

Notes from Voices in Harmony

The Newsletter of a Premier Community Choir

An Affiliate of the Crystal Lake Park District

Volume 23, Issue 1

November 2009

Twenty-Third Year of Excellence in Choral Music!

Meet NCMA and the Northwest Community Youth Choir

Northwest Community Music Academy in McHenry County is dedicated to serving youth and adults interested in creating great music and having fun. At NCMA our goal is to cultivate the innate musical abilities within each individual in a welcoming, non-discriminatory environment and to foster a community which appreciates and supports all who learn and serve here.

The Northwest Community Youth Choir is NCMA's comprehensive choral program for children age seven through eighteen. Membership is based on a placement audition, a desire to learn and a love for singing. Artistic Director/conductor, Ann Tucker and conductors, Kim Scherrer and Karen Snodgrass are leaders of the choir program and have extensive experience with children and youth choirs. Students in the choir come from all over McHenry County and surrounding areas. The Encore Choir, our touring choir, has performed at St. Francis of Assisi Cathedral and St. Peter's Basilica in Italy as well as in New York City's Carnegie Hall as part of the National Children's Choir Festival Chorus. In June 2010, they will travel to England and perform in such places as Wells Cathedral and Bath Abbey.

NCMA also offers a **summer musical theater program** for youth age 12 through 23 which has produced fantastic shows such as *Guys and Dolls*, *Into the Woods*, and *Les Miserables*. Young children from birth through age seven are also welcome into our **Family Music, Music on My Own** and **I Can Sing** music classes. **Group guitar** and **private instruction in piano, organ, flute, voice and Suzuki violin** are offered. Our **Group Piano Recreational Music Making class** is our first offering designed specifically for adults and features a low-stress environment in which older students can enjoy music making without pressure of performance or mastery. We are very pleased to be a part of McHenry County's vital community music culture and privileged to pursue our belief in Music for Life.

Voices
in Harmony and Northwest Community Youth Choirs
Present

YOUTH AND EXPERIENCE: COMMUNITY

**Sunday,
November 15, 2009
4:00 PM**

The Raue Center for the Arts
26 Williams Street, Crystal Lake

Tickets

Adults \$18 • Students & Seniors \$15
Children Under 12 Free With Paying Adult
Group Rates Available for Groups of 10 or More

Tickets Available at the Raue Center Box Office
815-356-9212 and www.RaueCenter.org



This concert is funded in part by a grant from the Illinois Arts Council

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www.voices-in-harmony.org



From the Podium

Steven Szalaj, Artistic Director

The joyful sound of youth and the resonant musicianship of maturity will be joined in a choral celebration of these community pillars. On Sunday, November 15, 4:00 PM at the Raue Center, YOUTH and EXPERIENCE: COMMUNITY brings together the Northwest Community Youth Choirs (NCYC) and Voices in Harmony (VIH) for their first combined program.

The concert will feature performances by the four ensembles in NCYC and VIH, as well as six pieces with all five choirs – over 130 singers in all! (For more information about NCYC and its parent organization, the Northwest Community Music Academy, please see the front page article). There will be a widely diverse selection of music performed, allowing the listener to enjoy many wonderful contrasts of sound and expression. From great choral classics to beautiful ballads, from lively folk song settings to newly composed expressions of meaningful – and fun – texts, there will be something for everyone.

It is a pleasure to work together with NCMA’s Artistic Director, Ann Tucker, the Executive Director, Cynara Pierzina, and associate directors Kimberly Scherrer and Karen Snodgrass. These folks have a heart for children in music, and a desire to provide the best.

VIH continues to grow! We have many new members this year. Our singers continue to give unselfishly of their time and talent to make VIH one of the artistic gems of our community.

Join us for this wonderful expression of **Youth and Experience: Community!**

Youth and Experience: Community

NCYC and VIH:

- Welcome, Welcome, Every Guest** Southern Harmony, 1835
 - Now I Walk in Beauty** Navajo Prayer, music by Gregg Smith
 - “Laughing Song” from Two Blake Songs** Text by William Blake
Music by David Dickau
 - Sweet Chariot** Traditional Spiritual, arr. Ken Berg
- ARIA and BELLA VOCE (NCYChoirs)
- Fairest Lady** Nick Page
 - Scales and Arpeggios** Richard M. and Robert B. Sherman
Arr. by Audrey Snyder

VOICES IN HARMONY

- I Am In Need of Music** David Brunner
- The Best of Rooms** Randall Thompson
- Alleluia** Randall Thompson

CANTABILE (an NCYChoir)

- Two Native American Songs** arr. Barbara Sletto
- I. Ancient Mother II. The Earth is Our Mother

- Get On Board** Traditional Spiritual, arr. Caldwell and Ivory
- INTERMISSION

DI CANTO (an NCYChoir)

- In Flanders Fields** John Jacobson and Roger Emerson
- Salmo 150** Ernani Aguiar

VOICES IN HARMONY

- The Prayer of St. Francis** René Clausen
- Homeland** Z. Randall Stroope
- One Voice** Daniel E. Gawthrop

VIH and NCYC

- Gift of Music** John Rutter
- O Sifuni Mungu** McCall, Maddux, Mwenebulongo and Mukalay
arr. David Maddux

NEW MEMBERS!!

A hearty welcome aboard to our new choir members joining **VIH** this fall:

- Soprano** - Sarah Chung, Heather Gates
Nicole Perry, Rachel Roddy
Christine Rehayem, Lauren Stoeck
Jessica Jeffries
- Alto** - Erin Burns, Michelle Linner
Stephanie Marchionda
- Bass** - Andy McKay, Peter Ptak
James Gritschke

Additional new members are welcome to join us in November when we begin rehearsals for our Messiah concert. For more information contact Monica Szalaj at 815-455-4879 or mszalaj@earthlink.net.



Voices in Harmony is funded in part by a grant from the Illinois Arts Council

From the President’s Corner

Jennifer Oberbillig

Greetings Everyone! Can you believe it’s FALL?! It is with great pleasure we launch into *Voices in Harmony’s* 23rd year. It’s a brand new year and it’s wonderful to be singing again. Our fall concert **Youth & Experience: Community** slated for performance on November 15th will feature our first collaborative concert with the Northwest Community Children’s Choir with director Ann Tucker, sponsored in part by Target. Our traditional **Sing-along Messiah** concert, my favorite, starts the holiday season this year on Dec 13th, and we have a beautiful and inspirational spring concert planned titled **Community: Neighbors of North and South** featuring the music of Canada and South America. As usual, we have hit the ground running with a dizzying array of activities. The board of directors hosted a social get-together encouraging all our new members and current members to mingle. The event was well attended with plenty of good eats. We are deep into our fundraising endeavors with continued success as the entire choir membership is engaged selling program ads with even our newest members
(Please see President on back page)

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not included at the time of this
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Voices in Harmony is a member of the Crystal Lake Chamber of Commerce

VOICES IN HARMONY

A Premier Community Choir

P.O. Box 1690

Crystal Lake, IL 60039-1690

President (continued from page 2)

embracing the challenge to sell at least 3 ads per member. Last year, we created our Fundraising Committee and in its first year, raised enough money to pay for our seated risers. A year of "firsts" for fundraising included creating an annual Wine Tasting event held at 1776 Restaurant, and selling candy from the South Bend Chocolate Company. This year, our goal is to increase our reserve funds so that we can eventually hire an assistant choir director, and a choir manager. We look forward to seeing each and every one of you in our audience this year as we embark upon this year's choral performance journey.

Save the Date

Wine Tasting Fundraiser

Sunday April 11, 2010 3:00 ~ 5:00 pm

At the Raue Center for the Arts

Come join us for VIH's second annual wine tasting fundraiser

Several wine vendors with a variety of wines

Sponsored once again by our long-time, loyal supporters at

1776 Restaurant

Watch for more information

Save the Date

Voices in Harmony

2009 – 2010 Concert Season

Raue Center for the Arts

Youth and Experience: Community

November 15, 2009 4:00 pm

Voices in Harmony and the **Northwest Community Youth Choirs** are uniting for a celebration of community choral music for all ages. Each of the choirs in the NCYC program and VIH will share their unique musicianship in individual selections. As a special feature, all the choirs will combine to present several pieces, making a choir of over 140 voices!

Sing-Along Messiah

December 13, 2009 4:00 pm

Community and choir join their voices in harmony with Handel's great masterwork. It is presented with a 25-piece orchestra, excellent soloists and projections of beautiful calligraphy by Timothy Botts on the texts being sung. The chorus of McHenry County College will supplement the on-stage choir leading the audience.

Community: To the North and South

April 18, 2010 4:00 pm

Enjoy the contrasts as we step across our borders to explore music from Canada and Latin America. VIH will present folk music and songs written by composers from our neighbors in the global community. You will be amazed at the variety of sounds, and surprised by the similarities.