Mozart’s Requiem, and Handel’s “Hallelujah” Chorus Highlight Fall Season

This fall, the festival choir and concert choir will perform some of the best choral music ever written. Our oldest children, the members of the concert choir (ages 13-18), have been working on Mozart’s Requiem since last spring, when they learned and fell in love with the “Dies Irae” and “Lacrimosa” movements. During the summer, we worked intensely on “Rex Tremendae,” “Confutatis,” and the complete “Offertory.” On November 18, we will perform the entire Requiem with the Swarthmore College Chorus and Orchestra.

The choristers love the rhythmic power and musical representation of the flames of hell in the “Confutatis;” they are moved by the expressive sequences and the final cries for pity in the “Dies Irae.” They are also inspired by the extraordinary harmony counterpoint, despite their occasional frustration with the level of difficulty.

Learning the Requiem has been a profound experience for them, and after 20 years, I still marvel at its beauty and power and find myself continually surprised and impressed by young people’s response to the work. The chorus members have grown musically because they are learning and mastering, as I often say, the greatest 40 minutes of classical music ever written.

More importantly, the children have grown as active chorus volunteers. They have written and performed their own work, and they have shown a deep love for the work we do. The Requiem is a testament to their tireless efforts. During her tenure, Andrea created the reading program that the chorus now uses to prepare for the work. Andrea with the framed manuscript. The chorus is pleased to honor her as a testament to her tireless efforts. During her tenure, Andrea created the reading program that the chorus now uses to prepare for the work.

Autumn Ushers in Leadership Changes

The chorus honored Andrea Knox’s 11 years of administrative leadership at the July concert events. John Alston has been elected to a first term of board service for the chorus. Phil is a partner at Duane Morris LLP in Philadelphia. He practices in the area of healthcare law and litigation. The board thanks Susan Brake for her four years of service. Ms. Brake will remain an active chorus volunteer.

Kirsten Halker-Kratz has been elected to a first term of board service for the chorus. Kirsten brings impressive nonprofit management credentials from her 12 years at Settlement Music School in Philadelphia, in addition to her background in music performance and education. She was director of the West Philadelphia branch, manager of individual giving, and most recently manager of executive affairs at Settlement.

The chorus is pleased to welcome Kirsten Halker-Kratz as its new executive director. Kirsten brings impressive nonprofit management credentials from her 12 years at Settlement Music School in Philadelphia, in addition to her background in music performance and education. She was director of the West Philadelphia branch, manager of individual giving, and most recently manager of executive affairs at Settlement.

I am pleased to make a contribution to the Chester Children’s Chorus in the amount of $___________.

Please mail to: Chester Children’s Chorus, Swarthmore College, 500 College Avenue, Swarthmore PA 19081

Thank you!
THE FESTIVAL CHOIR (AGES 11–12) WILL BE JOINING THE OLDER CHORISTERS IN THEIR FIRST EXPERIENCE WITH HANDEL’S “HALLELUJAH” CHORUS. THESE YOUNGER CHILDREN ARE ENTHUSIASTICALLY LEARNING THIS MOST FAMOUS PIECE OF CLASSICAL MUSIC, OFTEN DEMANDING TO SING IT AGAIN. A VERY FEW MEASURES ARE JUST BEYOND THEIR Facility, BUT MOST OF THE MUSIC IS WELL WITHIN THEIR GRASP AND ABILITY TO UNDERSTAND AND APPRECIATE. THEY ARE THRILLED TO BE LEARNING SUCH A POWERFUL AND IMPORTANT PIECE AND ARE WILDLY EXCITED TO PERFORM IT IN DECEMBER. WE HOPE THAT YOU WILL BE ABLE TO JOIN US FOR ANY ONE OF THESE MUSICAL CELEBRATIONS.

S T U D E N T S P O T L I G H T S

- **Darrin Wood**, a 9th-grader at Episcopal Academy attended a five-week music camp at the Walden School’s Young Musicians Program in Dublin, N.H. He is also a junior varsity quarterback this fall.
- **Demiah Jones**, a 9th-grader at The Christian Academy attended a two-week agriculture discovery program at the University of Maryland.
- Congratulations to our 2012 high-school graduates **Bruce Blanding** and **Asr McCready**.

**Fall Highlights … continued**

people—knowing they have persevered and risen to the challenge of learning a difficult cultural monument—and have enriched themselves with a profound work of art.

The festival choir (ages 11–12) will be joining the older choristers in their first experience with Handel’s “Hallelujah” Chorus. These younger children are enthusiastically learning this most famous piece of classical music, often demanding to sing it again. A very few measures are just beyond their facility, but most of the music is well within their grasp and ability to understand and appreciate. They are thrilled to be learning such a powerful and important piece and are wildly excited to perform it in December. We hope that you will be able to join us for any one of these musical celebrations.