

# The Quarter Note

February 2009

The Newsletter of the Nebraska Choral Arts Society (NCAS)

Voce! Envolée...  
Flight of Fancy



Cody Talarico plays "Be Our Guest" as the other five conductors of NCAS auction off their evening of fun and entertainment. Pictured starting on the right, Dr. Sean M. Burton, Zachary Vreeman, Kathleen Doebel, Timothy Marsden, and Nancy Engdahl Robson.

Ragazzi Youth finishes up a fabulous performance as they anxiously await being auctioned.



This year's gala event, Voce! En volée, Flight of Fancy, captured the excitement of guests who attended in support of the Nebraska Choral Arts Society. The evening was filled with the sound of music as Ragazzi Youth, Ragazzi Children, and CAST entertained those gathered during a three-course plated dinner. Highlights of the evening included a cocktail hour with music provided by harpist Kim Meyer, silent and oral auctions. One special auction item include the jar, rather, bird of cash (pictured below) ready to take flight! A special thank you is extended to all of our choir members and volunteers who made the event possible. Contact Director of Operations, Rachel Aalund to submit your pictures of the event.



William Carey, Voce! Co-Chair and NCAS Board Member feeding the bird while members of CAST and Ragazzi Children watch in awe.



Rachel Aalund, Director of Operations holds the basket full of raffle tickets to be drawn by our very helpful members of Ragazzi Children and Youth.

**Tour Raffle Winners**  
iPod Touch- Amanda Michalski  
2 Tickets to Voce!- Jennifer Shewchuk  
Embassy Suites, La Vista- Connie White  
\$100 Catering from Hy-Vee- Bev Mussman  
Mystery Prize (\$50 to Scheels)- Tom Hall  
"Toast of Homes" Cookbook- Maureen Daggett

**Tickets for Sale!**  
Tickets can be purchased in advance at \$10 for adult and \$8 for youth/senior.

**The Mission of NCAS**  
To share the gift of great choral music, to inspire new generations with the love of singing, and broaden our reach to all ages and cultures.

**Kaleidoscope**  
2008-2009 Concert Season

**Symmetry**  
**February 28, 2009**  
\*Presbyterian Church of the Cross, 7pm  
(Location Corrected from Season Brochure)  
Tickets Adults \$10 Youth/Senior \$8  
All Tickets increase \$2 the day of the show.  
Cantori, CAST, and Masterworks

**Illusions**  
**March 14, 2009**  
UNO Strauss Performing Arts Center 2 and 4:30pm  
Tickets Adults \$10 Youth/Senior \$8  
All Tickets increase \$2 the day of the show.  
NCC

**Haydn's The Creation**  
**May 3, 2009**  
(Date corrected from Season Brochure)  
UNO Strauss Performing Arts Center, 7:30pm  
Tickets Adults \$10 Youth/Senior \$8  
All Tickets increase \$2 the day of the show.  
Masterworks, Heartland Philharmonic Orchestra, and UNO University and Concert Choir

**Patterns**  
**May 9, 2009**  
UNO Strauss Performing Arts Center, 2 and 4:30pm  
Tickets Adults \$10 Youth/Senior \$8  
All Tickets increase \$2 the day of the show.  
NCC & CAST

<b>March 28th, 2009</b> "3D" at 7:00 pm 10th Annual Sarpy County Concert LifeSpring Church 13904 South 36th, Bellevue	<b>March 29th, 2009</b> 4:00 pm Douglas County Outreach Concert St. Timothy's Lutheran 510 N 92nd St, Omaha
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**NCAS plans a Symmetrical Concert**  
by Marjorie Maas

Symmetry can mean balance, proportion and evenness—but is often thought of as a descriptive visual term. It can mean all those same things in music, and Nebraska Choral Arts Society has composed an evening balancing the lush sounds of the pipe organ with the purity of voices.

The "Symmetry" concert, on NCAS's 2008-2009 "Kaleidoscope" season, is on Saturday, February 28 at 7 p.m. at Presbyterian Church of the Cross located at 1517 South 114th Street in Omaha. Led by their respective conductors, the performance features three of the eight NCAS choirs: Masterworks adult chorus, CAST (Choral Arts Society Teens), and Nebraska Children's Chorus Cantori.

For an audience member accustomed to hearing vocal music matched with piano – this will definitely be a different concert experience. All pieces are either sung a cappella or accompanied by pipe organ.

"I personally love a cappella music, a lot. And to balance a concert dedicated to that pure sound with organ-accompanied pieces is definitely a joy for me," said Cantori conductor Zach Vreeman.

He continues, "This concert offers a different atmosphere by virtue of using an organ. Pipe organs are all about sustained sound; they are much more like the human voice than pianos."

Some of the pieces to be sung are best suited for organ accompaniment, such as "O Clap Your Hands" and "O Taste and See" by Ralph Vaughn Williams. Additionally, Franz Biebl's "Ave Maria" will be sung with double choir (CAST and Masterworks).

Expect also to hear a wide array of repertoire from around the world. For instance the audience will hear the vocal portion of Bach's "Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring," typically a wedding anthem often heard without voices, sung in German. Familiar pieces such as this are juxtaposed with works including Hungarian folk melodies by Kodaly, two a cappella Japanese pieces, and uncommon settings of sacred texts.

Kat Doebel conducts CAST, and Tim Marsden conducts Masterworks.



Bel Canto celebrates Christmas and looks forward to their journey to Indianapolis, IN.

For tickets and more information regarding "Symmetry" in the "Kaleidoscope" series, visit [www.choirmusic.org](http://www.choirmusic.org). Advance tickets cost \$10 for adults and \$8 for students and seniors. Tickets cost \$2 more on the performance date. Questions can be directed to the NCAS offices at (402) 342-6743.

**Advertisement**  
NCAS is selling space in the May 9th, 2009 Program for the Nebraska Children's Chorus Concerts. Utilizing the space with an advertisement, black and white photo and message, thank you, or a congratulations would be a great way to share your message.  
1/4 page—\$10  
1/2 page—\$20  
full page—\$40  
Please contact Rachel Aalund, Director of Operations if you would like to purchase a space or would like more information.

## Indianapolis Impressions, Influences and IMPACT

By Dr. Sean M. Burton Bel Canto Conductor

In January of 2009, Bel Canto traveled to The Hoosier State's Capital City, Indianapolis, for the singular purpose of shared musical INSPIRATION. Selected via a competitive peer-reviewed audition process, Bel Canto performed for a distinguished audience of current, future and retired music educators at the 2009 North Central Division Convention of MENC: the National Association Music Education. Besides singing before a large assemblage of convention attendees in the acoustically and aesthetically magnificent St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church (a joint-concert with the Indiana University-Purdue University Fort Wayne University Singers), Bel Canto collaborated with the Indianapolis Children's Choir (ICC) to present a concert under the stars in Indianapolis' ArtsGarden. Surprisingly located within a sprawling shopping mall in the heart of Indianapolis, the entirely glass structure of the ArtsGarden functions to juxtapose the sanctuary of musical expression with the hustle and bustle of city life. Within one short twenty-four hour period, Bel Canto nourished the souls of others by offering two outstanding concerts, experienced the awesome performing abilities of the Synergy Brass Quintet, engaged in joint-concert and home stay experiences with the ICC, and reveled in the unique camaraderie of group travel. The sum of these experiences represents perhaps the most meaningful yet intangible outcome of choral singing: the joy and spontaneity of human INTERACTION.

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Camerata & Jubilate Conductor

Dr. Sean M. Burton  
Bel Canto Conductor

Kat Doebel  
CAST Conductor

Tim Marsden  
Materworks Conductor

Cody Talarico  
Ragazzi Youth & Ragazzi Children Conductor

Zach Vreeman  
Cantori Conductor

**Administrative Staff**  
Rachel L. Aalund  
Director of Operations

**Many Voices, One Vision**

**On the Road Again!**  
by Nancy Engdahl Robson, Artistic Director

Musical growth is definitely a focus in NCAS with all our choirs. During rehearsals musical skills are developed and perfected. Singers learn new skills and advance in those concepts they know well. We work on challenging their awareness of musicianship through their experience with us. This is evident in our youngest choirs to Masterworks.

One of those experiences is to tour. Whether it be a day tour with our youngest choirs, a regional festival, mid west tour to share with another choir, or an international trip, our choir members grow in many areas. In touring they build relationships with other singers in our choirs and others in organizations who do the same things we do. They achieve a sense of independence personally as well as musically. They learn from the cultural of the area they travel to even if it is out state Nebraska.

The most important is the educational music experience. They learn from listening to other choirs, being conducted by other conductors, and the sense of accomplishment when they perform.

As an organization, we learn how other groups work and ideas that can help us out. Our conductors learn new repertoire to use in our choirs. They also can learn teaching and conducting techniques. This year the choirs are going to a variety of venues. Each has a strong educational component. Please support your singer by helping them sell raffle tickets or saving from their allowance or other income they may have. It also is important that they have worked for their tour. Enjoy their stories of all their experiences when they return!

Jubilate & Ragazzi Children – Kansas City Music Festival at Worlds of Fun  
Ragazzi Youth – Minnesota Tour. A highlight will be singing with the Minnesota Boy Choir.  
Camerata – KIDZSING in Sioux City. A wonderful music festival organized by the Siouxland Children's Chorus  
Cantori – Tour Nebraska and South Dakota. A highlight will be to sing at Mt. Rushmore.  
Bel Canto – Pacific International Choir Festival, Pacific Northwest  
CAST - St. Louis, MO  
Masterworks – They tour every couple years. This is a year they have off.

★ Below is a list of opportunities to volunteer. Take a look and send me an e-mail with any opportunities you would like to take advantage of! Your Volunteer Coordinator, Debi Tompkins, [debi@choirmusic.org](mailto:debi@choirmusic.org)

**Sound and Lighting Technicians**  
NCAS needs 1-2 people to train to assist with sound and lighting for performances during the 2008-2009 Kaleidoscope concert season. Assistance is only needed at UNO Strauss Concerts—March 14th and May 9th.

**Fix It Volunteers**  
The office is asking for talented people who can fix things; vacuums, computers, and many other things that might need to be fixed. If you have a talent for fixing things, IT or appliance, please let us know!

**Clean It Volunteers**  
The office is asking for the people who enjoy keeping things neat and tidy! Someone who is willing to come in and give the office a good clean. If this is you, please let us know!

**Music Library Volunteer**  
The office is asking for the people who enjoy keeping things organized! Someone who is willing to come in to the office and file, track, and count music. If this is you, please let us know!



Cantori combines voices to produce a lovely sound at Festival of Christmas Brass

Thank you to everyone who has volunteered at the office, concerts, or helped with Voce!

50% of the organization have their 4 required volunteer hours completed, 21% have their hours partially completed and 29% have all 4 of their hours still to complete. April 30, 2009 is the deadline for either the \$100 donation or the 4 hours of volunteer hours to be completed!