

The Quarter Note

May 2007

The Newsletter of the Nebraska Choral Arts Society (NCAS)

MUSIC OF THE AMERICAS Announcing Our 2007-2008 Concert Season

The New World. A place of discovery and creation. United by land, with each member possessing history and music with unique roots. The season mixes South American paired with Canadian, next to Latin American, paired with our own. We explore our shared origins and celebrate our individuality.

Third Annual Benefit Concert

October 9 - *Project Hope fundraising concert*

The third year of our season opening benefit concert. This season proceeds will assist Project Hope, a Lutheran organization whose mission is "to provide a living witness for God's love in North Omaha, through the development and ministries of direct service to people experiencing emergency hunger or clothing needs." Each of our choirs will sing two pieces of its early season repertoire giving audience members a sneak preview of our season in a relaxed atmosphere. Tying into our beneficiary's mission we hope to host this concert in an ELCA church and close the concert with an inspiring sacred, all-choir piece.

Family Concerts

March 29 - *Music of America*

A family's chance to enjoy the sounds of the Americas sung by children. Audiences will hear both folk music and contemporary compositions from the continents' northern and southernmost locales.

April 26 - *Composers of the Americas*

NCAS continues its celebration of the New World's music plethora. This concert offers a chance to hear music composed outside the United States' borders with a mixture of languages, instruments, rhythms, and subjects. Some pieces may draw on folk influences, but this concert's program contains historic masses alongside Baroque motets and creative new repertoire.

May 17 - *American Pops*

A hand-clapping, seat-dancing, toe-tapping concert packed with fun. Jazz, musicals, Ray-Bans—all are United States creations. Expect to hear motion picture favorites, Disney tunes and even some beach music. A popular music celebration that will have you asking for more!

Subscription Concerts

October 20 - *American Composers*

Featuring our adult and teen choirs and the University of Nebraska at Omaha's brass choir, this concert presents a program entirely written by United States born composers. Some are famous such as Copland and Barber, and some are lesser known such as Erik Whitacre and John Knowles Paine. Themes will range widely from early-American spirituals to contemporary settings of Latin American poetry. Our country's influences from the surrounding world will be evident—along with a shining sense of independence.

December 7 & 8 - *Festival of Christmas Brass and Choral Music*

This treasured holiday event celebrates its 25th anniversary with the spectrum of our choirs again paired with the heralding sounds of the Omaha Brass Ensemble. We hold this as a time to honor Festival founders while enjoying seasonal music-making. NCAS will host its annual carol composition contest among area youth juxtaposed with a special commission and world premiere of a holiday piece. This new music punctuates three concerts filled with Christmas favorites and audience sing-a-longs.

February 24 - *Folk Songs of the New World*

A concert of music indigenous to the New World. The program features folk music arrangements from Canada to South America representing each highlighted culture's heritage. The folk music of the United States often draws influence from cultures outside itself, and we compare it to the established roots found elsewhere in the Americas. Sources will be Bolivian, Chilean, Mexican, French Canadian as well as our own. Celebratory dance music, railroad work chants, patriotic anthems – all folk music creating a cultural blend of mood and sound.

*Tickets available for purchase in July.
With the exception of the Festival of Christmas Brass and
Choral Music costing \$15 per ticket, tickets can be
purchased in advance at \$10 for adults and \$8 for youth.*

Bon Voyage!

Bel Canto and Cantori Build Bridges in Nebraska...and Beyond

Cantori ~ Michele Adams, Conductor

Cantori has already had a busy year, and though the NCAS season wrapped up in May, our choir obligations carry on well into the summer. Cantori Saturday rehearsals continue throughout May and June. These months will be spent in preparation for our upcoming June bon voyage concert, tour to Denver, and private performance for a winning *Voice!* bidder in July.

Cantori is especially excited about the bon voyage concert. Not only is this a setting for our choir to highlight the music we learned over the course of an entire year, this event will also feature the Wisconsin Children's Choir Chorale. This group of singers from Madison will be stopping in Omaha for the first night of their west coast tour. Cantori singers and the singers from Wisconsin will share more than just the concert stage June 19th. NCAS and Cantori parents are providing dinner for all of the singers before the concert, and many Cantori families have volunteered to open up their homes to the visiting singers, providing lodging for the night and a breakfast and lunch for the following day. This should be a fun evening of sharing and music. I hope many of you will be able to attend the concert.

Exchanges such as this provide an outstanding opportunity for learning. We continue this idea as Cantori travels to Denver and attends a festival with choirs from Iowa, Minnesota, California, Arizona, South Dakota, and Colorado. Not only do our singers from here in the Omaha metro have the chance to hear and learn from the musical knowledge of other children's choirs, this provides the occasion to learn of other people and cultures as well.

Highlights of the June tour will include...

the musical experience: rehearsing with choirs from several states, working with Dr. David Brunner, singing at a church, and performing for the final concert alone and with the mass choir

the social experience: a pizza party, an ice cream social, a talent show, and games and a visit to local attractions: a trip to Hard Rock Café, and a gold mine tour.

Bel Canto ~ Sean Burton, Conductor

Continuing NCAS' season-long theme of *Building Bridges*, Bel Canto will perform in fabulous venues with other children's choirs in Nebraska as well as abroad in Europe this summer. Following crunch-week during the first days of June, Bel Canto will present a joint-concert with the Lincoln Boys Choir in the acoustically outstanding First-Plymouth Church in Lincoln on Saturday, June 9th at 7:30 p.m. The Lincoln Boys Choir is an organization involving 96 singers from greater Lincoln with many parallels to NCAS; however the main difference is their clientele – all boys! The day after our joint-concert in Lincoln, Bel Canto will present a cornucopia of diverse choral literature at the annual Bon Voyage concert in UNO's Strauss Performing Arts Center on Sunday, June 10th at 7:00 p.m.

On Monday, June 11th, Bel Canto will begin an 11-day European tour, performing and traveling throughout France, Switzerland, Austria, and southern Germany. One emphasis of our tour is to share Bel Canto's enthusiastic esprit de corps and joy of singing in some of the world's finest acoustics. To that end, Bel Canto will sing in Paris' famous Notre Dame Cathedral as well as in comparable venues in Luzerne, Munich, Salzburg, Strasbourg, and Rothenburg. Another emphasis of our tour is to experience the innumerable benefits of cultural exchange. Bel Canto will build bridges in this direction by performing with the American Church Children's Choir in Paris and at the International School of Zug and Luzern in Baar, Switzerland.

Be sure to join us for Bon Voyage on June 10th as we prepare to represent NCAS, Omaha, Nebraska, and the USA on tour throughout Europe.

Catch these choirs in performance at one of their upcoming concerts:

CANTORI

Bon Voyage Concert

with the *Wisconsin Children's Choir Chorale*
UNO Strauss Performing Arts Center
June 19 @ 7:00 PM
Free and open to the public

Final Concert

Sing a Mile High Children's Choral Festival
University of Denver Newman Center for
Performing Arts
June 24 @ 7:00 PM
Free and open to the public

BEL CANTO

Outreach Concert

with the *Lincoln Boys Choir*
First-Plymouth Church in Lincoln, NE
June 9 @ 7:30 PM
Free and open to the public

Bon Voyage Concert

UNO Strauss Performing Arts Center
June 10 @ 7:00 PM
Free and open to the public

Ragazzi Children and Jubilate Choirs Singin' High and Low

Cody Talarico, Ragazzi Children Conductor

On April 14, 2007, the sounds of screams of surprise, shrieks of laughter, and melodious singing went hand in hand as Ragazzi Children and Jubilate toured to the Festival of Choral Music at Worlds of Fun in Kansas City, MO. Singers rode several of the park's main attractions, including the *Mamba*, and my group's favorite, *The Furry of the Nile*. While it was a little bit on the chilly side that day, they figured that after going on a water ride the next ride had to be a "spin cycle" ride so they could dry off.

Both choirs performed for a panel of judges, comprised of individuals who are known for their expertise in choral music. Following each performance, one of the adjudicators worked with the choir providing feedback and tips. Both choirs received accolades for their preparedness and quality of singing.

Following the performances, the choirs dined at the K.C. Expo before returning to Omaha. The Ragazzi Children and Jubilate tour provided singers an opportunity to have fun and hear other choirs from around the region. It also gave them a chance to learn more about each other and their conductors, accompanists, parents-in-charge, and adult chaperones. I know my group still gives me a hard time about riding the rides with my eyes closed. And no, I won't open them until the ride has come to a complete stop!



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May 2007

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

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Cody Talarico

Ragazzi Youth &

Ragazzi Children Conductor

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TOUR UPDATE

Tour season is in full swing, and choirs will continue their tours through June. By the time we're finished, NCAS will have traversed not only this country, but also Europe! Thank you to all the conductors, PICs, parents and supporters who make these opportunities possible!

Completed Spring Tours

Jubilate & Ragazzi Children - Worlds of Fun, Kansas City
Camerata - Northfield, Minnesota

Upcoming Summer Tours

Ragazzi Youth - Sioux City, Iowa
CAST - South Dakota and Central Nebraska
Masterworks - Kearney, Nebraska
Bel Canto - France, Switzerland, Austria, and Germany
Cantori - Denver, Colorado



Voce 2007 ~a success!



Kevin and Laurie Hensel, Gail and Michael Yanney

NCAS celebrated its seventh annual *Voce!* gala fundraising event on March 24. This year's theme was "Voices that Bridge," based on our season-long theme of Building Bridges, and offered an elegant evening of dining, auction and choral entertainment for the attendees.

The exclusive Patron Party started the evening on the second floor of the Scottish Rite Masonic Center. From there, guests had cocktails as they enjoyed the silent auction on the lower level of the facility. The silent auction was followed by dinner and an oral auction in the beautiful third floor auditorium of the Scottish Rite. Attendees enjoyed the musical sounds of NCAS choirs Bel Canto and Cantori, as well as a special performance by Mulberry Lane.

This year's chairs were Michael and Gail Yanney and Kevin and Laurie Hensel, who aimed to provide a full evening to the gala's attendees. Malorie Maddox of WOWT served as our master of ceremonies, and the evening raised over \$55,000 to benefit the Nebraska Choral Arts Society.

Thank You!!

NCAS is grateful for all the amazing individuals we have to help us through each season. A special thank you goes out to all of our conductors, accompanists, Parents-in-Charge, and volunteers who helped make this season a success! We couldn't have done it without you!!



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