

The Quarter Note

August 2007

The Newsletter of the Nebraska Choral Arts Society (NCAS)

Men's Vocal Workshop October 25, 2007

NCAS Cosponsors Men's Vocal Workshop and CANTUS performance

On October 25, 2007, Cantus, a Minneapolis based Men's Ensemble, will partner with the Nebraska Choral Arts Society and the University of Nebraska at Omaha to conduct a 5-hour choral workshop for male students aged 10-18. The workshop is for area middle school and high school men, as well as all of our male singers in CAST and the six choirs of the Nebraska Children's Chorus. The event will run from 1-6 p.m. at the Strauss Performing Arts Center on the UNO Campus. "Our hope is that this event will be an opportunity to promote singing for men, be of service to the community, and serve as a recruitment opportunity for NCAS and UNO," stated Dr. Matthew Harden.

Festival Schedule

11 – 1:00 p.m.	Registration
1:00 p.m.	Training Sessions <i>Unchanged Voices: with Sean Burton</i> <i>Changed voices: with Matt Harden</i>
2:00 p.m.	Sectionals on specific repertoire
3:00 p.m.	All men work with Cantus
4:30 p.m.	Group rehearsal
5:30 p.m.	Mini Performance
6:00 p.m.	Dinner Break
7:30 p.m.	Cantus Performance <i>through Ecoutez! Series at UNO</i>

All participants will receive free admission to the Cantus performance in the evening. Additional tickets will be available at the door. If you have any questions or want to reserve a spot for your son to participate, please contact Dr. Harden at mharden@mail.unomaha.edu or Renee at the NCAS office.

Cantus offers education and performance to Omaha singers

Cantus is a full time professional male vocal chamber ensemble dedicated to exalting the human spirit through the performance of innovative and engaging musical programs. The ensemble seeks not only to sing the finest literature of the past but also to present new music either created by its members or commissioned for the group.

Cantus reaches its audience through concerts, recordings, clinics and by making new musical scores available. In addition to



performing, Cantus champions male choral singing and encourages people of all ages to sing.

Gaining recognition as one of America's finest professional male vocal ensembles, Cantus enjoys a vigorous schedule of national tours, subscription concerts in the Twin Cities of Minneapolis and Saint Paul, several innovative residencies and outreach programs, and recording. The *Washington Post* called the singers' sound "beaming and elastic" and referred to their music-making as "spontaneous grace." *Stereophile Magazine* declared: "the sheer beauty of the unaccompanied male voices (and the) art of (these) professional singers proved overwhelming." The *Cleveland Plain Dealer* reported: "The Minnesotans come across as down-to-earth types who present their music with the eagerness of hometown guys singing for the pleasure of friends and neighbors." In accordance with its founding mission statement, Cantus is an active proponent of music education, encouraging people of all ages - especially young men - to sing. Its members are frequent clinicians at festivals, schools and universities throughout the country. Presently, Cantus is the resident artist at St. John's University in Collegeville, MN. For more information on Cantus visit www.cantusonline.org.

The Cantus Performance is at 7:30 pm at UNO on October 25th. Tickets are available at the door or by calling Matt Harden at 554-3608.

Jon Gathje to conduct Cantori Choir



It is with great joy that I write my first column as the director of Cantori. I have heard t h i s ensemble

perform numerous times, and I am thrilled to have the opportunity to create music with them. As I am writing this, I am also trying to mentally prepare for a new school year in Yutan (which begins tomorrow). Every new year brings with it a mixture of feelings, and I always remember the feeling of that first day of school. I feel a small part of that anxiety and excitement now with Cantori as I follow two great teachers, mentors, and musicians in Sharon Smith and Michele Adams. They have laid a brilliant foundation, and we will hope to build on that this coming year.

I look forward to working with

Cantori to help them become the most expressive, intelligent, and creative musicians they can be. I hope you approach this new venture as I will—with great excitement, a love of the arts, and high expectations...

To those singers who met me earlier—if you're lucky, I may even wear suspenders!

A graduate of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Jon will begin his fourth year of teaching K-12 Vocal Music in the Yutan Public Schools this fall. His duties include teaching four choirs, directing all musical productions, and directing the one-act play. His choirs have consistently received superior rankings and have received invitations to perform at many venues including two performances at the Nebraska State Capital. Jon is currently finishing his Masters degree in music education at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln where he has also completed Level One training in Orff Schulwerk. Jon has studied conducting with Peter Eklund, Therees Hibbard, and Rhonda Fuelberth. He has also conducted in master classes with

Paul Salumunovich, Sharon Hansen, and Angie Broeker.

Jon is also active in the musical theater community as well. Jon has been seen performing in past productions as Motel in Fiddler on the Roof and Doody in Grease (Pinewood Bowl-Lincoln). Other roles Jon has played include the Groom in Hotel C'est L'amour (working closely with Tony-nominated composer Michael John LaChiusa in the premier staged reading) and Tobias Ragg in TADA's (Lincoln) production of Sweeney Todd. In 2004, Jon worked with Tony-winning composer Adam Guettel to create a lecture recital of his recent works.

This past summer Jon was the musical director for CATS at Pinewood Bowl-Lincoln, one of the first amateur productions in the Midwest. He also recently concluded musical direction of Crazy for You at Pinewood Bowl.

Jon is a member of the American Choral Director's Association, MENC-The National Association for Music Education, and the Educational Theater Association.

Falling in Love through Song...the first Inter-NCC Marriage!



Chris Hancock and Elizabeth Leach, former NCC singers, will be married on November 3rd in Lincoln, Nebraska.

Elizabeth Leach (Jubilate 1988-1990, Bel Canto 1990-1999) and Chris Hancock (Bel Canto 1992-1995) met while singing in Bel Canto in 1992. Their young romance began on the BC tour to Princeton University and New York City in 1995. (Bel Canto took First Place in the Princeton International Choral Competition that year!) In 1997, Chris's family moved to Klamath Falls, Oregon but the two kept in touch over the next 9 years and finally reconnected in Oregon in January of 2006. After years of being in different states and even a few

months of being on different continents, Chris moved back to Omaha in January of this year and proposed to Elizabeth in May. They will be married on November 3rd at First-Plymouth Congregational Church in Lincoln.

Elizabeth, a UNL alumnus, is an architect with BVH Architects in Lincoln; Chris received his degree from Western Oregon University and is a regional brand advocate with MarketStar in Omaha. After a honeymoon to Quebec City, Canada, the two plan to live in Gretna.

New Bel Canto Recording Available Soon

Sean Burton, Bel Canto Conductor

On September 15, Bel Canto's first recording project in five years will be available to the general public. REFLECTIONS, a live recording of music performed during Bel Canto's 2006-2007 concert season, will feature a variety of works connected by three overarching themes: faith and mystery, youth and humanity, and inner strength. It has often been said that art reflects life and choral music is certainly no exception.

The works performed on REFLECTIONS will move listeners through engaging musical devices, inspirational texts, and Bel Canto's unique sonority.

Many of the tracks on REFLECTIONS come directly from Bel Canto's sensational Bon Voyage Concert, performed in June of 2007. Other highlights include

Bel Canto's joint-performance of Galuppi's *Dixit Dominus* with the Omaha Area Youth Orchestra in February of 2007 as well as selections from other NCAS events throughout the 2006-2007 season.

My heartfelt thanks and congratulations to all the singers in Bel Canto for their extraordinary work ethic, infectious enthusiasm and sincere curiosity, the result of which has culminated in the production of a fantastic live recording.

RESERVE A COPY TODAY!

Orders are now being accepted for this beautifully mastered LIVE CD. Cost is \$15.00.

Purchase one online at www.choirmusic.org or call the NCAS Office.

Annual Parent Meeting Set for September 15

All NCAS parents and singers are asked to attend a mandatory Parent Meeting September 15 at 10:30 AM. The meeting will be held in the Recital Hall of the Strauss Performing Arts Center, located on the UNOmaha campus. The purpose of this meeting is to give parents and members information to make the upcoming season run as smoothly as possible. It should last approximately one hour.

The meeting will begin with an annual board meeting as required by the by-laws. During the board meeting, parents are asked to vote on the officer slate for the 2007-2008 Board of Directors. The proposed board includes five incoming members that will be voted on specifically.

Used clothing will be for sale beginning at 10:00 and continuing through 1:00pm. Sales will stop during the meeting, and will resume when the meeting ends. Please park in either lot to the west of the Strauss Performing Arts Center.

A Special Thanks

We would like to give a special thank you to all volunteers, sponsors, members, and friends who helped make the past season so successful. Thank you for all of your time and dedication. We just couldn't do it without you.

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The mission of NCAS is 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.

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Many Voices,
One Vision

NCAS Merchandise For Sale!
Umbrellas! Window Stickers!
Waterbottles!



Nebraska Choral Arts Society

2007-2008 Concert Season

Music of the Americas

*NCC,
Masterworks,
& CAST*

Project Hope Benefit Concert

Tuesday, October 9, 2007
Christ Community Church

7:00 pm

*Masterworks
& CAST*

American Composers

Saturday, October 20, 2007
Strauss Performing Arts Center (UNO)

7:00 pm

*NCC,
Masterworks,
& CAST*

Festival of Christmas Brass and Choral Music

Friday, December 7, 2007
Saturday, December 8, 2007
First United Methodist Church

7:30 pm
3:00 & 7:30 pm

*Masterworks
& CAST*

Folk Songs of the New World

Sunday, March 2, 2008
Strauss Performing Arts Center (UNO)

7:00 pm

NCC

Music of the Americas

Saturday, March 29, 2008
Strauss Performing Arts Center (UNO)

2:00 & 4:50 pm

*Masterworks &
Bel Canto*

Composers of the Americas

Saturday, April 26, 2008
Strauss Performing Arts Center (UNO)

7:00 pm

NCC & CAST

American Pops

Saturday, May 17, 2008
Strauss Performing Arts Center (UNO)

2:00 & 4:50 pm

Auditions

2007-2008 Concert Season

August 23, 2007

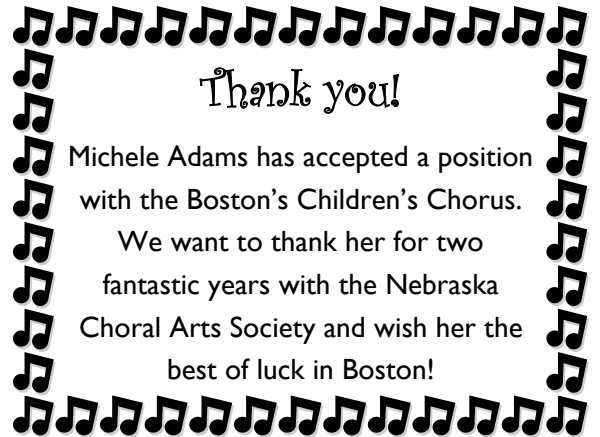
UNO Strauss Performing Arts Center

4:30—9:00 pm

Auditions are by appointment only!

Please call the NCAS office at

(402)342-6753 to set up your 10-minute audition time.



Thank you!

Michele Adams has accepted a position with the Boston's Children's Chorus.

We want to thank her for two fantastic years with the Nebraska

Choral Arts Society and wish her the best of luck in Boston!



Nebraska Choral Arts Society
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