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Choruspondence

Memphis Symphony Chorus



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Martha Wesson, editor
Ginny Vann, associate editor

Symphony Announces New Conductor

Mei-Ann Chen Appointed Fourth Music Director of the Memphis Symphony Orchestra

Memphis, TN -- The Memphis Orchestral Society announces the appointment of Mei-Ann Chen as the fourth music director of the Memphis Symphony Orchestra. Selected by a twelve-member search committee comprised of MSO musicians, board members and community leaders, Ms. Chen's appointment was also unanimously approved by the orchestra's Board of Directors.



Regarded as a rising star among young conductors, Ms. Chen will begin a three-year contract with the MSO effective with the 2010-2011 season. During her inaugural season, Chen will conduct ten weeks of concerts as a part of all of the MSO series including the First Tennessee Masterworks Series, the Memphis Symphony Pops, and the Paul & Linnea Bert Chamber Series. She will conduct twelve weeks in each of the remaining two years of her initial contract.

"We could not be more elated to have such a renowned conductor join our great orchestra and community," said **Michael D. Uiberall**, Chairman of the Memphis Symphony Board of Directors. "We look forward to her leadership and infectious enthusiasm toward music making."

"The musicians of the Memphis Symphony Orchestra are thrilled with the announcement of Mei-Ann Chen as our next music director," said **Susanna Perry Gilmore**, concertmaster of the MSO. "We look forward to working with Mei-Ann as she brings an exciting combination of artistry, energy, leadership, and vision to Memphis which will help the orchestra grow on many levels."

"I am thrilled to have the opportunity to lead the Memphis Symphony Orchestra as its next music director," comments **Mei-Ann Chen**. "I see my time in Memphis as a terrific opportunity to contribute to the cultural life of the orchestra and to the greater community. Together, the orchestra and I will introduce new ideas and exciting music that will inspire and engage all who come in contact with this wonderful orchestra."





Annual Meeting:

The annual meeting of the chorus will be held on March 22 during rehearsal. At that time we will hold elections for five open positions on the board. Nominations are now open for these positions. You may nominate yourself or someone else whom you feel would be an asset on the board. It's usually best to ask the potential nominee if they would consider serving on the board or you can suggest someone to a board member and they will contact them. We are looking for members who are enthusiastic about chorus and want to see our organization moving forward in our pursuit of artistic excellence. You must have been a chorus member for one year before you are eligible to serve. Please see Lisa Mendel with your nominations.

Successful Fruit Sale!

Thanks to the hard work and commitment of all our members, we had another profitable fruit sale this season. The monies from this fundraiser are the only source of income we have and it enables us to operate independently as an organization.



For example our latest expenditure was a conductor's podium for Larry in honor of Joe Hester. Our total profit is about \$6,000. A special thanks to Bill and Linda for all they do each year to make this a successful project. Also thanks to our incentives committee for the great rewards for our sales efforts. Everyone gets a big pat on the back!!! Extra fruit was donated this year to East Arkansas Youth Services. Executive Director Madelyn P. Keith sent her sincere appreciation for the donation.

Newest Chorus Member!



Chorus member Karen Springer and her husband, John welcomed their first child John Patrick "JP" Springer on January 22, 2010 at 6:14pm. JP weighed 7lbs 14oz and was measured at 20 inches in length. No word yet on whether he's a tenor or a bass. Mother and child are at home and doing wonderfully! In fact, Karen came to rehearsal on February 1, less than two weeks after giving birth. We all in the Memphis Symphony Chorus would like to express our congratulations to Karen and John for their brand new bundle of joy!!!!





Welcome New Members!

A big round of applause for all our new singers this season for the Mozart Requiem! You are members of the largest group of new Symphony Chorus vocalists. We know this is just the beginning for our group expansion "en masse"! We hope you are "feeling the love" from the new friends you are making each Monday, and getting all the help you may find that you need. Remember, you wouldn't be here if Larry had not felt that you could contribute artistically to the Chorus. Hang tough and find your buddy if you need anything at all...or Jackie White (alto) if that person is not available.

Mozart's Requiem English translation is on MSC Web Page



Sopranos	Altos	Tenors	Basses
Mathilda Doorley	Cindy Armistead	John Paul Abbot	David Patterson
Shay Kearney	Andrea Hand	Matt Vrabel	Ryan Johnson
	Kim Eggert	Rod Vester	Wes Kirkpatrick
	Tracy Mims		David Orland
	Paula Witek		Jack Seubert
	Sarah Walbum		

Important! Rehearsal and Performance Schedule

- **3/01/10 7:00** Rehearsal
Parts I, II, and III
- **3/08/10** **No Rehearsal**
- **3/15/10 7:00** Rehearsal
Parts IV - VIII
- **3/22/10 7:00** Rehearsal
Entire piece
- **3/29/10 7:00** Rehearsal
Entire piece
- **4/05/10 7:00** **REQUIRED** Rehearsal
Conductor / Piano Rehearsal
- **4/06/10 7:00** Rehearsal
Make-up
- **4/08/10 7:00** **REQUIRED** Cannon Center
Rehearsal
- **4/09/10 7:00** **REQUIRED** Cannon Center
Rehearsal
- **4/10/10 7:30** **REQUIRED** Cannon Center Call
- **4/11/10 1:45** **REQUIRED** GPAC Call
- **4/11/10 5:00** Larry and Shane's Soiree





Remembering Joe Hester



The Memphis Symphony Chorus family has lost one of its most devoted core members. Joe Hester served us faithfully for over a decade, and was always willing to lend a hand, an ear, or a smile wherever needed. Whether at rehearsals, performances, or fruit sale activities, Joe and his infectious laughter were there without fail! As a fellow Tenor I, I had the great pleasure of sitting next to him at most rehearsals and performances. At times we may have joked around and laughed a bit too much during rehearsals (much to the chagrin of our fearless director!!), but those times are now priceless to me, and I would not trade them for anything in the world. Joe's life was far too short for many of us to bear, but his time here was enough to touch countless lives through his voice and his loving personality. I truly consider myself fortunate and blessed to count Joe Hester as one of my dearest friends. We certainly miss him!

- by Matt Lott

The MSO and MSC performance of Mozart's Requiem has been dedicated to Joe and an empty chair will be placed on stage in remembrance of Joe.

Philippians 2:3-5 is one of my favorite scriptures in the Bible. So much so that I tag it on my signature block on all my correspondence. The Apostle Paul speaks of being humble in all that we do and giving more honor to others than to ourselves. In verse five he says we must think and act like Christ. But before that in verse four he says, "Do not be interested only in your own life, but be interested in the lives of others." I wish I could say I lived that scripture like I should. I know someone who did though—JOE HESTER.

It took Joe's untimely passing for me to learn a lot about his life. I didn't do a good job of living verse four being interested in Joe's life. And Joe did a great job of epitomizing verse three living humbly and honoring others more than himself. And thinking and acting like Christ in all that he did. Oh, Joe and I talked every week, most every rehearsal for the last 13 years. He would always come in to rehearsal, usually holding hands with Anita, sharing joy with everyone he talked to. If there was a celebration or birthday cake to be served, Joe was there helping Anita. You couldn't help being in a good mood after talking to Joe. But too often I was too busy taking care of my duties as an officer to take the time to really talk to Joe, to really get to know him. To know that he and Anita were high school sweethearts. To know where Joe worked and what he did for a living. To know about all the great things he did as a singer outside of the MSC. To know that we had mutual friends in high school by virtue of where Joe went to church. That he and I might have crossed paths in our teenage years without even knowing it. Joe has left us now and I miss him a lot. He was like an anchor in the Tenor section. It will be hard to replace the richness of his voice. The rest of us tenors have a big job ahead of us to sing for both ourselves and for Joe. But we'll do it and I have the feeling that Joe will shine down on us and help us out. Joe was a kind and generous man, a devoted husband, and as I've learned, he served and honored his Lord and his fellow man all his life. My prayer is that we will honor Joe's life by living our lives in the same manner.

- by David Spear

