

University of Notre Dame

CHORALE

“Notre Dame’s Concert Choir”

Alumni
Newsletter

Issue No. 3, December 20, 2016



A message from our director, Alex, five days before Christmas:

Dear Chorale Alums, Fans, and Family,

With the students of Chorale busy last week with exams and now home for Christmas break, I have taken the opportunity to write a special issue of the Chorale Newsletter myself. I want especially to let all our alums know well in advance about the Chorale's forthcoming **Winter Tour in January 2017**. You may remember that the last newsletter promised this update, which lists all of our concert venues on the tour.

Patrick Tingleff, one of this year's two tour commissioners (the other is Becca Fritz), was last year's treasurer. As master of the finances, he realized that we could pull off a winter tour to Georgia and Florida, even though in doing so we would incur the substantial extra expense of airfares. He and Becca have done it. Here are all the concert times and places:

Saturday, January 7, 7:00 pm, Holy Spirit Catholic Church, Northside Drive NW, Atlanta, GA
Sunday, January 8, 6:30 pm, Espiritu Santo Church, Safety Harbor, FL
Monday, January 9, 7:00 pm, St. John Neumann High School, Naples, FL
Tuesday, January 10, 7:00 pm, St. Gregory Catholic Church, Plantation, FL
Wednesday, January 11, 7:00 pm, St. Mary Magdalen Catholic Church, Altamonte Springs, FL
Friday, January 13, 8:00 pm, Prince of Peace Catholic Church, Ormond Beach, FL
Saturday, January 14, 8:00 pm, Cathedral of St. John the Baptist, Savannah, GA

If you live near any of these churches or happen to be visiting nearby, we hope that you will come hear the current incarnation of Chorale and will join us at the end to sing some school songs!

Our *Messiah* performances on campus earlier this month were particularly memorable.



For the second year in a row the choir and soloists (some drawn from the undergraduate ranks of the Chorale, some drawn from the graduate student ranks of the Sacred Music Program) were supported by the Festival Baroque Orchestra, the name we have given to the instrumental ensemble that exists solely to perform with the Chorale on campus. It's a little hard to see in the photos, but the Festival Baroque Orchestra included two long valveless trumpets and just one Baroque oboe, which may have been Handel's original intent. Instead of a double bass, we had a young professional from Cleveland playing a five-string violone. That's our wonderful Päivi at the harpsichord.



Four of the six Baroque violinists were undergraduates who showed an amazing aptitude for instruments that are slightly smaller than their modern counterparts, strung with gut rather than steel, played with lightweight Baroque bows, and tuned a half-step lower than modern instruments. Our professional concertmaster, Daniel Stein from IU Bloomington, is a consummate Baroque artist (he also plays modern violin, Klezmer music, and a wide range of traditional and contemporary Tango repertoire from Brazil). He was as thrilled as we were with the great sound our small Baroque orchestra made, with remarkably little time for the four students to master their new instruments. A complete recording of the Saturday, December 3, performance has been posted to the Chorale website. To listen, [click here](#)

Below is a picture of four previous presidents of Chorale who were at the event: Michael Lutkus (2007-08), Steve Santay (2005-06), Mimi Michuda (2014-15), and Erin Bishop (2015-16). On the far right is our current president, Julia Oksosaglu (2016-17). I am the one slouched in the plaid sofa chair, which the DPAC staff for some reason situated clashingly in front of the Christmas tree in the foyer. This was taken just after the performance, which ends with the rousing "Hallelujah Chorus." (Our performance was so rousing I think my heart may still have been racing from the excitement.)



Below is the poster for this year's *Messiah*. The photo is from the Chorale's 2011 trip to Rome. In it we are performing for a full house in the Chiesa di Sant'Ignazio di Loyola, with its stunning huge paintings in the sanctuary by Andrea Pozzo, S.J., ca. 1650.

University of Notre Dame Department of Music presents

Notre Dame
Chorale
& Festival Chamber Orchestra

Handel's MESSIAH

8:00 pm Friday, December 2, 2016
8:00 pm Saturday, December 3, 2016
Leighton Concert Hall, DPAC
University of Notre Dame
574-631-2800 / performingarts.nd.edu
\$12, \$6, \$3

DEBARTOLO +
PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

So uplifting was this year's experience of performing *Messiah* with the Festival Baroque Orchestra that we have decided to assemble the ensemble again for our spring concert on April 1, 2017, when the plan is to perform Handel's *Zadok the Priest*, J. S. Bach's Cantata 10 (the "German Magnificat"), a newly commissioned piece, and the wonderful final chorus from Handel's *Messiah*, which we never get to sing in our December performances.

If you received our last newsletter, you know that on November 4 we premiered an *a cappella* work titled "Lux Aeterna" by composer Stefan Girardet. It was an extremely difficult piece, but effective and well performed by the Chorale, reinforced for the premiere by four graduate singers from the Sacred Music Program. This is what the poster for that event looked like.



Perhaps you would be interested to see some other recent posters. Like the one above, each attempts to give an impression of what the repertoire for that particular concert will be like. Last spring we featured music based on traditional tunes from the Old World. Many of the tunes are listed in yellow type just above the photo of Urquhart Castle on Scotland's Loch Ness. The reason for a photo of a Scottish landmark is explained by the inclusion in the program of six tunes from Scotland, some of them in arrangements by Beethoven and Schumann. We also included a number of Irish tunes sung in Irish. We had help in learning the pronunciation of the Scottish and Irish languages from professors in the other departments of the University who kindly came to our rehearsals and taught us how to make the exotic sounds.

NOTRE DAME
CHORALE
TUNES FROM THE OLD WORLD
SCOTLAND, IRELAND, ENGLAND, GERMANY, ITALY

O LUSTY MAY LOCH LOMOND THE HIGHLAND WIDOW'S LAMENT

AN TRIÚCHA IN A GARDEN SO GREEN THE LAST ROSE OF SUMMER

CAILÍN DEAS CRÚITE NA MBÓ DOUN IN YON BANKE BONNIE WEE THING

AULD LANG SYNE CHARLIE IS MY DARLING OH! ARRANMORE



Urquhart Castle, Loch Ness, Scotland

8:00 P.M.

SATURDAY, APRIL 16, 2016

LEIGHTON CONCERT HALL
DEBARTOLO PERFORMING ARTS CENTER
ADMISSION \$10 · \$6 · STUDENTS FREE

DEBARTOLO +
PERFORMING ARTS CENTER


Next is the poster for our 2015 fall concert, when we presented the world premiere of a modern motet written especially for the Chorale by IUSB composer Marjorie Rusche. Marjorie has since sent the score and an mp3 file of the performance to the Pope. We don't know if he has listened to it yet....

NOTRE DAME CHORALE
ALEXANDER BLACHLY, DIRECTOR

DEBARTOLO+
PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

PRESENTS

from *Saint Francis* to *Pope Francis*
Songs for the Earth and Its Creatures



2:00 P.M.
SUNDAY, NOV. 1, 2015
LEIGHTON CONCERT HALL
DPAC
ADMISSION \$10 · \$6 · STUDENTS FREE

WORKS FROM THE MIDDLE AGES TO THE PRESENT
WORLD PREMIERE OF MARJORIE RUSCHE'S *Justus ut palma florebit — Occupy the Land — Occupo*

Here is a list of the singers who will be participating in our winter tour next month.

UNIVERSITY OF NOTRE DAME CHORALE

<i>Sopranos</i>	<i>Altos</i>	<i>Tenors</i>	<i>Basses</i>
Kateri Chabot	Sarah Brown	Bailey Hennes	Brian Celeste
Caitlin Crahan	Erin Graney	Trey Murphy	Mateo Garcia-Novelli
Abigail Dommert	Becca Fritz (4)	James Pratt	Ryan Gerstemeier
Audrey Gyolai	Brooke McGill (3)	David Swenson	Cole Maberry
Anna Kalkman	Julia Oksasoglu (1)		John Meyer
Molly Knapp	Jarissa Sabal		Christopher Moy
Grace Larson	Lisa von Werder		Ian Tembe
Mary Mecca	Kristen Wehner		Patrick Tingleff (4)
Daniella Rebouças (5)			Lucas Unruh
Jenny Richardson			
Xinyi Wang (5)			
Michelle Williams (2)			

1) PRESIDENT; (2) VICE-PRESIDENT; (3) TREASURER; (4) TOUR COMMISSIONERS; (5) GRADUATE STUDENT

And below is the poster for the first concert on the Winter Tour. The picture is from the same 2011 trip to Rome as the photo in this year's *Messiah* poster. These are not pictures showing the current singers, of course, but it's hard to find backdrops in Indiana as dramatic as those one sees everywhere in Rome. Many alums will recognize themselves in these 2011 pictures.

UNIVERSITY OF NOTRE DAME

CHORALE

2017 WINTER TOUR CONCERT

ANCIENT & TRADITIONAL CHRISTMAS MUSIC
HANDEL · BEETHOVEN · SCHUBERT · MENDELSSOHN



7:00 PM · SATURDAY, JANUARY 7, 2017

HOLY SPIRIT CATHOLIC CHURCH
4465 NORTHSIDE DRIVE NW, ATLANTA, GA 30327

FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC



We wish all our alums well, and we hope that you will be in touch. If enough of you send pictures, we plan to include photos of you (and your new families when these exist) in a future issue of the Newsletter. Any photos will do. And send us news of what you are up to these days. It's reassuring to our seniors to see that life after Notre Dame is still worth living.