

# the Bucks County Choral Society

## COUNTERPOINT

Spring 2005

### Upcoming Events

- **Haydn's *Creation***  
Saturday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>, 8:00pm  
St. Ignatius Church  
Yardley, PA  
Sunday, April 3<sup>rd</sup>, 7:30pm  
Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church  
Doylestown, PA
- **Third Annual Choral Festival Benefit Concert**  
Saturday, April 16<sup>th</sup>, 8:00pm  
Lenape Middle School, Doylestown
- **Annual Concert of Masterworks for Choir and Organ**  
*Poulenc—Gloria*  
*MacMillan—Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis*  
Edward Alan Moore, organ  
Friday, June 3<sup>rd</sup>, 8:00pm  
National Shrine of Our Lady of Czestochowa, Doylestown, PA  
Suggested Donation—\$15

### Bucks County Choral Society Board of Directors

Dennis R. Walsh, Chairman  
Phyllis Sexton, President  
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John D. MacMillan, Secretary  
John Leslie  
Linda Plank  
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Rick Rosen

*The mission of the Bucks County Choral Society is to bring memorable performances of outstanding choral music to the people of Bucks County and the greater Philadelphia area... thereby celebrating and strengthening the social fabric of the wider community.*

## Join BCCS for the Highlight of the Season: Haydn's *The Creation*

The Bucks County Choral Society is preparing the feature concert event of its 32<sup>nd</sup> season to celebrate spring in spectacular style with two performances of *The Creation*, by Franz Joseph Haydn. Considered Haydn's greatest work, the oratorio for chorus, soloists and orchestra will be performed with the Riverside Symphonia and soloists Jacqueline Horner, Randall Scarlata and Jason Dungee, all under the direction of Thomas Lloyd.

### Creation of *The Creation*

During his London visits in 1791-92 and 1794-95, Haydn had been greatly moved by the large scale performances of Handel's choral works. In 1795, Haydn was commissioned to write an oratorio from a libretto based on the biblical account of the creation of the world, and poetry influenced by Milton's *Paradise Lost*. The resulting piece was conceived as a bilingual work, composed for performance in either German or English, with a clear intention that it be performed in the native language of the audience. The work reflects the

Enlightenment philosophy of Haydn's time, which treats the creation of man with an idyllic optimism untouched by Romantic gloom. The beauty and charm of Haydn's masterpiece convey a lyrical wonder at the works of creation.

### A World-Class Performance

BCCS welcomes a group of superb musicians for these performances, headlined by soprano Jacqueline Horner, from the Grammy-award winning a cappella group Anonymous 4. Also joining the choir are baritone Randall Scarlata, who the New York Times says sings with "a compelling desire to bring texts to life" and tenor Jason Dungee, who, a reviewer notes, "invites the listener in for an intimate experience of

***"The beauty and charm of Haydn's masterpiece convey a lyrical wonder at the works of creation."***

the text and music." Instrumental accompaniment is provided by The Riverside Symphonia, which has played with BCCS for several notable per-

***The Creation*** will be presented: ***Saturday, April 2 at 8:00 p.m. at St. Ignatius Church, 999 Reading Ave., Yardley, PA, and Sunday, April 3 at 7:30 p.m. at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church, 235 E. State St., Doylestown, PA***

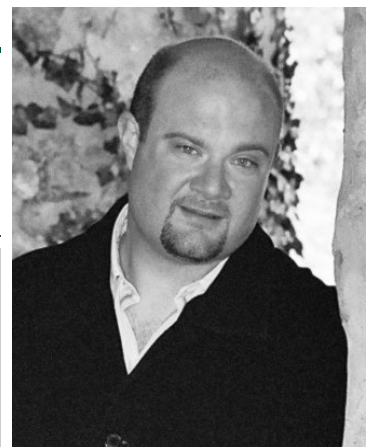
Tickets for these concerts are \$20 general admission, \$17 senior citizens, and \$5 students. They are now available by calling 215-598-6142. Group discounts are also available.



Jacqueline Horner

formances including Brahms' *Requiem* in 2001, and Mendelssohn's *Elijah* in 2002.

BCCS invites you to join us for the musical highlight of the season. For more information, visit our website at [www.buckschoral.org](http://www.buckschoral.org), and get your tickets early by calling 215-598-6142. ♪



Randall Scarlata

## Hallelujah!!!



At our December, 2004 Christmas concerts in Yardley and Doylestown, three special guest conductors made their BCCS debuts. As the winners of our

First Annual Conduct-the-Choir Charity Auctions, chorister Shirley Piercy, emergency room technician Mark Canavan, and attorney Harry Jenkins each took the baton and led the choir in jubilant performances of the "Hallelujah Chorus" from Handel's *Messiah*.

Proud and musically supportive relatives made the winning bids on behalf of the



conductors during month-long pre-concert auctions conducted on the BCCS website. Half of each winning bid has been donated to local charities: the Flood Relief Fund in Yardley, the Doylestown Hospital's Free Clinic, and A Woman's

Place in Doylestown.

A thoroughly enjoyable experience for conductors, choir and audience alike, the Conduct-the-Choir Charity Auctions promise to become a wonderful and charitable part of many BCCS Christmas Festivals to come! 🎵



## BCCS On Tour

This past summer, forty-seven singers and twenty-two of their friends and spouses embarked on the Bucks County Choral Society's fifth international concert tour, a memorable journey from June 25 to July 5 to St. Petersburg, Russia, and Tallinn, Estonia. One of the main reasons for choosing to travel to the "white nights" region of Eastern Europe in 2004 was the occasion of the 24<sup>th</sup> Estonian National Song Festival. The song festival drew its largest crowd ever: 25,700 singers and an estimated audience of 150,000.

The BCCS singers had worked for three months to master the challenges of singing in Estonian, and with some satisfaction and surprise, they found themselves keeping up nicely with all the Estonian

singers at the first rehearsal. As one singer said of the experience "It was inspiring to see how choral singing could mean so much to the cultural identity of a people."

The Choral Society also gave its own performances during the festival week, one of which was a concert shared with the Mixed Chorus of the Estonia Society directed by Heli Jurgenson. The two choirs came together for one of the festival songs, and with no prior rehearsal, effortlessly sang as one in a brief and intimate encounter with the Estonian choral tradition.

Before joining the festival in Estonia, the choir spent five days in St. Petersburg, Russia. The choir's primary public concert here was in the Lutheran Church of Peter and Paul on the Nevsky Prospect. The surprisingly sizeable audience was warm and seemed to appreciate the choir's performance of Russian and American repertoire. At the end of the concert they greeted the singers with flowers and smiles.

One spur-of-the-moment performance came at the very beginning of the tour at the crowded Finnair gate at the Kennedy International Airport in New York. The

Choral Society began to sing in an attempt to lighten the otherwise stressful atmosphere. One verse was all it took for music to bring smiles to faces all around. 🎵



Local Estonian-Americans Ants and Mailis Sildve of Lansdale worked with Tom Lloyd and the choir to help them master the challenges of the Estonian language

Please refer to our website: [www.buckschoral.org](http://www.buckschoral.org) for the full text of this article on the BCCS Summer 2004 Tour, as it appeared in the Bucks County Herald.



# Thomas Lloyd: Conductor and Composer

Counterpoint recently conducted an interview with BCCS Artistic Director Thomas Lloyd focusing on his thoughts and efforts as a composer. Excerpts from this interview are included below.

*Counterpoint: Many BCCS concerts have featured pieces that you've arranged or composed. Is composing a new avocation for you?*

Thomas Lloyd: Composing is something that remained in the back of my mind until a few years ago. One reason for this was my feeling as a conductor that there was so much fine music already in need of being performed; there wasn't a need to add more. Secondly, I had not previously found the patience or security to put my musical ideas down on paper. By the time I wrote them down, the ideas would seem much less interesting than when I first imagined them.

*C: What persuaded you to go beyond these obstacles?*

TL: These feelings were overcome by the practicality of need. One month after the terrorist attacks of 9/11, BCCS performed at a previously-scheduled dedication cere-

mony at the Doylestown YMCA. We needed to add something to the program that would help the community pull together, so I quickly came up with an arrangement of "God Bless America". Inspired by that experience, I endeavored to create a processional for our Christmas concerts that year, and wrote an arrangement of "O Come, O Come Emmanuel".

Even so, it was another couple of years before I tried something more than an arrangement of an already existing melody. My first truly "original" work, *Immensity Cloistered in thy dear Womb*, was performed during the BCCS Christmas concerts in December, 2003. The patience and supportiveness of BCCS, and their willingness to try new music with me have been a special privilege.

*C: Your work with Robert Maggio on "Rachel and her Children" was also in part, a response to the events of 9/11, and your recent piece "Of the Father's Love Begotten / I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day" was dedicated to the Bucks County servicemen and women who gave their lives in the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. Do the events of the world inspire you to create music?*

TL: This is a fine line, because I believe that music that too directly reflects current events is limited in its benefits to that particular moment in time; yet if music doesn't grow out of a specific human context, it risks sounding abstract or emotionally empty. I think it is the challenge for any artist to articulate his or her personal experience in a way that speaks directly to others in the context of their own lives.

*C: Where do you see composing leading you from here?*

TL: This past year I learned of the first performance of my music by a group I don't conduct, and wrote my first commissioned piece. But I don't anticipate my music becoming known to many more people than those who are already close to me. I have now found that there is great satisfaction in writing music for the people who share music-making with me every day, seeking to find a common sense of meaning and purpose in this crazy world in which we live. 🎵

The full text of this interview can be found on the BCCS website:

[www.buckschoral.org](http://www.buckschoral.org).



Thomas Lloyd

**"I think it is the challenge for any artist to articulate his or her personal experience in a way that speaks directly to others in the context of their own lives."**

**-Thomas Lloyd**



## BCCS Recordings



### Glory on High!

The Bucks County Choral Society celebrates the joy of Christmas with this collection of wonderful seasonal music, recorded in concert over the past three years. Included are favorite carols,

selections from BCCS' 2002 performance of *Messiah*, the Chamber Choir's knockout 2003 performance of *Let It Snow*, and the Choral Society's traditional Christmas program closer, *Silent Night*.



### The Wishing Tree: Choral Music of Robert Maggio

Includes Bucks County Choral Society's 30th anniversary performance of *Rachel and Her Children*. Performers include the West Chester University Concert Choir (David DeVeeney, conductor), the Chamber Singers of Haverford and Bryn Mawr Colleges (Thomas Lloyd, conductor), mezzo soprano Suzanne DuPlantis, the Pennsylvania Youth Chorale (Eileen Finley, conductor), and the Bucks County Choral Society (Thomas Lloyd, conductor).

### Romantic Mysticism

French & English Masterworks for Choir & Organ

Recorded live at the National Shrine of Our Lady of Czestochowa, this CD features Bucks County Choral Society and organist Jeffrey Brillhart, baritone Jason Switzer, and soprano Sara Curtiss. The program includes Fauré's *Requiem*, Vaughan Williams' *Five Mystical Songs*, and works by Howells and Bainton.



Add these CDs to your collection today!  
Call (215) 598-6142 to order, or visit [www.buckschoral.org](http://www.buckschoral.org).





BUCKS COUNTY  
CHORAL  
SOCIETY  
ESTABLISHED 1973

Thomas Lloyd, Artistic Director

P.O. Box 702  
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www.buckschoral.org  
215-598-6142

April 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup>  
Haydn's Creation  
Call now for tickets!

Save the date: June 3, 2005  
Masterworks for Choir and Organ  
National Shrine of Our Lady of Czestochowa, Doylestown

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## A Message From The Chairman of the Board



Dennis Walsh  
Chairman of the Board

The 2004-2005 BCCS concert season, our 32nd, has become one of the most memorable in recent history. Our Christmas concerts played to sold out houses, we've taken our first steps into new concert venues, we're raising our profile in a number of area communities, our Chamber Choir has made their mark in the musical world with their fall performance and recording of exciting and relatively unknown repertoire ... and we're only half-way through the year! As you read this, the artistic, marketing, fund raising, and management components of BCCS are hard at work, marshaling our forces to bring two historic early-April performances of Haydn's masterpiece, *The Creation* to our audiences. We're especially proud to present these performances, which feature

world class soloists as well as the region's best instrumentalists, The Riverside Symphonia. We're also thrilled to be bringing our season to a rousing conclusion in June by presenting our Third Annual Masterworks for Choir & Organ concert, to be held once again at another outstanding area venue, the Shrine of Our Lady of Czestochowa.

On the organizational front, BCCS is taking major steps forward this season, with the help of strong efforts in strategic planning, governance, fund raising, and marketing/market research. We are working with professional development and marketing consultants, and have recently initiated a Choir Council, designed to function as an important liaison for the choir, the board, and all committees.

As always, we know that our accomplishments are a reflection of the support granted to us by our audiences, advertisers, and donors, and for this we are most grateful. We remain dedicated to our mission, '... to bring memorable performances of outstanding choral music to the people of Bucks County and the Greater Philadelphia area...'. As we continue to bring remarkable music to the region, and as we continue the exciting work of developing BCCS to its full potential, we look forward to your continued participation - we hope that we'll receive your support, that we'll hear from you with your input, and that we'll see you in our April and/or June audiences. It's a tremendous time in BCCS history - thank you for being a part of it! 🎵