



Since 1970

A CAPPELLA

Newsletter of CAPPELLA CANTORUM

P. O. Box 714
ESSEX, CT. 06426

August 2014

From the Director

Cappella Cantorum's 45th anniversary season continues Sunday, Dec. 7, 3 pm. with a performance of Bach's *Magnificat* and Vivaldi's *Gloria* at St. Mark the Evangelist R.C. Church, 222 McVeagh Road, Westbrook. Composer Richard Wagner called the *Magnificat* "the most stupendous miracle in all music." The *Gloria* is Vivaldi's best known sacred work and is a hymn of praise and worship. Soloists will be Patricia Schuman and Heather Petrie, both of whom will perform an additional solo each. In the spirit of the season, the audience will be invited to sing Christmas carols with the chorus.

The Men's Chorus of Cappella Cantorum will perform Saturday, Sept. 13, 7:30 p.m. at Christ Episcopal Church, 11 Park St. Guilford. They will also perform Sunday, Sept. 14, 7:30 p.m. at the First Congregational Church, 2 Ferry Road, Old Lyme, and Sunday, Sept. 21, 3 p.m. at The Kate, Main Street, Old Saybrook. Tickets may be purchased at CappellaCantorum.org or at the door. For the concert at The Kate, tickets must be purchased at the door. Choose the venue closest to you and enjoy an evening of Broadway tunes, sea chanteys, spirituals and barbershop music.

The annual *Messiah* Sing-along or Listen sponsored by Cappella is set for Sunday, Dec. 21, 4 p.m. at The Kate on Main Street in Old Saybrook. Singers will rehearse at 3:30 p.m. Fee is \$10.

CAPPELLA CANTORUM

Barry B. Asch, Conductor
Deborah Lyon, Assistant Director

Bach's 'Magnificat' Vivaldi's 'Gloria'

with professional chamber orchestra

Patricia Schuman, soprano
Heather Petrie, contralto

*St. Mark the Evangelist R.C. Church
222 McVeagh Road, Westbrook*

Sunday, Dec. 7, 3 p.m.

*--Admission. \$25 in advance
\$28 at the door--*

*Tickets: visit CappellaCantorum.org,
see a Cappella member or buy at the door
(Students 12 and under free)*

Registration and first rehearsal for Bach's *Magnificat* and Vivaldi's *Gloria* will be Monday, Sept. 8, 7 p.m. at John Winthrop Middle School, Deep River. Late registration will be Sept. 15. No auditions are necessary. See page 3 for details, visit CappellaCantorum.org or call Barry Asch at 860-388-2871.

Top soloists will perform at Dec. 7 concert



Our soprano soloist for the Dec. 7 concert will be internationally known opera star **Patricia Schuman** of Essex. Miss Schuman began her career specializing in the Mozart repertoire, singing the role of Donna Elvira in *Don Giovanni* and Contessa Almaviva in *Le Nozze di Figaro* at the Metropolitan Opera in New York City with James Levine conducting. She sang the role of Ilia in Mozart's *Idomeneo* at La Scala and the Vienna State Opera and the role of Vitellia in Mozart's *La Clemenza di Tito* at the Salzburg Music Festival to much critical and popular acclaim.

In expanding her repertoire, Miss Schuman debuted the role of Alice Ford in Verdi's *Falstaff* at the Covent Garden, Rezia in Weber's *Oberon* at the Flemish Opera, the title role in Schumann's *Genoveva* with the Edinburgh Festival and Opera North, Blanche in Poulenc's *Les Dialogues des Carmelites* with Rome Opera and Seattle Opera, Madeleine in Strauss' *Capriccio in Toulouse*, and the Marschallin in *Der Rosenkavalier* at the Pittsburgh Opera. She has sung the Puccini roles of Liu in *Turandot* and Mimi in *La Boheme* in Zurich, the title role in Handel's *Agrippinain* in Cologne, the title role in Monteverdi's *L'incoronazione di Poppea* in Cologne and Bologna and the role of the Commander in the premiere of Philip Glass' *The Voyage* at the Metropolitan Opera.

In the last few years, Miss Schuman has concentrated on recital and chamber music. In 2013 she appeared with her husband, David Pittsinger, in recital at the Essex Winter Series. Following that she premiered a new oratorio, *Letter from Italy*, by Sarah Meneely-Kyder with the Greater Middletown Chorale. This summer she has been performing the role of Elvira Griffiths in Tobias Picker's opera, *An American Tragedy*, at the Glimmerglass Festival.



Hailed as a "a true contralto with a big, deep, resonant projection that can fill a hall," **Heather Petrie** is becoming a familiar voice throughout the Northeast.

This season's highlights include Bach's *Mass in B Minor* with Sacred Music in a Sacred Space, Bach's *Magnificat* and Vivaldi's *Gloria* with Cappella Cantorum, and debuting the role of Ocatvian in Strauss' *Der Rosenkavalier* with the Connecticut Lyric Opera, with whom she performs regularly. As the alto soloist in the Verdi *Requiem* with Connecticut Virtuosi Orchestra, she was hailed as "the vocal star of the performance."

She returned last season to debut the role of Mary in Wagner's *der Fliegende Hollander* and was also soloist in Szymanowski's *Stabat Mater*. In Manhattan she performs frequently with Musica Sacra, the choir of St. Ignatius Loyola and Voices of Ascension. This past spring she made her Carnegie Hall debut with the American Symphony Orchestra as the also soloist in Ernst Block's *Israel Symphony*. At Symphony Space she has given performances of Suor Angelica (*La Zia Principessa*) and The Witch (*Hansel and Gretel*). Other opera roles include Larina in *Eugene Onegin*, Baba in *The Medium*, Miss Todd in the *Old Maid and the Thief*, Amalta in *L'incoronazione di Poppea* and Marcellina in *Le Nozze di Figaro*.

Heather is a founding member of the critically acclaimed eight-voice group Etherea Vocal Ensemble and is prominently featured on both of their recordings released by Delos. Delos honored the group by highlighting them on their *40 Tracks for 40 Years* anniversary release. Etherea made their Carnegie Hall debut on June 22 with harpist Grace Cloutier.

Registration and score reservations now on-line

The new Cappella website offers registration on-line for choice of just the Bach *Magnificat* and Vivaldi *Gloria* autumn semester or for the full MasterWorks Chorus 45th season that includes the April performance of the Faure *Requiem*.

You may also make advance reservations for either or both of the scores you may need for the Bach *Magnificat* and Vivaldi *Gloria*. Your early reservation guarantees the score(s) will be held in your name and ready for the first rehearsal.

Registering in advance and reserving the scores you need will streamline activities on Monday, Sept. 8, starting at 7 p.m. or at the late registration on Sept. 15 (both at John Winthrop Middle School, Deep River).

- Registration for the Bach *Magnificat* and Vivaldi *Gloria* autumn semester is \$40.
- Registration for the full MasterWorks Chorus 45th season is \$75.
- Bach *Magnificat* score, G. Shirmer edition #2034, is \$6.
- Vivaldi *Gloria*, Cassella, vocal score, English, Machlis, is \$12.

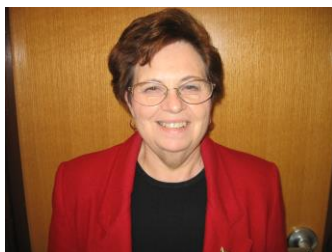
On-line registrations and score reservations may be made with VISA, MasterCard, Discover or American Express card or with your PayPal account. No on-line fees are charged.

Visit CappellaCantorum.org and click on the “Sing With Us,” tab “Upcoming Productions” or scan this QR Code right now with your tablet or smartphone. It really is just that easy!

Registrations will also be taken in person at the first and second rehearsals.



Notes from the president



I hope everyone has enjoyed this exceptional summer as much as I have. It has been such great weather for everything outdoors! By all accounts it also has been a great summer for SummerSings with attendance fairly good for most of the evenings. The Gospel Sing and the Hootenanny brought out people who had never come to a SummerSing before.

This has been a great year for Cappella Cantorum. Our 45th year included a performance at Avery Fisher Hall at Lincoln Center. The Men’s Chorus has performed to great audiences. Now we look forward to the Bach *Magnificat* and the Vivaldi *Gloria* planned for Dec. 7. We will sing in the acoustically resonant St. Mark the Evangelist R.C. Church in Westbrook. To make the first night of rehearsal easier, you can go to CappellaCantorum.org to register and pay for your music if you plan to buy the scores. Then, on Sept. 8, at 7 p.m. you can show up at John Winthrop Middle School, grab your music, and spend time catching up with old friends before rehearsal begins. By the way, our website has all the upcoming events through next spring as well.

Please spend some time on our new website. David Nelson and the Miranda Creative team have spent many hours loading and formatting all that you see there. This is a phenomenal leap forward for this organization. We have also almost filled our empty board positions. The summer has been a busy time for some of the executive board as we have been meeting to plan strategies for growing our audience as well as increasing our ad sales and sponsorships. You will hear more in September.

Myself and two other chorus members began planning our 45th Anniversary Celebration last spring. We had talked about scheduling it for August, but it seemed more convenient to hold the event in the fall. There will be more information coming soon on this event.

Let’s all enjoy the remaining days of August. I look forward to this next semester of rehearsals, fellowship and growth.

Sing On!!

- Claudia Epright



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Concert tours are this member's passion



Pat Hill has been involved with organizing Cappella concert tours since 1981 when she joined the tour committee. She became director of the committee in 1994 and has been working on creating picturesque, educational, and fun tours ever since. She is now planning Cappella's upcoming trip to Austria, Hungary and Germany for June 2015.

Pat became a member of Cappella in its first days of performing concerts, about 43 years ago when Cappella was under the presidency of Barry Brown. She started as a second soprano and later joined the alto section. She joined the group after being introduced to Cappella by member Joan Matz. Although her focus earlier had been on the theater, being a member of the Nutmeg Players for many years, she enjoyed singing with Cappella so much that she stayed on. She enjoyed the European concert tours Cappella took and has been to almost every European country as well as Turkey.

Pat writes, "the joy of singing together, the fun of traveling to new and beautiful places, the opportunities of singing with other choirs, these are part of what makes these concert tours so successful!. So many close friendships develop and so many wonderful memories remain with you. This is something that everyone should have the opportunity to experience."

Information on the 2015 tour will be available at rehearsals in September. The tour will include an evening cruise in Budapest and stops at Bratislava, Vienna, Graz and Salzburg and Munich. Concert venues, short tours into the Alps and several beautiful abbeys will be some of the highlights. Guest conductor will be Hallie Sorenson, and accompanist will be Anna Jedd .

For further information call Pat Hill at 203-314-7313 or 203-245-2887. Her e-mail address is phill2013mad@gmail.com