

S P R I N G 2 0 1 8

the Choruspondence

Memphis Symphony Chorus Newsletter

Recap of Fall 2017 Events

Magic of Memphis Holiday Spectacular



As always, the Holiday Pops concert was a big hit again this year. We performed two concerts at the Cannon Center and one "run out" concert at the Dyersburg Community College. The bus rides to Dyersburg and back are always a fun social event for the Chorus, and this year was no exception. We were also joined in this concert by 20 dancing Santas, nutcracker dancers, Sound Fuzion from the University of Memphis, and even the UofM Tiger mascot! Audiences were thrilled, and we had a blast! (continued on next page)

MSC Welcomes New Members

Joined August 2017

Soprano

Jennifer Jones

Alto

Katie Hoitt

Sarah Bennett

Janel Long

Aude Bonnot

Tenor

Tim Webster

Joined January 2018

Soprano

Anne Wynn

Leah Fringer

Suzanne Brockway

Alto

Bonnie Burgette

Taylor Hodge

Rosalyn Hurt

Tenor

Jeff Miller

Bass

Julian Jones

Mark Hodge



Save the date!

The MSC has three major concerts this spring, all conducted by Robert Moody. We are currently busy preparing for *Bernstein at 100*, to be performed March 3-4. This concert honors Leonard Bernstein, who would have been 100 this year. The MSC will be joined by the University of Memphis Singers and soloist Mary Boehlke-Wilson, as well as a boys' choir. The performance of the Kaddish Symphony will feature narration by Bernstein's own daughter, Jamie Bernstein.

Spring Concert Schedule:

Bernstein at 100

March 3 (Cannon Center)

March 4 (GPAC)

MLK 50th Anniversary

April 2 (Cannon Center)

Choral and Organ Spectacular –

Berlioz Te Deum

May 5 (Cannon Center)

May 6 (First Baptist Church of Memphis)

[Click here](#) for full schedule details.



Fall 2017 Recap (continued)

National Anthem Singing at Redbirds Game

Chorus members kicked off the season with a fun night out at the ballpark by singing the national anthem at a Memphis Redbirds Game in August. About 20 members participated and enjoyed a nice evening watching baseball together. Later during a rehearsal, we made a recording so that we now have an “audition tape” to submit as needed to give us more opportunities to sing the national anthem at other local sporting events.

Rehearsals

In addition to our preparation for the Holiday Pops Concert, the full chorus began rehearsing in the Fall for the *Bernstein at 100* concert, which is scheduled for March 3-4, 2018. It is unusual for us to begin rehearsal so early for any performance, but the music of Bernstein’s Third Symphony, the Kaddish, is extremely challenging. Hence, we began working on the Kaddish as well as the Chichester Psalms during our fall rehearsals. Our hard work will pay off soon, as the Bernstein concert is fast approaching!



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Handel’s *Messiah*

Auditions were held in September 2017 to select a 32-member chamber chorus from the MSC to perform Handel’s *Messiah*. Soloists Margaret Carpenter Haigh (soprano), Mikah Meyer (alto), Jonathan Blalock (tenor), and Troy Cook (bass) joined the Memphis Symphony Orchestra, the Chamber Chorus, and Conductor Robert Moody for this performance at the Lindenwood Christian Church on December 19th and 20th. This beautiful concert was very well attended and is expected to become a yearly event.





Music expresses that which cannot be said and on which it is impossible to be silent.

Victor Hugo



Christmas Caroling at Memphis Zoo Lights

The Memphis Zoo invited the MSC to sing Christmas carols at their annual Zoo Lights event this year. Although the first night we had scheduled was rained out, a small group of 10 carolers participated the following evening. Zoo Lights guests enjoyed hearing us on that very chilly December night, and we were treated to hot chocolate and a nice trolley ride through the zoo to enjoy the beautiful light displays. Such a fun holiday event!

Chamber Chorus Helps Jazz Up Purcell's *Sound the Trumpet*

Memphis Symphony Chamber Chorus members participated in a small part of the Bach Brandenburg concerts in January at the Cannon Center, the University of Memphis Harris Concert Hall, and GPAC. During the performance of Henry Purcell's *Sound the Trumpet*, soloists and musicians broke into an improvised jazz riff, which culminated with chorus members joining in song and dance to enhance the revelry. This comedic addition to the very proper classical piece took the audience by surprise and enhanced the performance by adding a fitting Memphis vibe!



Fundraising

Yearly fundraising activities enable the Memphis Symphony Chorus to operate without any funds from the Symphony or (apart from the attire) from our own pockets. This year the Symphony Office offered a new fundraising opportunity by asking the Chorus to assist them in selling tickets for the Messiah Concerts and then giving the Chorus 35% of the cost of each ticket sold. The result was successful in benefitting the Chorus financially and in helping the Symphony to fill the concert venue. Thanks to everyone who made calls to sell tickets!



“Words make you think a thought.
Music makes you feel a feeling.
A song makes you feel a thought.”
-E. Y. (Yip) Harburg

Our fearless leaders

Artistic Director

Larry Edwards

Accompanist

Liz Parsons

MSC Board of Directors

Lisa Mendel (President)

Steve Alsobrook

Alicia Butler

Pam Gold

Anita Hester

Jim McClanahan

Cindy McCool

Sharon McDonough

Alexi Nikonovich-Kahn

Matt Perry

Eugene Reyneke

Jack Seubert

Cindy Armistead White

Jackie White

Al Whitney



In memoriam

We were very saddened to lose two former chorus members recently.

- Nancy Allen (2017)
- Lydia Gibson (2018)

We extend sincere condolences to those among us who have lost loved ones this year.

- Don Fox (husband of chorus member Claire Fox)
- Phillip Lotz (father of chorus member Anita Lotz)
- Ralph Moody (father of Memphis Symphony Music Director, Robert Moody)