

Choral Activities at MSU

Fall 2012

Dear MSU Choral Conducting Alum,

Welcome to our annual choral newsletter—our yearly reminder that you are still a part of the MSU choral family and an opportunity for you to find out what's happening with your fellow Spartan choral alums.

We have a strong group of new and continuing graduate students in choral conducting. We have three new DMA students, each with previous MSU connections. **Randi Bolding** received her undergraduate degree from MSU, then taught in Texas and did her master's work at the University of Texas-Austin. **Meredith Bowen** holds a bachelor's degree from West Chester University in Pennsylvania and an MM in choral conducting from MSU. Since her master's work, she has taught at Lansing Community College and served as music director of the Battle Creek Girls Chorus and Community Chorus. She is also the long-time director of Sistrum, Lansing's Women's Chorus, and has just begun duties as music

director of the Holland Chorale. **Brandon Ulrich** was an instrumentalist during his undergraduate study at MSU. He went on to receive a master's degree in wind conducting from Southern Oregon University. He has taught at Stony Creek High School in Rochester Hills since 2002, where he serves as director of choirs.

Our new master's student is **Melissa Arnold**, who has taught in Virginia, South Carolina, Beijing, and Santo Domingo in the Dominican Republic. She holds a MEd degree in curriculum and instruction from Columbia International University.

Our summer master's program continues to attract students from Michigan as well as other parts of the country. This summer we welcomed three new students: **Melissa Arnold**, mentioned above; **Tami Grove**, a graduate from MSU who teaches at Traverse City Central High School, and **Molly Khatcheressian**, a graduate of the University of Central Florida and the Kodály Institute of the Liszt Academy in Hungary, who teaches in Fairfax, Virginia.

In our continuing effort to save paper and minimize printing costs, we are not including a schedule of vocal-choral events for the 2012-13 season with this mailing. You can find those performances on the College of Music website (<http://music.msu.edu/event-listing/>). Or, upon request (rayld@msu.edu), I will mail you a PDF of the schedule. It's an amazing list and serves as a reminder of the many fantastic performance opportunities that are available at the MSU College of Music.

The most exciting news from campus is the complete renovation of the Music Auditorium, now called Cook Recital Hall, which opened in early October as a state-of-the-art recital hall. And, just as exciting, Fairchild Auditorium is undergoing a complete (\$18,000,000!) renovation and will open in Fall 2013 as the College of Music's primary performance space. These two new facilities additions are significant steps in moving the college forward.



Performance Highlights

On Saturday, **November 10**, the MSU Choral Union, University Chorale, and State Singers will join the Lansing Symphony Orchestra, under the baton of David Rayl, for a program that includes Haydn's Symphony No. 104 and Brahms's Ein deutsches Requiem. On Saturday, **December 1**, Chorale and State Singers, along with the MSU Children's Choir and faculty and students of the college, will join forces with the MSU Symphony Orchestra, under the baton of Sandra Snow, for **MSU's Home for the Holidays**. This year's concert will use Act II of Strauss's *Die Fledermaus* as the "frame" for an evening of seasonal music for the entire family.

On Sunday, **April 14**, the University Chorale and members of the Lansing Symphony Orchestra will perform Monteverdi's spectacular 1610 Vespers in the beautiful St. Mary Cathedral in Lansing. The academic year concludes on Saturday, **April 27**, when the combined forces of the Choral Union, Chorale, and State Singers join the MSU Symphony Orchestra, under the baton of Jonathan Reed, to perform Villa-Lobos's Magnificat-Alleluia and Haydn's Harmoniemesse.



ACDA National Convention

I hope you will be able to attend the ACDA National Conference in Dallas, **March 13-16, 2013**. There **WILL** be an MSU reception but details are not available at this time. We will let you know and we will **EXPECT** you to stop by!!!

Helen Bartlett Fellowship in Choral Music Established

Dr. Dale Bartlett, retired College of Music faculty member, MSU alum (BM '55; MM '56) and current conductor of the Lansing Arts Chorale, endowed a fellowship in memory of his late wife Helen, who was a longtime member of the Choral Union. This year's recipient is master's student Dwight Jilek. Thank you, Dale!

Robert Harris Fellowship

Dr. Robert Harris, recently retired director of choral organizations at Northwestern University, a Michigan State alumnus (PhD '71), and former MSU director of choral activities, continues to fund the Robert A. Harris Award for Excellence in Choral Performance to be given annually to an outstanding choral musician. This year's recipient is master's student Kyle Zeuch. Thank you, Bob!

Smith Fellowship Recipient

The Charles K. Smith Endowed Fellowship in Choral Conducting, created upon Smith's retirement in 2002 by members of the MSU Choral Society, is now fully endowed and provides important financial help to graduate students in choral conducting. This year's recipient is doctoral student Meredith Bowen. Thank you to the many donors who have contributed to this endowment over the years!

Guest Clinicians

Lynda Hasseler, MM '87, DMA '90, will be our guest for the Choral Invitational on **October 22**, where she will work with eight high school choirs from around the state. She will spend the following day working with our ensembles and graduate and undergraduate conducting students. Dr. Hasseler is director of choral activities at Capitol University.

David Puderbaugh, assistant director of choral activities at the University of Iowa, will be on campus **March 28** to work with our graduate students. His appearance will be funded by the Paul and Martha Niland Endowed Lectureship in Choral Music to Honor Charles K. Smith. He spent a year in Estonia as a Fulbright Scholar in 2005-06 and is particularly noted for his work on Estonian choral music.

Choral Society News

The Choral Society celebrates its 25th anniversary on Sunday, **November 4** with a reception at Cowles House on the MSU campus. Special guests will be the founding

members of Choral Society and their families. If you are interested in attending, please contact me at rayld@msu.edu.

The Choral Society will again sponsor a “sing along” Messiah on Sunday, **December 9**, at Edgewood United Church in East Lansing featuring student soloists. This annual event has been well attended and enthusiastically received in recent years.

Through its dues and fundraising activities the Choral Society provides scholarship assistance to graduate students in choral conducting. This year, the society provides assistance for MM students Kyle Zeuch and Dwight Jilek.

Keeping Up with MSU Alumni

This section of the newsletter is intended to help you keep up with the careers of our MSU choral alumni. It's a VERY impressive list of accomplishments and demonstrates that our graduates are leaders in our profession. The list is obviously incomplete, so please contact me if you've recently changed jobs or want to share some aspect of your professional life with our alums.

- Maggie Blair completed her MM degree this past summer and has begun doctoral studies in choral conducting at the University of Kentucky.
- Megan Boyd completed her MM degree last spring and will begin DMA study here at MSU in Fall 2013.
- Andrew Crane, DMA '05, led the Chamber Choir of East Carolina University in a performance for the North Carolina State ACDA Conference this fall. He continues to sing with the Santa Fe Desert Chorale and other professional choruses around the country as well as appearing as vocal soloist with orchestra.
- Jerry Custer completed his DMA in summer 2012. He is the co-author of *The Composer's Craft: A Practical Guide for Students and Teachers*, to be published by GIA Publications in spring 2013. He continues on the faculty at Wayne State University.
- Clint Desmond, DMA '09, received Dakota Wesleyan University's Presidential Award for Outstanding Service in recognition of the impact he has made on DWU and the music community of Mitchell, North Dakota.
- Jeff Faux completed his MM this past summer. He continues as director of Sacred Arts at First Presbyterian Church, Bonita Springs, Florida, and as artistic director of the Ft. Myers Symphonic Mastersingers.
- Sarah Graham, DMA '05, has joined the music faculty at Kaskaskia College in Centralia, Illinois.
- Trey Jacobs, DMA ABD, has been appointed artistic director of the Turtle Creek Chorale in Dallas.
- Michael Hanawalt, MM '09, has been appointed assistant professor of choral music at Wichita State University. He recently completed his PhD degree in choral music at Florida State University.
- Ben Henri completed his MM degree this past summer. He continues as vocal music director at Grosse Pointe North High School in Grosse Pointe, Michigan.
- Zeb Highben completed his DMA in spring 2012 and has been appointed director of choral activities at Muskingum University in Ohio. Last fall the *Choral Journal* published his article on Tchaikovsky's Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom.
- David Howard, DMA '08, has had an article on the choral commissions of the Reverend Walter Hussey accepted by the *Choral Journal* and two madrigals of Salamone Rossi published by Alliance Publications. He continues on the faculty at Stephen F. Austin University.
- Phil Johnson, MM '07, has accepted a position as director of choirs at Brighton (Michigan) High School.

Keeping Up with MSU Alumni (continued)

- Ryan Kelly completed his DMA in spring 2012 and has been appointed assistant professor of choral music at West Chester University in Pennsylvania. Several of his articles have appeared in the *Choral Journal* over the past year. He will appear at the Louisiana State ACDA Conference and at the Texas Music Education Association conference during the coming year.
- Kelly Miller, DMA '10, has been named coordinator of music education at the University of Central Florida in Orlando.
- Jonathan Palant, DMA '07, is completing a book on men's choirs to be published by Hal Leonard. He will serve as the interim director of choral activities at the University of Western Kentucky during spring semester.
- Chris Redfearn, MM '04, has been named director of choral activities at Valley City State University in North Dakota. He recently completed the Doctor of Arts in Choral Conducting at the University of Northern Colorado.
- Eric Rubinstein completed his MM degree this past summer. He continues as vocal music director at Westhampton Beach High School on Long Island, New York.
- Daniel Singer, MM '11, has been named assistant director of the Cleveland Orchestra Youth Chorus in addition to his responsibilities as vocal music and orchestra director at the University School in Cleveland.
- Garth Starr completed his MM degree in summer 2012. He continues as vocal music director at Lapeer East High School and conductor of the Lapeer County Concert Choir.
- Joel Tranquilla, DMA student, is the recipient of the Sir Ernest MacMillan Memorial Foundation Award. This is Canada's most prestigious award for advanced music study.
- Christopher Thompson, MM '08, has been named music department chair at Stone Ridge School of the Sacred Heart in Bethesda, Maryland.
- Brent Wells, DMA '07, performed with the Santa Fe Desert Chorale this past season. He continues as director of choral activities at the College of Idaho.
- Kristin Zaryski, MM '09, has joined the faculty at Kinewa Middle School in Okemos, Michigan.

