

Thank you once again for choosing to spend a bit of your holiday season with us. This has been a very busy and exciting Fall season for the Chorale. In October we had the pleasure of performing at the Brick Presbyterian Church in Perry. It was an afternoon filled with musical moments that we won't soon forget. Recently, we had the honor of joining the Genesee Symphony Orchestra in their Christmas performance. It is our hope that there will be many more collaborations with them in the future.

Today we culminate our season with this Christmas concert. I have chosen the title, *A Winter Solstice* for both its seasonal and spiritual significance. In the seasonal sense the Winter Solstice refers to the point of midwinter - when the days gradually lengthen and the nights gradually shorten. Upon the establishment of the Julian Calendar, the Roman Winter Solstice celebration was observed on December 25th. This became the same date the Christians chose to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ the Messiah. Due to this sharing of dates, many folk customs and festivals have become part of our traditional Christmas celebration. It is in the celebration and recognition of the many customs of the Christmas season that I have chosen the music for this performance.

Ric Jones

The Genesee Chorale is a non-profit organization that was organized in the fall of 1971 under the direction of Dr. Theodore Ashizawa. Under the skilled direction of Dr. Ashizawa and others, including Dawn Mark, Ron Bordinaro, Marcia Housel, Mark Hoerbelt, and Charles Bradley, the group has shared its love of choral singing with audiences for almost forty years. The Chorale was extremely pleased to welcome Ric Jones as conductor in 2008.

The Chorale is comprised of diverse individuals and draws membership from Genesee and four surrounding counties. The repertoire of the Genesee Chorale encompasses a wide variety of music in various styles from motets and madrigals of the Renaissance to modern folk, musicals and jazz. Also included are larger liturgical settings such as Bach's *St. Matthew's Passion*, Vivaldi's *Magnificat*, and the Mozart and Brahms's *Requiems*.

For more information about becoming a member, becoming a patron, or having the Chorale perform at your function, call 585.493.2681 or email info@geneseechorale.com.



Ric Jones is the founder and owner of Imagine Music Publishing. Ric received both his Bachelor and Master Degrees in Music Education from Ithaca College (NY).

Currently, Ric serves as the Director of the Genesee Chorale as well as the Middleport Community Choir.

His educational experience includes directing high school bands, marching bands, pep bands, and chamber ensembles at Corinth High School (NY), Cincinnatus High School (NY), Greater Johnstown High School (NY), Cicero-North Syracuse High School (NY), Medina High School (NY), and Fonda-Fultonville High School (NY).

Ric has also served as Principal Trombonist with the Tri-Cities Opera Orchestra, St. Cecilia Orchestra, and the Gerald Wolff Singers Orchestra.

Ric resides in Medina with his wife Karen, and their three children, Nicholas, Ryder and River.

Ric's photo provided by Photosmiths Studio

UPCOMING PERFORMANCES

Genesee Chorale Recital Series

February 5, 2009
Genesee Chorale Recital Series
Wyoming Council Arts Center
Perry, NY 14530
7:00PM

“An Irish Celebration”

Friday, March 19, 2009
Batavia Middle School
Batavia, NY 14020
7:00PM

Featured Performers:

Mitzie Collins
Roxanne Ziegler
Jim Kimball & The Genesee String Band
The McMahan School of Dance

“Let Everything That Hath Breath”

Sunday, April 25, 2009
First Presbyterian Church
Batavia, NY 14020
2:00PM

Featured Performers:

The Middleport Community Choir

“Let Everything That Hath Breath”

Friday, April 30, 2009
Location: Oakfield MS/HS Auditorium
Oakfield, Ny14125
7:00PM

Maureen DeGolyer
 Art Munger
 Theresa Queal
 Marsha Coy
 Katrina Karas
 Barbara Pierce
 Fran Thomas
 Ginny Tiede

President
 Treasurer
 Secretary
 Member
 Member
 Member
 Member
 Member

THANK YOU

Our Guests - The Sampler Trio
 Mitzie Collins, hammered dulcimer
 Roxanne Ziegler, harp
 Glenda Dove, flute

Our Soloists - Barbara Galliford
 Jennifer Neroni

St. Mark's Episcopal Church and Batavia First United Methodist Church - for opening the doors to your beautiful churches and allowing us to perform.

Diane Ohlson - for designing the concert flyers and program cover.

Katrina Karas & Ric Jones - for their work on the program.

To all those who put their time and effort into making our concert a success.

Our Patrons - **Friends (\$250 - 499)**
 Gordon & Peggy Lamb
 United Memorial Medical Center

Supporters (\$100 - 249)
 Bill & Barb Pierce



Ann Emmans has been the accompanist for the Genesee Chorale for 16 years, since her retirement as music teacher at the NYS School for the Blind.

She is a graduate of Westminster Choir College in Princeton, NJ; where she majored in organ and voice and later received her Masters degree in Conducting.

Ann has been the Minister of Music at the First Presbyterian Church in Batavia since 1964.



The Sampler Trio: Mitzie Collins, hammered dulcimer; Roxanne Ziegler, harp, and Glenda Dove, flute, have been performing together for 25 years. "Ornaments", the first of their three popular Christmas recordings was released in 1985, followed by "Nowell" in 1986 and "Rejoice" in 1991. Their annual series of Christmas concerts are eagerly anticipated in the Rochester and Buffalo region.

Mitzie Collins

Mitzie Collins was recently awarded the 2007 Artist Award by the Arts and Cultural Council of Rochester in recognition of her outstanding musical contributions to the Rochester community.. She received both her undergraduate and graduate degrees from the Eastman School of Music, and teaches world music and hammered dulcimer through the Eastman Community Music School. Recent travels have taken her to international dulcimer gatherings in China, Germany, England and Mexico. With her husband, Tom Bohrer, she founded Sampler Records Ltd, a small record label specializing in traditional music. Collins annually produces a concert of world music at Eastman's Kilbourn Hall, and produced the 20th and final Sampler Records' Annual Concert of Traditional Irish Music.

Roxanne Ziegler

Roxanne Ziegler, a graduate of Nazareth College, studied with Eileen Malone and with Lily Laskine in Paris. She teaches more than 30 students in her private studio and plays solo or with small ensembles for many weddings and celebrations. Ziegler is a music leader at Spiritus Christi Church and conducts a healing ministry of music at area hospitals and cancer centers. She has been featured as a soloist with the Genesee Valley Orchestra and Chorus and has produced two outstanding solo recordings "Romantic Favorites for Harp" and "Christmas Favorites for Harp". With Mitzie Collins she plays on the popular recording "St. Patrick's Day in the Morning: Music of Irish Inspiration."

Glenda Dove

Glenda Dove attended the Eastman School of Music where she studied with Joseph Mariano. She also attended the Royal College of Music in London, England, on full scholarship where she studied with John Francis and received an Associate Diploma. She currently teaches at the State University at Geneseo, Rochester Institute of Technology, and the Hochstein School of Music and Dance, where she has been a faculty member for 32 years. She performs with numerous Rochester groups, including the Rochester Chamber Orchestra, The Rochester Oratorio Society, the Gregory Kunde Chorale and the Equinox Symphony. She has traveled as a clinician, flute choir director and performer.

Messiah (continued)

This work has had an uncanny spiritual impact on the lives of its listeners and performers. One writer has stated that *Messiah's* music and message "has probably done more to convince thousands of mankind that there is a God about us than all the theological works ever written."

Handel died on April 14, 1759, only 8 days after his final performance in which he also conducted *Messiah*.

The *Hallelujah* chorus is the most well-known movement of the *Messiah*. One of Handel's servants is said to have come upon him directly after he had composed this portion, and heard him exclaim, "I did think I did see all Heaven before me, and the great God Himself!" It was at this point in the oratorio, during one of the early London performances, that King George II is said to have spontaneously rose to his feet in a spirit of exaltation. Audiences have traditionally repeated this practice ever since.

Messiah

G.F. Handel

The creation of *Messiah* was induced by Handel's librettist, Charles Jennens. Jennens wanted to create a Scriptural anthology set to music. He chose the text from the Old and New testaments of the King James Bible.

Handel composed *Messiah* in only twenty-four days. Part One was completed in six days, Part Two in nine days and Part Three in seven days. The orchestration took him only two days.

A friend who visited him while composing found him sobbing with intense emotions. Handel once said, "Whether I was in the body or out of my body when I wrote it I know not."

Messiah was originally intended as a thought provoking work for Easter and Lent, but has become more of a Christmastime tradition.

Messiah consists of three sections. The theme of part one focuses on paving the way for the Redeemer's coming as well as the descriptions of events of the nativity. Part two is about the passion, death and resurrection of Jesus. This section concludes with the *Hallelujah* Chorus. The third and final part set forth the spiritual messages of Christ's teachings for the instruction and benefit of all.

Messiah was premiered on April 13, 1742. Handel staged a public rehearsal the day of the premiere. So many people came for the rehearsal that hundreds of people had to be turned away.

After composing *Messiah*, Handel's notoriety increased dramatically. Haydn once said, "He is the master of us all." Handel conducted more than 30 performances of *Messiah*. Many of these concerts were benefits. One biographer noted "Messiah has fed the hungry, clothed the naked, fostered the orphan . . . more than any other single musical production in this or any country." Another wrote, "Perhaps the works of no other composer have so largely contributed to the relief of human suffering."

Barbara Galliford

Barbara Galliford, Soprano, a longstanding member of the Genesee Chorale, received her BA in Vocal Performance from SUNY Fredonia. She has sung in, and soloed with, numerous area vocal groups. These include the Genesee Chorale, the Opera Theatre of Rochester, the Greater Buffalo Opera, The festival Chorus of Buffalo and the Batavia First Presbyterian Church Choir.

Barabar has taught private voice and beginning piano for over thirty years, including three years at Genesee Community College. She has enjoyed performing in many Batavia Rotary shows, Western New York operas and at Artpark in Lewiston, New York.

Jennifer Neroni

Jennifer Neroni, mezzo-soprano, is in her second season with the Genesee Chorale. Originally from Lyndonville, Jennifer resides in Medina, NY. She is a vocal music teacher at Barker Central School and is the music director for the Lyndonville United Methodist Church. She has a degree in music education from Buffalo State College where she studied voice with Carolyn Jolley. She also attended Houghton College, where she was a student of Kelley Hijleh.

Jennifer is an avid performer of both classical music and musical theater. Her most recent solo works include Handel's *Messiah*, Brittan's *Rejoice in the Lamb*, Vivaldi's *Gloria*, and Scarlatti's *Il David*. She has performed recitals featuring the works of Scarlatti, Brahms, Ives, Saint Saëns, and Bernstein, to name a few. Jennifer was previously a soloist with Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, and has also performed numerous works with the Buffalo State Chorale and Chamber Singers, and the Houghton College Choir, Madrigal Singers, and Chamber Singers.

Jennifer also enjoys time on the theatrical stage and has participated in over thirty-five musical productions throughout Western New York. She has also served as vocal director in many productions and participated in numerous pit orchestras as a pianist and mallet percussionist.

SOPRANOS
 Christina Bakos
 Jessie Barth
 Ellie Cacner
 Marsha Coy
 Maureen DeGolyer
 Phyllis Draycott
 Diane Eldridge
 Cindy Evans
 Barbara Galliford
 Joy Hammond
 Susan Henglesberg
 Carol Hirsch
 Merry Lou Holley
 Evelyn Hutz
 Janis Keefe
 Millie Kujawski
 Susan McEvoy
 Lois Nicholson
 Diane Ohlson
 Barbara Pierce
 Janet Richardson
 Sarah Richardson
 Candace Robinson
 Beverly Rogers
 Peggy Royce
 Marjorie Shaw
 Monica Stocum
 Eileen Witheral

TENORS
 Ted Ashizawa
 Alan Barcomb
 Beth Boyce
 Anne Ortwein
 Nadine Pacynski

ALTOS
 Patti Bartz
 Sandra Brady
 Patty Drew
 Linda Fry
 Pat Fussell
 Carol Guppenberger
 Nancy Hoag
 Katrina Karas
 Joyce Kelly
 Elizabeth Murray
 Jennifer Neroni
 Sarah Petty
 Theresa Queal
 Elizabeth Ryan
 Ginny Tiede
 Lilo Townsend

BASSES
 Philip J. Briatico
 Ronald DeFazio
 Bob Holley
 Richard McNulty
 Arthur Munger
 Clarence Rogers
 R. Francis Thomas
 Tom Ven Vertloh

Mary Shivered

Gregory Hoepfner

This piece was created through the synergy of brothers. Gregory Hoepfner asked his brother, George, to write a poem for him because he wanted a text that could be used for a Christmas tune that depicted what the atmosphere might have been during the most holy night.

*Mary shivered in the glow of the candlelight.
 Aching, tired, she did strive to shut out the light.
 The room is crowded with sage men and strangers while without lie
 Herod's men and danger.
 Though Mary is denied the importance of this event,
 Still she is comforted by the baby who was heaven sent.
 Mary shivered in the wake of a dread premonition.
 What might happen to her child with this recognition.
 But in that moment her Jesus did smile and Mary's foreboding flees
 for the while.
 Then as the holy star descended, Mary slept.
 And then, not for the last time, Jesus wept.*

My Little Potato

Malcolm Dalglish

Malcolm Dalglish is a choral composer and director, hammer dulcimer, spoons, bones, and chin music virtuoso who presents programs of original folk choir and dulcimer music, stories, mime, rhyme, rhythm and song. Dalglish wrote *My Little Potato* for the birth of one of his children.

*You're my little potato, they dug you up,
 You come from underground!
 The world is big, so big, it's very big!
 To you, it's new, it's new to you!
 Let's talk about root crops (they dug you up),
 And lamb chops (they chew on you),
 And things to eat...like apples
 and cheese and 'nanas and cream,
 Jellies and butter, it's late at night, I hope this little bottle helps you
 go to sleep!
 They must have grown you wild,
 you make a grown man a child,
 I'll go and play in the mud
 to be with you my spud (potato).
 When you came out looking red as a beet,
 You had wrinkles on the bottoms of your feet!
 Oh, you are so sweet potato!
 You're my sweet potato, they dug you up!
 You come from underground!
 You smile, a smile, a little smile!
 The world is small, so small, it's very small!*

This Christmastide

Donald Fraser

Arranged by Donald Fraser, *This Christmastide* celebrates and rejoices in the birth of Jesus. The text tells of the joys of Christmas, including gently falling snow, the ringing of bells, and beautiful seasonal colors. The lyrics and music immerse listeners in the amazing qualities of Christmas.

Green and silver, red and gold

And a story born of old.

Truth and love and hope abide,

This Christmastide, this Christmastide.

Holly, ivy, mistletoe

And the gently falling snow.

From a simple ox's stall

Came the greatest gift of all.

Children sing of peace and joy

At the birth of one small boy.

Let the bells ring loud and clear,

Ring out now for all to hear:

Trumpets sound and voices raise

In an endless stream of praise.

Green and silver, red and gold

And a story born of old.

Select Carols

arr. John Rutter

The John Rutter Carols are thirteen of the finest and best-loved sacred carols and Christmas hymns in choral arrangements, which may be performed either separately or as a sequence. Five Christmas hymns are included in the thirteen, in arrangements for choir, congregation/audience, and organ or orchestra.

O Yule Full of Gladness

arr. Carolyn Jennings

This Norwegian Carol and Christmas anthem arranged by Carolyn Jennings is an upbeat and cheerful tune that celebrates the pure joy of Jesus' birth. The text invites listeners to join and merrily clap and sing because love and joy are born at Christmas.

O Holy Child

Michael Cox

Arranged for a men's choir, this fanfare celebrates the birth of Jesus Christ and the hope that He brought to the world. The words foreshadow his eventual death while celebrating His coming.

Festival Sanctus

John Leavitt

Syncopated rhythms and changing meters, combined with a lively piano accompaniment, make this piece a true delight for singers and listeners alike. A long-time favorite on the festival circuit, this dynamic and exciting selection is highly enjoyed by performers and audiences.

The Friendly Beasts

arr. Robert Scholz

An old English carol arranged by Robert Scholz, *The Friendly Beasts* tells the story of Jesus' birth from the perspective of the animals sharing the stable with Jesus and Mary. The donkey tells how he carried Mary to Bethlehem, while the cow and sheep tell of the bed they made for the Holy Child. This kind and gentle carol gives listeners a unique view of the special night Jesus was born.

Freedom is Coming

arr. Henry Leck

"Freedom is Coming" is a collection of songs of protest and praise from South Africa, published in the late 1980's. The music depicts the struggles and faith of the black people of this country. This music of oral tradition is open to freedom and interpretation. *Freedom is Coming* is an empowering piece that represents divine assurance and faith.

Long is Our Winter

William Ferris

This Advent round is a German melody arranged by William Ferris in the late 20th century. *Long is Our Winter* is one of the Christmas-themed pieces Ferris included on his *Snowcarols* album. The choral music on this album is challenging; the melodies are not familiar, although the religious themes certainly are, and the pieces tend to be introspective and melancholy.

A WINTER SOLSTICE

Festival Sanctus	John Leavitt
The Friendly Beasts	arr. Robert Scholz
Freedom Is Coming	arr. Henry H. Leck
This Christmastide (Jesse's Carol) <i>Featuring the Sampler Trio</i>	Donald Fraser
Long is Our Winter	arr. William Harris
O Yule Full of Gladness <i>Featuring the Sampler Trio</i>	arr. Carolyn Jennings
O Holy Child	Michael Cox
Mary Shivered <i>Featuring the Sampler Trio</i>	Gregory Hoepfner
Cold December Flies Away <i>The Sampler Trio</i>	arr. Cary Ratcliff
O Come, O Come Emmanuel On This Day Earth Shall Ring <i>The Sampler Trio</i>	
Lulaje Jesuniu <i>The Sampler Trio</i>	Traditional
My Little Potato	Malcolm Daglish arr. Carol Barnet

INTERMISSION

Selections from Messiah G.F. Handel
 And the Glory of the Lord
 And He Shall Purify
 Behold A Virgin Shall Conceive
 O Thou That Tellest Good Tidings to Zion
 For Unto Us a Child is Born
 There Were Shepherds Abiding in the Field
 And Lo! The Angel of the Lord Came Upon Them
 And the Angel Said Unto Them
 And Suddenly There Was with the Angel
 Glory to God
 Hallelujah
Barabara Galliford, Soprano
Jennifer Neroni, Mezzo-Soprano

Select Carols arr. John Rutter
 Angels From the Realms of Glory
 Good Christian Men, Rejoice
 Angel's Carol
 The First Nowell
 Hark! The Herald Angels Sing
Featuring The Sampler Trio