance. The months of preparation by Concert Choir members were clearly evident as Leonard Bernstein's accents, dynamic contrasts, and colorful compositional styles came shining through their music making.

During three days of intensive rehearsals, Choir members watched as the collaboration of adult chorus, soloists, orchestra, and children's choir took shape. Dr. Rao enabled the young artists to envision the work's historical roots and encouraged them to sing with tone colors reflecting the varied styles.

In the opening half of the concert, Concert Choir members performed works by composers David Brunner, Francisco Núñez, and Stephen Paulus. Dr. Sandra Snow, professor of choral conducting at Michigan State University, conducted. David Brunner was at the concert and was thrilled with Concert Choir's performance of his compositions.



*Time for relaxation on the Los Angeles tour.*

The new choral edition of Bernstein's *Mass* enables the work to be performed in a concert setting. Leonard Bernstein, known for his award winning Broadway musical *West Side Story*, wrote the *Mass* at the request of Jacqueline Kennedy for the 1971 opening of the Kennedy Center in Washington D.C. The composition was cutting-edge for its time and audiences are still captivated by the moving melodies, which include rock, jazz, electronic music, and Gregorian chant.

The Walt Disney Concert Hall is one of the finest concert halls in the world for its state-of-the-art acoustics. It's the home of the Los Angeles Philharmonic Orchestra and is an internationally recognized architectural landmark.

The tour included time for relaxation and fun as well. Choir members shopped in Santa Monica and toured Paramount Film Studios. The final day was picture perfect at Disneyland with rides and tons of pictures with friends!



**Thank you in advance for your support of this year's Annual Giving Campaign. Your gift, large or small, makes a big difference!**

## June 2007: Choristers on stage at Lincoln Center

**E**ighty St. Louis Children's Choirs Choristers flew to New York City to sing in a children's choir festival at Lincoln Center in June with the energetic young composer and conductor Francisco Núñez. The Choristers gave a stunning performance of four songs by American composers in the first half of the program, conducted by Choristers Director Kathleen Pottinger.

Festival conductor Francisco Núñez, an internationally recognized composer and conductor, directed the joint children's choirs in a challenging program of contemporary works from around the world. The Lincoln Center concert closed with composer Jim Papoulis accompanying all the choirs for a stirring rendition of his piece *Stand Together*—which brought the audience to their feet in a standing ovation.

Along with rehearsals in preparation for the Lincoln Center performance, the tour included a visit to see the filming of the *Today Show*, an afternoon at the New York History Museum (recently featured in the film *A Night at the Museum*), a stroll through Central Park, and a thrilling evening on Broadway where the Choristers saw the fabulous award winning musical *Mary Poppins*!

Francisco Núñez is the artistic director of the Young People's Chorus of New York City. His wife Elizabeth Núñez is also a conductor at the Young

People's Chorus, and invited our Choristers to join with members of the New York children's choir for an informal "song-sharing" and quick supper which everyone thoroughly enjoyed.

Many of our St. Louis relatives and friends flew to New York and were thrilled to attend the Lincoln Center performance. After the concert, Choristers



enjoyed a late-night scenic harbor cruise and choir party with unforgettable views of the Statue of Liberty illuminated at night. Our heartfelt thanks to Kathleen Pottinger, Katy Barker, Phebe Telschow, and the fifteen chaperones who made this tour such a success!

### DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR OPENING

**An outstanding opportunity** for an energetic, self-directed visionary who wants to make a difference in the lives of children.

Experience should include broad-based knowledge of fundraising techniques, laws, and management. The full-time development director will oversee the establishment of a development office and will be responsible for fundraising campaigns and activities.

Please send 3 writing samples, cover letter and resume, including salary history and requirements to:

The St. Louis Children's Choirs, Phebe Telschow, Program Director

## Choir members, alumni and friends, SEND US YOUR STORIES!

EVERYONE HAS A STORY about their experiences with The St. Louis Children's Choirs! Tell us about your meaningful memories, humorous tales, inspiring lessons, adventures on tour, or life-changing experiences.

### Tell us your story in about 300 words    Share your favorite choir photos

We hope to weave your stories into the text of the commemorative concert program for the 30th Anniversary Gala concert.

We're especially interested in your answers to one or more of the following questions:

- Why or when did you know you wanted to sing with The St. Louis Children's Choirs?
- How do you bring music and singing into your daily life?
- What is your description of musical excellence?
- What would you say to others to encourage them to sing with the Children's Choirs?
- Character development is very important to The St. Louis Children's Choirs. Tell us about some of the life lessons you may have learned in the Children's Choirs.

If you have a favorite close-up picture of yourself in concert dress, (digital or scanned please – no smaller than 100KB, 80 dpi), put your full name on the back of the photo or in the file name, plus the date/year the photo was taken, and send it along. If someone else is in the photo with you, tell us his or her name. It would be helpful if your photo came at the same time as your story. Note: We will not be able to return any photos, so please only send us an extra copy.

We look forward to hearing from you!

Send your stories and photos to:

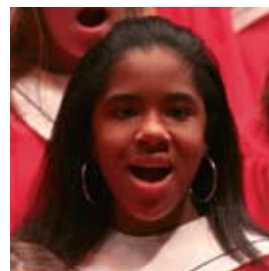
[info@slccsing.org](mailto:info@slccsing.org)

or:

The St. Louis Children's Choirs

2842 North Ballas Road

St. Louis, MO 63131



**SLCC Alumni!** WE WANT TO STAY IN TOUCH with our graduates and alumni! Send your email address to: [info@slccsing.org](mailto:info@slccsing.org)

**Alumni Parents!** If your child is in college or no longer living at home, please call or email their current street and email addresses. We appreciate your help!



30 years of friendship and song

2842 North Ballas Road  
Saint Louis, Missouri 63131

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## Benefit Concert

### WITH GUEST ARTISTS Miran Halen & David Halen


Soprano Miran Halen and David Halen, concertmaster of the Saint Louis Symphony Orchestra, will perform at our special Benefit Concert on April 6, 2008 at The Sheldon Concert Hall.

### Concert Calendar 2007–08

### 30th Anniversary Season

October 20, 2007	<b>Family &amp; Friends Concert</b> Children's Choir 1A, Chorale 2B/2UC, Young Men's Ensemble, Choristers, Chamber Singers	560 Trinity Avenue University City	7:00 p.m.
October 21, 2007	<b>Family &amp; Friends Concert</b> Music Makers, Children's Choir 1B/1UC, Chorale 2A, Concert Choir	560 Trinity Avenue University City	3:00 p.m.
December 8, 2007	<b>Holiday Concert</b> All Choirs	Powell Symphony Hall	2:00 p.m.
December 22, 2007	Saint Louis Symphony Concerts <b>Classical Christmas</b>	Powell Symphony Hall	2:00 & 7:30 p.m.
December 23, 2007	Choristers and Concert Choir		2:00 p.m.
March 1, 2008	<b>Family &amp; Friends Concert</b> Music Makers, Children's Choir 1B/1UC, Chorale 2A, Choristers	560 Trinity Avenue University City	7:00 p.m.
March 2, 2008	<b>Family &amp; Friends Concert</b> Children's Choir 1A, Chorale 2B/2UC, Young Men's Ensemble, Concert Choir, Chamber Singers	560 Trinity Avenue University City	3:00 p.m.
April 6, 2008	<b>Benefit Concert</b> Concert Choir	The Sheldon Concert Hall	3:00 p.m.
May 8, 2008 May 9, 2008 May 10, 2008 May 11, 2008	Saint Louis Symphony Concerts <b>Carmina Burana</b> Concert Choir	Powell Symphony Hall	tba
May 18, 2008	<b>30th Anniversary Gala Concert</b> All Choirs and Alumni	Powell Symphony Hall	3:00 p.m.

This schedule is subject to change. Check [www.slccsing.org](http://www.slccsing.org) for additional information.

The St. Louis Children's Choirs is grateful for the generous support of:  Arts & Education Council,



National Endowment for the Arts,



Regional Arts Commission,



Des Lee Collaborative Vision