



NEWS & NOTES

February 2009

Friends:

Happy New Year!

The hanging of a new calendar on the wall always brings wonderful new beginnings – new resolutions, new school semesters, new opportunities. This has been especially apparent this year, with the ushering in of a new president into the White House. No matter your political association or other motivations, I hope you had the opportunity to join record numbers of television and internet viewers who watched with great interest the unfolding of all the events surrounding our new president's inauguration.

I was especially struck on inauguration day by the role that music played in the celebration surrounding this momentous occasion. Choirs from across the country, military bands, and some of our nation's top recording artists contributed everything from rousing patriotic songs to stirring ballads declaring their love of country. Aretha Franklin's rendition of "My Country 'Tis of Thee," was viewed over 100,000 times on YouTube before the weekend following Inauguration Day was finished! The neo-Classical Air and Simple Gifts by renowned film composer John Williams, played just moments before President Obama took the oath of office, was stirring not only for Williams' musical gifts, but for the tapestry of America that the playing of this piece represented. Clarinetist Anthony McGill (African-American), violinist Itzhak Perlman (Israeli-American), cellist Yo-Yo Ma (Chinese-American), and pianist Gabriela Montero (Venezuelan) combined as an ensemble to both present and represent our country's great diversity.

FROM THE DIRECTOR

And so it is with our wonderful organization. I am proud that we have boys in the choir from several different schools, cities, backgrounds, and neighborhoods from across our area. They come together each week to work incredibly hard for the sole purpose of making the entire ensemble and better. It is quite gratifying for me personally to see them come together for this purpose, and I am always impressed at how we are better – individually and corporately, musically and otherwise – for their efforts. Thanks for all you do to make this possible, and for all that you do to support the Chattanooga Boys Choir.

All Best,

Vic

P.S. Thank you to all the boys and parents who made our trip to Florida on January 8-11 such a success! The boys left quite an impression on teachers, audiences, and churchgoers throughout parts of the "Sunshine State!"

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While much of the Chattanooga Boys Choir was enjoying some well deserved time off, 47 members of Handel, Concert, and Cantabile Choirs were back to rehearsing during the first week of January, preparing for their upcoming trip. After boarding the bus and van (we had an overflowing group!) on the afternoon of January 8th, the choir made its way to Lake City, Florida, on its way to Tampa. The boys got a good night's sleep at a brand new hotel managed by a former CBC parent, and they were ready to make the rest of the journey on Friday morning. Upon arriving at the Tampa Convention Center, the boys stretched out, warmed up, and enjoyed lunch. The afternoon was spent presenting two workshops to members of the Florida Music Educators Association about the changing male voice. Teachers in attendance complimented the boys not only on their performance, but also on their ability to focus and remain composed and professional throughout the presentation. The afternoon also included a performance by the Elementary School Honor Choir and a visit to the exhibit hall where many boys pledged to buy the "awesome red bus!" for the Chattanooga Boys Choir when they make their first million dollars! The day ended with a festive Italian meal at the Spaghetti Warehouse.

FLORIDA MINI-TOUR

On Saturday morning the boys participated in the worship service at Forest Lake Seventh Day Adventist Church in Apopka, Florida, where they received many compliments for their contributions to the service. Following a delicious lunch of macaroni and cheese, salad and cookies provided by the church (they know what boys like to eat!), the choir presented a full concert at the Forest Lake Academy's Schmidt Auditorium. The concert was extremely well received by a warm audience which showed overwhelming enthusiasm for its clear favorite piece, *Bonse Aba*. We're pretty sure the applause, hooting, and hollering was heard across the campus! After packing up the dorms and loading the bus, the group drove to Downtown Disney for dinner at Planet Hollywood and some shopping - and boy can they shop! Legoland and Ghirardeilli were the clear favorite stores of the evening.

Sunday began with the short drive from the hotel in Ocala, Florida, past The Swamp, in Gainesville (home of the 2008 National Championship Gators!), to First United Methodist Church, where the choir participated in their worship service. A beautiful, historic church in downtown Gainesville, the congregation of FUMC warmly welcomed the choir and were extremely complimentary of their participation in their service. Following a pizza lunch and Orange & Blue cake provided by the church, the choir made the long drive home to Chattanooga. The boys are counting down the days until they leave for summer tour!



ATTA BOY

Graham Jones (Concert) was selected 5th chair percussion for the All Lower East TN Band - 8th & 9th grade top band. They performed at Lee University January 17th.

Parents! Don't forget to submit your Atta Boys for the newsletter each month.



Thank you!
**December / January Volunteer
 Drawing Winner**
 Laura Taylor
 will receive a \$20 gift card
 to Starbucks
 Don't forget to turn in your
 volunteer record to be
 entered into next month's
 drawing!

Plans for Catering to the Boys Choir & Silent Auction are coming along very well. Many caterers and restaurants are lined up to provide the meal for guests and items for the silent auction are coming in at a steady pace. Volunteer help is needed for the areas below. If you are willing to help, please sign up in the Volunteer Opportunities notebook in the office for the specific job you would like to do. If you have already told us that you would like to volunteer, we still need you to sign the book for the specific job that you would like.

- Make follow-up calls to ~10 businesses who have received letters requesting items for the auction. Pick up items if necessary. February 9-20.
- Organize a "choir basket." Members of each choir get together to make a themed basket and we need 2 organizers from each choir by February 2.
- Put together baskets for the auction. During rehearsals on April 6, 7, 13, 14
- Put finishing touches on baskets. During rehearsals April 20, 21
- Transport auction items and other supplies to venue: afternoon, April 29
- Set up / decorate for the event - ALL DAY April 30th
- Bartend during event
- Bus tables during event
- Serve food during event
- Help with close of auction
- Clean-up after event
- Help transport supplies, items back to office after event

Volunteer Hours

Be sure to check the volunteer hours file in the members section of the website. Several sheets from the Singing Christmas Tree didn't make it back to the office and we want to make sure you get credit! Just email the correct number.

CATERING TO THE BOYS CHOIR

GoodShop / GoodSearch

Do you search online using a search engine like Google or Yahoo? Do you shop online? If so, you can help the Chattanooga Boys Choir. By downloading the tool and searching using GoodSearch (www.goodsearch.com) and designating the Chattanooga Boys Choir as your organization, you can earn \$.01 for every search you perform. Doesn't seem like much? If each CBC family conducted 10 searches a month for one year, the Chattanooga Boys Choir would receive approximately \$150. Imagine how much it would add up if the word got passed along to friends and family! Additionally, if you shop via GoodShop and designate the Chattanooga Boys Choir, we will receive a portion of your purchase (the percent depends on the retailer.) In just one week we've raised \$3.47! Pass the word along and watch that number grow!

In March, we will celebrate "Music in Our Schools" month – a time to recognize the role and importance of music instruction in the school curriculum. The Chattanooga Boys Choir seeks to be a help to you in making sure that music programs across our area remain supported, recognized, and seen as absolutely essential in the upbringing of any child.

The two links below will lead you to resources that you can

Music in our Schools Month

download, print, and share with teachers and administrators at your child's school. Please help to spread the message of music's importance to all you can as we prepare for Music in Our School's month.

The Power of Music...Changing Lives: A Guide for Parents

The Benefits of the Study of Music

http://www.menc.org/documents/temp/benefits_of_music.pdf

CAMP

Believe it or not, it is time to begin talking about Summer Music Training Camp! The week-long camp is required for all choristers who intend to continue with the Chattanooga Boys Choir during the 2009-2010 performance year. Camp will be held July 13-17 on the campus of Baylor School. The tentative times are as follows: Monday, and Tuesday will be from 8:00am until 6:00pm, Wednesday and Thursday will be from 8:00am - 8:30pm, and Friday will be from 8:00am until 5:00pm with a program for friends and family at 4:00pm. Further details will be included in a camp mailing in May.

Those parents who indicated that they were interested in volunteering at camp will be receiving a mailing within the next several weeks with a return form included. It is critical to our staff planning that the form be returned to the office by the due date - there will be a spot to indicate that you are still not sure if you can volunteer, and marking that box will not exclude you. If we do not have the necessary staff from the initial group, we will communicate the need for additional volunteers via the weekly memos.



ON MUSIC

As we reflect on the monumental inauguration of our new President of the United States, it might be helpful to look back on the thoughts of some recent former presidents (and candidates for the office) on the subject of music:

Music education opens doors that help children pass from school into the world around them—a world of work, culture, intellectual activity, and human involvement. The future of our nation depends on providing our children with a complete education that includes music.

- Gerald Ford, U.S. President 1974-1977



Tuition for the Spring Semester, and any remaining balance from the Fall is past due.

Tour Payment #2 is due on February 2 (\$315)

Music is about communication, creativity, and cooperation, and by studying music in school, students have the opportunity to build on these skills, enrich their lives, and experience the world from a new perspective.

- Bill Clinton, U.S. President 1993-2001

“When I hear people asking how do we fix the education system, I tell them we need to do the opposite of what is happening, cutting budgets by cutting music programs.... Nothing could be more stupid than removing the ability for the left and right brains to function. Ask a CEO what they are looking for in an employee and they say they need people who understand teamwork, people who are disciplined, people who understand the big picture. You know what they need? They need musicians.”

- Former Arkansas Governor Mike Huckabee (2008 Presidential candidate, winner of Iowa caucus)

CALENDAR

Happy Birthday!

February Birthdays

Caleb Smith	2/2
Quinn Flanagan	2/5
Troy Watts	2/5
Joshua Bennett	2/11
Chandler Whittington	2/12
Daniel Casagrande	2/16
Tristan Holt	2/16
Jacob Davis	2/21
John Peter Davis	2/21
Monte Coulter	2/24
Jeremiah Skinner	2/24

Parent Meetings

March 30 @ 5:00pm
March 31 @ 5:30pm

OFFICE HOURS

Monday	2:00-7:00pm
Tuesday	2:00-7:00pm
Wednesday	2:00-5:00pm
Thursday	9:30-12:30pm
Friday	Office Closed

February

8 Simmons-O'Neal Memorial Concert (Concert, Handel, Cant.)

March

- 16-17 NO REHEARSALS - Spring Break
- 23 Training choirs rehearsals - 4:30-6:00pm Hickory Valley Community Church
- 24 Training choirs rehearsals - 4:30-6:00pm Hickory Valley Community Church
- 29 Friends & Family Training Choirs Recital 3:00pm (call time: 2:00pm) Mozart, Schubert, Handel
- 30 Parent Meeting - 5:00pm
- 31 Parent Meeting - 5:30pm

April

- 12 Cantabile Dress Rehearsal - UTC Roland Hayes - 6:30-8:00pm
- 13 Cantabile Performance with UTC Percussion Ensemble
- 24 Concert with American Boychoir - Signal Mountain Presbyterian Church - Concert, Handel
- 26 Tennessee Order of Eastern Star Vesper Service - Handel & Concert
- 30 *Catering to the Boys Choir* scholarship fundraiser - International Towing & Recovery Museum

CHATTANOOGA BOYS CHOIR

Vincent Oakes.....	Executive / Artistic Director
Judy Brittingham	Mozart / Schubert Director
Cynda Holmes	Mozart / Schubert Director
Kristen Wiram	Handel / Concert Assistant Director
Merry Lee Wilson.....	Accompanist
Mark Laseter	Rehearsal Accompanist
Dawn Oakes	Administrative Director
Azusa Dance.....	Operations Manager