

In Praise of Music

Season Finale

The Bucks County Choral Society

Elma Heckler, *Artistic Director*
Jason Iannuzzi, *Assistant Director*
Wendy McNally, *Accompanist*

David Page, *Narrator*

May 12, 2000 8 p.m.
Central Bucks East High School
Buckingham, Pennsylvania

**The Mission of the Bucks County Choral Society is
*to influence and enrich the choral experience
for ourselves and our audience through skillful
and artistic performance.***

**This concert is sponsored by a grant from the Commonwealth
of Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, a state agency, which is
supported by the National Endowment for the Arts.**

Program

I

Musica Est Dei Donum Optimi **Rolande de Lassus**
Music is God's Greatest Gift 1532-1594

II

Music Spread Thy Voice Around **G. F. Handel**
from *Solomon* 1685-1759

How Can I Keep From Singing? **arr. Daniel H.Graves**
Traditional Quaker Hymn contemporary
Merily Nelson, *alto*

I Have Had Singing **Steven Sametz**
Ronald Blythe contemporary

If Music Be the Food of Love **David Dickau**
Henry Heveningham contemporary

III

Serenade to Music **Ralph Vaughan Williams**
Words by Shakespeare 1872-1958
from *The Merchant of Venice*

Hannah Stitzinger, *violin*

Cheryl Stitzinger, <i>soprano</i>	Philip Francois, <i>bass</i>
Dennis Anniballi, <i>tenor</i>	Stephen Luebke, <i>bass</i>
Edward Johnson, <i>tenor</i>	Roger Dean, <i>bass</i>
Benjamin Tuttle, <i>tenor</i>	Susan McDonnell, <i>alto</i>
Paul Daniels, <i>tenor</i>	Cynthia Machinski, <i>alto</i>
Mary Jane Reep, <i>soprano</i>	Carol Nase, <i>alto</i>
Pamela Naudascher, <i>soprano</i>	Suzanne Jenkins, <i>soprano</i>
Stephen Mallon, <i>bass</i>	Merily Nelson, <i>alto</i>

How sweet the moonlight sleeps upon this bank!
Here will we sit and let the sounds of music creep in our ears;
Soft stillness, and the night, become the touches of sweet harmony.
Look how the floor of heaven is thick inlaid with patines of bright gold;
There's not the smallest orb that thou beholds't,
but in his motion like an angel sings,
still quiring to the young ey'd cherubins;
Such harmony is in immortal souls;
But whilst this muddy vesture of decay doth grossly close it in
we cannot hear it.
Come, ho! And wake Diana with a hymn.
With sweetest touches pierce your mistress' ear,
and draw her home with music.
I am never merry when I hear sweet music.
The reason is, your spirits are attentive.
The man that hath no music in himself,
nor is not mov'd with concord of sweet sounds.
is fit for treasons, stratagems and spoils.
The motions of his spirit are dull as night.
and his affections dark as Erebus.
Let no such man be trusted.
Music! Hark! It is your music of the house.
Me thinks it sounds much sweeter than by day.
Silence bestows that virtue on it, how many things
by season seasoned are to their right praise and true perfection!
Peace, ho! The moon sleeps with Endymion and would not be awak'd!
Soft stillness and the night become the touches of sweet harmony.

Intermission

IV

The Chamber Singers
Directed by Jason Iannuzzi

A Nightingale Sang in Berkeley Square **Maschwitz/Sherwin**
arr. Gene Puerling

My Funny Valentine **Rodgers/Hart**
from *Babes in Arms* *arr. Kirby Shaw*

All The Things You Are **Hammerstein II/Kern**
from *Very Warm For May* *arr. Kirby Shaw*

V

Folk Songs

- Shenandoah** *arr. James Erb*
American Folksong
- Black is the Color** *arr. Stuart Churchill*
Appalachian Folksong
- Cockles & Mussels** *arr. Roger Folstrom*
Irish Folksong (*Sweet Molly Malone*)
Barbara Adams, *soprano* Judy Fay, *soprano*
Debbie DiMicco, *soprano* Carol Amt, *soprano*
- Danny Boy** *arr. Joseph Flummerfelt*
Irish Folksong (*Londonderry Air*)
- Cindy** *arr. Mack Wilberg*
American Folksong
Wendy McNally and Susan Johnson, *duo-pianists*

VI

Classic Broadway

- It's a Grand Night for Singing** *Rodgers and Hammerstein*
from *State Fair*
- The Music of the Night** *Andrew Lloyd Webber*
from *The Phantom of the Opera*
- Our Time** *Stephen Sondheim*
from *Merrily We Roll Along* *arr. Robert Page*
- Make Our Garden Grow** *Leonard Bernstein*
from *Candide* *arr. Robert Page*

**We invite you to join us after the concert for
a reception in honor of Elma Heckler's 23 years
of leadership of the choral society.**

About the Musicians

Elma Heckler, Artistic Director

The history of the Bucks County Choral Society is largely the history of Elma Heckler's leadership of the group, and its growth and development from a group of community members interested in singing into a prominent institution. In the fall of 1977 Elma was named director of the group, which had been founded in 1973, and had had a series of interim directors. She had been music director at Zion Mennonite Church in Souderton, and at Pleasantville United Church of Christ in Chalfont. Elma had received a Bachelor of Science degree in music from Juniata College, and a Master of Music degree in choral conducting from Westminster Choir College, and was a music teacher in the local schools.

Under her direction the group grew both musically and organizationally. Repertoire expanded greatly, original pieces were commissioned, and the group has made a series of European tours. The Bucks County Choral Society has come to be recognized as one of the leading choral groups of the area.

The BCCS repertoire has grown to include many of the major works in the choral literature, including *Chichester Psalms* by Bernstein, settings of the *Requiem* of Duruflé and Mozart, *Elijah* by Mendelssohn, *Israel in Egypt* by Handel, both the *St. Matthew Passion* and the *St. John Passion* by Bach, and *Carmina Burana* by Orff, to name a few.

The musical growth of the group proceeded under Elma's direction in other ways as well, in joint performances with other musical organizations, such as the Choral Society of Montgomery County, the Delaware Valley Philharmonic, and the Celestial Choir of Bright Hope Baptist Church in Philadelphia. With Bright Hope, BCCS has done a series of benefit performances for Habitat for Humanity. The Choral Society has twice sung the prelude to the Choral Eucharist at the National Cathedral in Washington, and was invited to sing at the convention of the American Choral Directors Association in 1998.

Elma has been a dynamic leader. She has programmed challenging classics and contemporary music; she has commissioned compositions; she has built a board and administrative structure; she has been a vital fund-raiser; and she has ably represented the Choral Society in the community.

Her legacy is not just the music she directed, but the organization she built up that will remain after she retires. It is committed people and high artistic standards. It is recognition and affection in the community for "her choir." It is artistic and personal ties to fellow artists like Donald Dumpson, Andrew Megill, Robert Page, Eric Owens, Tamara Matthews, and many others.

The Bucks County Choral Society has established a tradition that has been nurtured with care by someone both loved and respected throughout the community.

David Page, Narrator

Singer, actor, and playwright David Page has had his original works produced throughout the United States and in Asia. David wrote, composed, and directed a commissioned musical production *Resisting Gravity* in which the international opera star William Warfield, best known for his performance in the MGM musical film *Show Boat*, was the featured guest performer. His popular ensemble piece, *Recipes*, which depicts American life, has played to standing-room-only audiences, and was recently produced in New York and Ohio. Since co-founding Page and Mooney International, Corporate Consultants, David has inspired corporations, schools, communities, and individuals to lean and practice the skills that build success. His is also the Principal at North Wales Elementary School in the North Penn School District.

Jason Iannuzzi, Assistant Director

Jason Iannuzzi is a summa cum laude graduate of Westminster Choir College of Rider University in Princeton, NJ. Appointed Assistant Conductor of the Bucks County Choral Society in 1998, Mr. Iannuzzi recently led the choir in performances in Germany and the Czech Republic. In 1996 Mr. Iannuzzi was awarded a scholarship to the Berkshire Choral Festival to work with Robert Page, world-renowned conductor of the Mendelssohn Choir of Pittsburgh. Mr. Iannuzzi is on the faculty of the West Windsor-Plainsboro School District, and is the music director for a new ensemble, the Westminster Conservatory Youth Chorale Chamber Singers.

Wendy McNally, Accompanist

Wendy McNally is in her third year as the accompanist for the Choral Society. She earned a Bachelor of Music degree in Music Education from Ithaca College, a Master of Music in Piano Performance from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, and a Certificate in Chamber Music from Cours Internationale de Musique, Morges, Switzerland. She teaches piano and keyboard theory at Lehigh University, and operates a piano studio in Souderton. Wendy taught piano at Elon College, NC, UNC Greensboro, and the Greensboro Music Academy, where she was director of the Piedmont Piano Competition. She was a chamber music coach/accompanist at Cours Internationale de Musique, and was principal keyboardist for the Greensboro Symphony Orchestra.

Hannah Stitzinger, Violin

Hannah Stitzinger is a senior at Plumstead Christian School in Plumsteadville. She began studying the violin at age four and currently is a student of Estelle Kerner and Xiao-Fu Zhou. Hannah attends the Temple University Music Prep Center for Gifted Young Musicians, and plays with the Youth Chamber Orchestra under the leadership of Maestro Luis Biava. This summer she will attend the String Quartet program at Bucknell University and will begin her college studies at Oberlin Conservatory in the fall.

The Bucks County Choral Society

Now celebrating its 27th season, the 70-voice volunteer choir which has been under the direction of Elma Heckler since 1977. In keeping with its mission of “influencing and enriching the choral experience,” the Society performs an annual three-concert subscription series that includes a broad spectrum of music, from the best-loved choral masterpieces to Broadway classics. Commissioned works have been a feature of the Society’s repertoire with the latest being a Christmas composition *Nunc Dimittis (He Gives Us Joy)*, by Pennsylvania composer, Steven Sametz, Professor of Music and Director of Choral Activities at Lehigh University.

The Society, which recently received the Lifetime Achievement Award for the Arts in Bucks County, has made four European tours and has performed at the American Choral Directors Association convention and twice at the Washington National Cathedral. The choir also performed at the Mann Music Center, joining with three Philadelphia choirs and the Philadelphia Orchestra at the first annual Marian Anderson Award presentation honoring Harry Belafonte.

A highlight of the past several seasons for the community has been the annual joint concert for the benefit of Habitat for Humanity with Philadelphia’s Bright Hope Church Celestial Choir, Donald Dumpson, Director. Other outreach programs include presenting a “Kids and the Choral Society” concert, giving an annual scholarship to a qualified singer at the Bucks County High School Chorus Festival, providing financial aid to Bucks County students attending Summer Vocal Workshops at Westminster Choir College, and presenting free preconcert lectures for our audiences.

For the 2000-2001 season, the society will welcome Thomas Lloyd as its new Artistic Director. Lloyd is Assistant Professor of Music at Haverford College, and directs the Haverford/Bryn Mawr Choral and Vocal Studies Program. Watch for details of the new season.

Officers and Board Members of the Society

William Piercy <i>Chairman, Treasurer</i>	Stephen Luebke
Gary Granzow, <i>Vice Chairman</i>	Pamela Naudascher
Shirley Albright, <i>Recording Secretary</i>	JoAnn Roberts
Shirley Piercy, <i>President</i>	Hervey Schofield
Nancy Maul, <i>Corresponding Secretary</i>	Patricia Winey
Carola Benecke	Elma Heckler (<i>ex officio</i>)
Judith Hohmann	Jason Iannuzzi (<i>ex officio</i>)
Harry Jenkins	

Bucks County Choral Society

1999-2000 Membership

Barbara Adams, <i>Sellersville</i>	Susan Johnson, <i>Richboro</i>
Shirley Albright, <i>Frenchtown, NJ</i>	Zachary Kech, <i>New Hope</i>
Carol Amt, <i>Doylestown *</i>	Jonathan Knight, <i>Hatfield</i>
Dennis Anniballi, <i>Doylestown</i>	Richard G. Lambert, <i>New Hope</i>
Elizabeth Barron, <i>Warrington</i>	Paul M. Lewis, <i>Hatfield</i>
Elizabeth Burke, <i>Chalfont</i>	Stephen W. Luebke, <i>Doylestown</i>
Doris W. Charles, <i>Doylestown</i>	Cynthia Machinski, <i>Doylestown *</i>
Eugene Chrzanowski, <i>Buckingham</i>	John MacMillan, <i>Newtown</i>
Anne Colombo, <i>Wrightstown</i>	Stephen Mallon, <i>Glenside *</i>
Richard A. Dahl, <i>Langhorne</i>	Nancy S. Maul, <i>Doylestown</i>
Paul S. Daniels, <i>Telford</i>	Susan McDonnell, <i>Holland *</i>
Roger A. Dean, <i>Doylestown</i>	John W. Moore, <i>New Britain</i>
Cynthia L. Detwiler, <i>Warminster</i>	Lois H. Moore, <i>New Britain</i>
Maria G. Dewey, <i>Morrisville</i>	Christie Moore, <i>Roselle, NJ</i>
Deborah DiMicco, <i>Newtown *</i>	Sarah Mosser, <i>Doylestown</i>
David Doughty, <i>Perkasie</i>	Michael P. Mueller, <i>Doylestown</i>
Mary Ernst, <i>Newtown</i>	Carol Nase, <i>Harleysville *</i>
Shirley Everest, <i>Newtown</i>	Pamela Naudascher, <i>Doylestown *</i>
Judy Fay, <i>Hatfield</i>	Merily Nelson, <i>Hatfield</i>
Lindee Fitting, <i>Perkasie</i>	Wendy Palmby, <i>Doylestown</i>
Oliver Flint, <i>Newtown</i>	Shirley K. Piercy, <i>Furlong</i>
Philip J. Franchois, <i>Perkasie</i>	Mary Jane Reep, <i>Buckingham</i>
Ruth A. Geiger, <i>Doylestown</i>	Christine Remiker, <i>Doylestown</i>
Jack N. Graham, <i>Maple Glen</i>	Steven Rock, <i>Doylestown</i>
Gary W. Granzow, <i>Carversville</i>	George Rounds, <i>Warminster *</i>
Donald E. Groff, <i>Hatfield</i>	Kit Ruland, <i>Richboro</i>
Catherine Guenzel, <i>Willow Grove</i>	Mary Scherrer, <i>Doylestown</i>
Lynne Guest, <i>Richboro</i>	Marcy Spielvogel, <i>Lansdale</i>
David H. Gundrum, <i>Richboro *</i>	Cheryl L. Stitzinger, <i>Warrington *</i>
Janet Gundrum, <i>Richboro *</i>	Ronald T. Tempest, <i>Hatboro</i>
Roberta Harding, <i>Perkasie</i>	Cynthia Teproovich, <i>Quakertown</i>
Jason Iannuzzi, <i>Plainsboro, NJ</i>	Barbara Tull, <i>Doylestown</i>
Tony Islan, <i>Yardley</i>	Benjamin Tuttle, <i>Schwenksville *</i>
James W. Jackson, <i>Perkasie</i>	Janet Whitefield, <i>Harleysville</i>
Suzanne Jenkins, <i>Doylestown</i>	Thomas Whitefield, <i>Harleysville</i>
Alan F. Johnson, <i>Warminster *</i>	Claudia Whittaker, <i>Doylestown</i>
Edward Johnson, <i>Richboro</i>	Patricia A. Winey, <i>Warminster</i>

* Chamber Singers

Auditions for new members will be held in May and June. If you are interested in singing with the Choral Society, please call 215-598-6142.