



BUCKS COUNTY
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

presents the

*Bucks County
Choral Society*



Library Auditorium

*This program is sponsored in part by a grant
from the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts.*



About the Bucks County Choral Society. . .



It must have seemed daunting to the choral singers in 1972 who chose to call themselves the Bucks County Choral Society. A region with the fame and rich artistic tradition of Bucks? It would be a lot to live up to. Today there's no doubt the chorus was aptly named. "A Bucks County treasure" is how the Choral Society was described in a Lifetime Achievement Award by the Chamber of Commerce in 1993. Known for versatile performances of the great masterworks as well as commissioned productions by composers today, the chorus has toured Europe twice and will appear in England and Wales in 1995. Audiences far and wide will be able to enjoy the chorus this year on CD and tape release of its March 1994 performance at Our Lady of Czestochowa, attended by 1300, the largest gathering to hear a concert at the national shrine in Doylestown.

ELMA HECKLER, Artistic Director, strives to make each concert memorable as well as enjoyable, "a discovery" shared alike by chorus and audience. Under her direction for 18 seasons, the Choral Society has steadily expanded its repertory, presenting rare blendings of traditional and modern compositions - including original works performed for the first time. Her conducting career began early while she was still an undergraduate student. Later she furthered her studies at Westminster Choir College, the Eastman School of Music, and with such choral luminaries as Robert Page and Robert Shaw. She served on Pennsylvania's Music Advisory Panel and is a member of Chorus America and the American Choral Directors Association. She is a frequent guest conductor of choruses throughout the Delaware Valley.

TERESA JAESCHKE, Accompanist, a 1984 graduate of William Tennent High School, received her Bachelor's degree in Piano Performance and Pedagogy from Westminster Choir College. There, she studied with Phyllis Lehrer. Until 1990, she was on the Artist Faculty at Westminster Conservatory as both teacher and accompanist. Currently, Ms. Jaeschke is a Master's degree candidate majoring in Piano Accompanying and Vocal Coaching. As an accompanying major, she has worked and studied with such coaches as Martin Katz, Glenn Parker and Dalton Baldwin. This is her fourth season as accompanist for the Society.

BUCKS COUNTY CHORAL SOCIETY

Saturday, April 29, 1995

8:00 p.m.

PRIMARILY A CAPPELLA

I Have Had Singing Steven Sametz

I

Missa Secunda Hans Leo Hassler
Solo Quartet: Frances Hemstreet, Merily, Nelson, Timothy Vogel,
Donald Groff

Kyrie
Gloria
Sanctus

Benedictus
Agnus Dei

II

Ave Maria Fred Thayer
Soloist: Cheryl Stitzinger, soprano
Quartet: Kathy Benner, Claudia Whittaker, Ed Johnson,
Philip Franchois

A Child My Choice Stephen Paulus

Set Me as a Seal René Clausen

Alleluia Randall Thompson

The photographing, videotaping, or sound recording
of this performance is strictly prohibited.

III

There is Sweet Music Here Stephen Chatman
Stephen Labiner, oboe

1. There is Sweet Music Here
2. Song of the Laughing Green Woods
3. Music, When Soft Voices Die
4. Piping Down the Valleys Wild

INTERMISSION

Three Spirituals

Steal Away Joseph Jennings
Ron Salfen, bass; Susan Johnson, Soprano
Hush! Somebody's Callin' My Name Brazeal Dennard
Timothy Vogel, tenor
Ezekiel Saw the Weed William L. Dawson
John Leslie, tenor

Five American Folksongs

Listen to the Mockingbird Gail Kubik
Black Sheep John Rutter
Jill Dulany, alto

Elinor Armsby, conductor

Shenandoah James Erb
By'm By Alice Parker
Sourwood Mountain John Rutter
Alan Johnson, baritone; Bud Cassel, bass

America the Beautiful arr. by Robert Page



Program Notes

Our program this evening opens with a beautiful testament to the power of singing composed by Steven Sametz. Mr. Sametz is Professor of Music and Director of Choral activities at Lehigh University here in Pennsylvania. Mr. Sametz received his musical training at Yale University, the University of Wisconsin at Madison and the Hochschule fur Musik in Frankfurt, Germany. The text of "I Have Had Singing" was recorded by Ronald Blythe during interviews with villagers in Akenfield.

Hans Leo Hassler was born in Nuremburg, Germany in 1562, the son of a musician. He studied composition in Venice with Andrea Gabrieli and was a contemporary of Andrea Gabrieli's nephew, Giovanni. From Italy, Hassler returned to Germany, working in Augsburg for many years. This period was the most productive for Hassler and one in which he earned many honors. The "Missa Secunda" is one eight masses published by Hassler in 1599. Although Hassler was a protestant, his greatest works are considered to be his Latin choral works written for the Catholic service.

The next set of pieces is a set of sacred music composed by American composers. Fred Thayer is Associate Professor of Music and Director of Choral activities at Lycoming College in Williamsport, Pennsylvania. Stephen Paulus received his training in Minnesota where he grew up. He has served as composer in residence with the Atlantic Symphony Orchestra and the Dale Warland Singers and won several awards for his compositions, including Third Prize in the 1988 Friedheim Awards and fellowships from the Guggenheim and NEA. "A Child my Choice" is from a larger work entitled, "So Hallowed is the Time." Randall Thompson is perhaps one of the best loved composers of American choral music. The Bucks County Choral Society performed Thompson's popular "Frostiana" last spring. "Alleluia" is another of Thompson's most beloved works.

Stephen Chatman is also an American composer. Mr. Chatman grew up in Madison, Wisconsin and received his musical training at Oberlin Conservatory. He has studied composition with William Bolcom, Ross Lee Finney and Karlheinz Stockhausen and is currently on the faculty at the University of British Columbia where he directs the U.B.C. Contemporary Chamber Players. Chatman's style is an eclectic one, combining elements of several different post-serial styles. "There is Sweet Music Here" is a collection of four English poems and uses musical material that is intentionally limited.

African-American spirituals play an important part in the development of American music. The three spirituals presented here are representative of both of the older style first made popular by William L. Dawson and the Tuskegee Choir, and the more modern sound of the arrangements of Brazeal Dennard. Mr. Dennard is the founder and director of the Brazeal Dennard Chorale and teaches at Wayne State University and in the Detroit Public School System. Mr. Dennard's arrangements were recently featured at the National Convention of the American Choral Directors Association.

Folk songs are another important part of our national heritage. These five arrangements include well known songs as well as lesser known songs. Gail Kubik's composition is based on a popular tune and was written for the Robert Shaw Chorale in 1948. John Rutter offers two arrangements that aptly capture the spirit of the songs "Sourwood Mountain" and "Black Sheep." James Erb's simple but elegant arrangement of the lullaby "By'm Bye" is also quite lovely in its simplicity.

To conclude the program, we have chosen to perform the patriotic song "America the Beautiful" as arranged by Robert Page. Page is known throughout the country as a teacher and conductor of choral music, his choirs having made numerous recordings issued on several major labels. The Bucks County Choral Society was privileged to welcome Mr. Page as a guest conductor on our last concert.



Bucks County Choral Society Membership 1994-95

Barbara Adams, Sellersville
Ellie Armsby, Philadelphia
Kathy Benner*, Richboro
Elizabeth K. Burke, Chalfont
Bud Cassel*, Chalfont
Doris W. Charles, Doylestown
Eugene Chrzanowski, Buckingham
Audrey E. Close, Doylestown
Anne Colombo, Richboro
Merrill M. Detweiler, Sellersville
Cynthia L. Detweiler, Warminster
Jill Dulany, Souderton
Susan Eastburn, Chalfont
Mary Ernst, Newtown
Judith Fay, Hatfield
D. Wayne Focht*, Chalfont
Philip J. Franchois, Perkasio
Ruth A. Geiger, Doylestown
Dawn Good, New Hope
Jack N. Graham, Maple Glen
John Grever, Colmar
Donald E. Groff*, Hatfield
Lynne Guest, Richboro
Roberta Harding, Perkasio
Frances Hemstreet, Newtown
Tony Isian, Newtown
Suzanne Jenkins, Doylestown
Alan F. Johnson*, Warminster
Edward B. Johnson, Richboro
Susan G. Johnson, Richboro
Jane C. Keller, Hatboro

Barbara L. Kihm, Oakford
Tara B. Krauss*, Doylestown
Marion M. Kyde, Ottsville
John Leslie*, Levittown
Adam Luebke, Doylestown
Stephen W. Luebke, Doylestown
Nancy S. Maul, Doylestown
Ladd S. McCoy*, Chalfont
Kay Mengers, Pipersville
Bill Moore, New Britain
Christie Moore, New Britain
Lois H. Moore, New Britain
Merily Nelson, Hatfield
Charles A. Orbell III, Warrington
Peter G. Pavlis, Churchville
Kathy Payne*, Yardley
Shirley K. Piercy, Furlong
Jay Poko, Perkasio
Susan Rheingans, Morrisville
Kit Rutland, Richboro
Ronald P. Salfen
Mary L. Scherrer, Doylestown
Celeste Siciliano, Wycombe
Cheryl L. Stitzinger, Warrington
Ronald Tempest, Hatboro
Barbara Tull*, Doylestown
Timothy Vogel*, Langhorne
Frances C. Waite, Doylestown
Janet Whitefield, Harleysville
J. Thomas Whitefield, Harleysville
Claudia Whittaker*, Doylestown
Patricia A. Winey, Warminster

*Chamber Singers of the Bucks County Choral Society