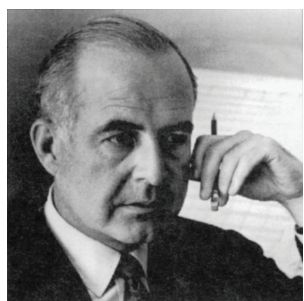


Singing City

Jeffrey Brillhart, Music Director
James Batt, Assistant Conductor & Pianist



Presents its Winter Concert

Philadelphia Treasures

Saturday, February 27, 2010

The Church of the Holy Trinity
Rittenhouse Square
Philadelphia, PA



Dear Friends,

Welcome to our Winter Concert - *Philadelphia Treasures*. Tonight we celebrate the wealth of unique and talented composers native to this city. Two of them, Teddy Poll and Stephen Caldwell, are winners of the *Singing City Prize for Young Composers*, a competition for high school and college-age students. We are pleased to include them among this illustrious group.

It is fair to say that each composer's style is as unique and individual as a fingerprint or snowflake. We might ask ourselves what the creative process is like for each of these composers. Is it borne out of a musical childhood, of a desire to go beyond the confines of the notes on a page? What other composers provide inspiration and influence the work?

Samuel Barber said of his process, "I suppose if I'm writing music for words, then I immerse myself in those words, and I let the music flow out of them. When I write an abstract piano sonata or a concerto, I write what I feel. I'm not a self-conscious composer."

We are fortunate this evening to have many of the composers whose work is on the program with us in the audience. This is your opportunity to learn about *their* work. Former Singing City board member and friend Bob Phillips will moderate a "Meet the Composers Q & A" at the end of the performance. Your program contains a sheet of paper where we invite you to jot down your questions.

We are very happy that you're here with us tonight. Enjoy the concert!

Lauren Anderson
Executive Director

Jeffrey Brillhart
Music Director

On the Cover:

The composers, clockwise from top left: Jennifer Higdon, Keith Hampton, David Bennett Thomas, Vincent Persichetti, Stephen Caldwell, Andrea Clearfield, Cynthia Folio, Samuel Barber, Bill Thompson, and Teddy Poll (center).

Please silence all cell phones, pagers, and other electronic devices.

Philadelphia Treasures

Saturday, February 27, 2010

Program

Sure on this Shining Night Samuel Barber (1910-1981)

dominic has a doll Vincent Persichetti (1915-1987)

The Monk and His Cat from *Hermit Songs, Op. 29* Samuel Barber

Ave Maria Stephen Caldwell (b. 1980)

2009 Singing City Prize for Young Composers winning composition

Drop, Slow Tears William Thompson (b. 1929)

Hymn Edward Poll (b. 1988)

2009 Singing City Prize for Young Composers winning composition

Chanting to Paradise David Bennett Thomas (b. 1969)

O Heart Jeffrey Brillhart (b. 1955)

Suzanne DuPlantis, mezzo-soprano

Deep in the Night Jennifer Higdon (b. 1962)

Music Box Cynthia Folio (b. 1954)

Into the Blue Andrea Clearfield (b. 1960)

Cynthia Folio, flute

True Light Keith Hampton

Meet the Composers Q&A
Bob Phillips, Moderator

Texts

Sure on This Shining Night

Sure on this shining night
Of star-made shadows round
Kindness must watch for me
This side the ground

The late year lies down the north,
All is healed, all is health
High summer holds the earth,
Hearts all whole

Sure on this shining night
I weep for wonder
Wandr'ing far alone
Of shadows on the stars.

James Agee (1909-1955) - "Description of Elysium",
from *Permit Me Voyage*, stanzas 6-8, 1934

dominic has a doll

dominic has a doll
wired to the radiator of his ZOOM DOOM
ice coal wood truck

a wistful little clown
whom somebody buried upside down
in an ash barrel

so of course dominic took him home
& mrs dominic washed his sweet dirty face
and mended his bright torn trousers
(quite as if he were really her & she but)
& so that's how dominic has a doll

dominic has a doll & ev'ry now & then
my wonderful friend dominic de paola
gives me a most tremendous hug
knowing i feel that we & worlds are less alive
than dolls & dream

e.e. cummings

The Monk and His Cat

Pangur, white Pangur
How happy we are
Alone together, Scholar and cat.

Each has his own work to do daily;
For you, it is hunting, for me study.

Your shining eye watches the wall;
my feeble eye is fixed on a book.

You rejoice when your claws
Entrap a mouse;
I rejoice when my mind
Fathoms a problem.

Pleased with his own art,
Neither hinders the other;
Thus we live ever
Without tedium and envy.

W.H. Auden

Ave Maria

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee;
blessed art thou among women,
And blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.
Holy Mary, Mother of God,
pray for us sinners,
now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

Drop, Slow Tears

Drop, drop, slow tears,
And bathe those beautiful feet,
Which brought from Heav'n
The news and Prince of Peace.

Cease not, wet tears,
His mercies to entreat;
To cry for vengeance:
Sin doth never cease.

In your deep floods
Drown all my faults and fears;
Nor let His eye see
Sin, but through my tears.

Phineas Fletcher (1582-1650)

Hymn

At morn- at noon- at twilight dim-
Maria! thou hast heard my hymn!
In joy and woe- in good and ill-
Mother of God, be with me still!
When the hours flew brightly by,
And not a cloud obscured the sky,
My soul, lest it should truant be,
Thy grace did guide to thine and thee;
Now, when storms of Fate o'ercast
Darkly my Present and my Past,
Let my Future radiant shine
With sweet hopes of thee and thine!

From "Complete Tales and Poems of Edgar Allen Poe,"
1849

Chanting to Paradise

Bind me – I still can sing –
Banish – my mandolin
Strikes true within

Slay – and my Soul shall rise
Chanting to Paradise –
Still thine.

Emily Dickinson

O Heart

O heart what a wonderful bird you are.
You are wonderful, You are, o bird, o heart.
Flapping your wings,
you smashed the pointed spears of your enemies.
The flowers fade from autumn, but not you.
You are the fearless rose that grows amidst
the freezing wind.
Pouring down like the rain of heaven,
you fell upon the rooftop of this world.
Then you ran in every direction
and escaped through the drain spout.
Now the words are over, and the pain
they bring is gone.
Lie down and rest in the arms of the beloved.

Rumi

Deep in the Night

deep in the night comes the season of love,
a bright star to guide a path from above,
we walk to embrace all of human kind,
to remember what is grace and follow this sign,

through the dark do we tread by hills woods and sea,
and the sound underfoot is only the breeze

sure of our path we must reach out a hand,
to help those around us to make sure they stand,
and walk in the light, which guides us on our path,
let love surround us and ease our heart's task

let us give our light to all who do follow
as those others would who would walk there
tomorrow, this season of love, this season full of love,
with full brilliant light this season of love,
and full of light, in season of love
this season of light, this season deep in night,
this season of love season of angels,
angels we all are angels,
we are full of brilliant light and love,
angels we are full of light,
full of brilliant love and light,
angels of this season in this brilliant light and love,
guide us through the night.

Jennifer Higdon

Music Box

You never knew where it would start,
the notes
like memory.
You lift the lid
Something rasps
A fan whirls
Strangest of all, a mushroom turns,
A mushroom, unaccountable but surely important
turns
and the bright keyboard moves
plays itself
its brassy inch of sound
self-contained
perfect
and complete

We try to get inside
touch and change it
sneak the lid up just enough
not
to
start
just enough to let a strange note
or two
escape
and hang lopsided in our ears.
Or better still
press with bare finger
right down on that pin
feel slight pain and hear the tiny rasp

catch the mushroom off guard
sentinel of sound
stop the fan
and then let
slowly up
until
Something happened

Adults intrude
Not to break the old music box
grandfather's cigarette case
empty for years
not press on the pin
or wind it up too tight
or break the glass or pry it up
or close before the waltz had done
the sound coiled tight inside

Old box
I could still smell tobacco
and I was sure one golden flake
found its way under glass
and stayed there years and years
in bright sound and dark
I could not get it out.

The music box
subject and occasion of
lovely defiance
site of careful lessons
craftily ignored
We learn them nonetheless
to our sorrow
no exception
I catch myself telling my children the same
Witness to family drama

Susan Albertine

Into the Blue

May you be met
at the door and greeted
by the kindest of breezes,
the kind that rises
from the earth
through the throats
of the ones who breathe
Alleluia.

May you be swept up
in the love of a song,
lean and laugh
like some lily in the wind –
there's nothing to catch us
but air,
and our stalks

strong enough to
split the earth
and reach
for the summer sun.

May you seek the green and
receive what you need:
from the light,
through the breath
that lifts us up, out of
the tangles of our roots
and around
even the most oppressive
rock.

In good, kind company
may you lengthen, swell
soften, spread,
send the colors of your voice,
every russet, carnelian,
deep yellow
stripe of your flame
into the blue
Alleluia

as a chorus of future lilies
flourishes through you

day after day
week after week
June after June
giving up, giving in, giving out:
trumpeting
the exquisite, excruciating
pleasure of
growing here.

Susan Windle

Commissioned by the Rainbow Chorale of Delaware
to celebrate its tenth anniversary season.

True Light

This little light of mine I'm gonna let it shine.
Almighty God is light. He lives in us as True Light.

In the beginning, out of the darkness,
God created Light.
Almighty God is light. He lives in us as True Light.

Don't let the light that You've given me die,
And don't desert my mind.
But let the one who serves You
Praise You again and again.

You are the one who judges right from wrong.
Your glory excites no envy.
But let the one who serves You
Praise You again and again.

This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine.
Everywhere I go, I want the world to know.
God gave the world True Light!

Keith Hampton

Program Notes

Samuel Barber (1910-1981)

*Dear Mother: I have written to tell you my worrying secret. Now don't cry when you read it because it is neither yours nor my fault. I suppose I will have to tell it now, without any nonsense. To begin with I was not meant to be an athlete. I was meant to be a composer, and will be I'm sure. I'll ask you one more thing. Don't ask me to try to forget this unpleasant thing and go play football. Please. Sometimes I've been worrying about this so much that it makes me mad (not very).
-Barber, age 9, in a letter to his mother*

Born in West Chester, PA (suburban Philadelphia), Samuel Barber was one of the most celebrated 20th century American composers. A prolific composer from early childhood, Barber entered the Curtis Institute of Music at age 14, where he was a triple prodigy in piano, composition, and voice. Barber's *Sure On This Shining Night* (1938), the third of the Four Songs, Op. 13, sets a meditative verse that appeared in 1934 in *Permit Me Voyage*, the first published collection of poems by the American writer, journalist and critic James Agee; Barber returned to Agee's poetry a decade later for his *Knoxville: Summer of 1915*. *Sure On This Shining Night* proved to be one of Barber's most popular solo songs, and he arranged it for chorus and piano in 1961. *The Monk and His Cat* comes from the ten-movement *Hermit Songs* (1953), a cycle for voice and piano that sets anonymous poems written by Irish monks and scholars between the 8th and 13th centuries. *The Monk and His Cat* was translated by W.H. Auden and paints a poignant picture of an old, scholarly monk and his beloved cat.

Vincent Persichetti (1915-1987)

A native Philadelphian, Persichetti was renowned as a composer and teacher. His early compositional style was strongly influenced by Stravinsky, Hindemith, and Bartok. By the 1950's his own voice came to the forefront, which he described as "graceful" and "gritty": the former being more lyrical and melodic, the latter being sharp and intensely rhythmic. *dominic has a doll* presents E.E. Cummings' whimsical text in a musical setting that from the first note captures the playfulness of childhood. Cummings' text at first seems like nothing more than a picture of childhood – a beat-up doll, rescued from the garbage, a loveable being that has the power to give glorious hugs. Cummings is calling us to recapture the vivid imagination of children, to dream big, to recall what it felt like when we could imagine that our dolls were alive and that our dreams could come true.

Stephen Caldwell (b. 1980) is active in all facets of choral music. He is currently the Artistic Director of the Rainbow Chorale of Delaware, as well as a Doctoral Fellow at Rutgers University. He has prepared choirs for many leading conductors and ensembles including the Philadelphia Orchestra and the Delaware Symphony. His original compositions and arrangements have been performed throughout the world, by middle school, high school, university, community, and professional choral ensembles. Comfortable in many different genres, his pieces have received premieres at the Kennedy Library, conventions of the American Choral Directors Association, National Collegiate Choral Organization, Music Educators National Conference, and Colorado Music Educators Association. His choral cycle, *Midnight's Silence*, was performed at Lincoln Center and then went on to become a beloved piece of the Taiwanese National Children's Chorus, and his arrangement of *The Boar's Head Carol* is a perennial favorite during the holidays. He has received commissions by the National Gallery of Art in Washington DC, as well as many local and community choral organizations. He holds degrees from the University of Northern Colorado, University of Paris – Sorbonne, and Temple University.

Ave Maria is a composition based upon the melodic contour of the 15th century chant appearing in the Liber Usualis. The opening section uses motives from the chant as a lament, which melds into the traditional chant contour. The final coda and Amen uses a rising, almost hopeful, melodic line symbolizing the original penitence of the 15th century prayer.

William David Thompson (b. 1929) became a church musician at 19, directing both church choirs and musical groups at a Christian radio station in Chicago. With income from these ventures and other radio broadcasting jobs – writing scripts, directing “soaps” and doing sound effects – he worked his way through eight years of college, seminary and graduate school. After three years teaching at Wheaton College (IL) and four at Northern Baptist Theological Seminary, he earned a Ph.D. in speech communication at Northwestern University and moved to Philadelphia in 1962 as professor of preaching and worship at Eastern Baptist Seminary (now Palmer Seminary) where he also conducted the Seminary Singers. He concluded his ministry as pastor of the First Baptist Church of Philadelphia. After retirement, inspired by two of First Baptist’s ministers of music, Earl Ness and Jon Spong who taught at Curtis and later mentored him in composition, he began writing sacred choral music. He has also written several books, the most recent, *On-the-Job Prayers* (2006).

Drop, Slow Tears arose from the frustration of a church choir in which he was singing that could not handle the difficult Walton setting of the text. He decided to compose one that would rival Walton’s in beauty but could be sung by any church choir. It was awarded a prize in the 2008 competition for choral composers sponsored by the Philadelphia Chapter of the American Composers Forum.

Edward (“Teddy”) Poll (b. 1988)

The Singing City Prize for Young Composers awarded first prize in the college age group to Teddy Poll’s *Hymn*, based on texts by Edgar Allan Poe, in February 2009. A resident of Bryn Mawr, PA (suburban Philadelphia) and student at Columbia University, Teddy received the 2007 first prize in the high school age group while a student at Germantown Friends School.

As an undergraduate at Columbia University in New York City, Teddy is also pursuing graduate coursework in music, studying with Philip Lasser of the Juilliard School and Fabien Lévy at Columbia, and conducting with Mark Shapiro. In the past, he has studied orchestral conducting with Jonathan Sternberg, classical piano with Marcantonio Barone, voice with Perry Brisbon, and composition with Benjamin C.S. Boyle. As a composer, Poll has won numerous prizes, including an ASCAP Morton Gould Award, and has had works performed by distinguished performers and ensembles – in April of 2008, pianist Beth Levin performed Poll’s *Sonatine* at Steinway Hall in New York City. In past summers, Poll has attended the Walden School in Dublin, NH, and the summer music program in Paris sponsored by the European American Musical Alliance, where he studied with Michel Merlet of the Paris Conservatory and Narcis Bonet of the Ecole Normale de Musique de Paris. There, he was awarded special mentions for his work both in harmony and in counterpoint. Poll is currently working with orchestral musicians and vocalists to form the Morningside Chamber Orchestra and Chorus, which will dedicate itself to performing staples of the symphonic, operatic, and choral repertoire, and to bringing classical music into the Morningside Heights community at large.

David Bennett Thomas (b. 1969) received degrees from West Chester University (B.S.), and The Peabody Conservatory (M.M.). Thomas has written in many genres, including works for solo voice, chorus, orchestra, chamber groups, and piano. His works have been performed throughout America and abroad, by groups such as The Gregg Smith Singers, The Choral Arts Society of Philadelphia, The New York Treble Singers, Relache, Naked Voices (Israel), and many others.

Critics have referred to his music as “convincing on both structural and emotional levels...music that speaks with no pretension” (The Classical Source); “immediately engaging...playful, soulful, technically dazzling, and often acutely communicative (Philadelphia Music Makers); “honest and completely convincing” (The Daily Local); “concise and comprehensible, though he doesn’t talk down to the listener or subscribe to any isms...this is a composer with an individual voice” (American Record Guide).

Future projects include performances and live broadcasts with the Israeli chorus *Naked Voices*, in Jerusalem, Israel. He has also recently taught master classes in Santiago, Chile. Thomas teaches theory, composition, and piano at The University of the Arts in Philadelphia, and performs with his jazz group three nights a week at Sullivan's Steakhouse, in King of Prussia, PA.

Jeffrey Brillhart (b. 1955)

One of the greatest pleasures a composer can have is to write a work for a singer whose voice and musicality he admires and loves! I composed "O Heart" for my favorite mezzo-soprano, Suzanne Duplantis, during a trip to Brazil in 2007. I was introduced to the poems of Rumi, the ancient Islam mystic, by the late Nancy Dowlin, when Singing City performed her Rumi Reflections in 2004. I was particularly drawn to "O Heart" by its images of "heart" as a "wonderful bird", and as "rain of heaven". This setting is influenced by my favorite song setters: Alban Berg, Maurice Ravel, and Claude Debussy. Rhythmically, I must confess that the noises of Brazilian city life influenced me. It was mighty difficult to ignore the ever-present sounds of Brazil, that ranged from street vendors, to the pounding of construction equipment, to samba music pouring out of neighboring apartment buildings! "O Heart" received its premiere performance in January 2008.

Jennifer Higdon (b. 1962) is one of the most performed living American composers working today. She is the recipient of many awards, including a Pew Fellowship, a Guggenheim Fellowship, two awards from the American Academy of Arts & Letters, and in January 2010, her first Grammy Award. Her list of commissioners range from the Philadelphia Orchestra to the St. Paul Chamber Orchestra; from eighth blackbird to the Tokyo String Quartet; and from The President's Own Marine Band to such artists as Hilary Hahn. She holds the Rock Chair in Composition at The Curtis Institute of Music in Philadelphia.

Her works have been recorded on over two dozen CDs. In Spring of 2003 Telarc released *blue cathedral* with the Atlanta Symphony, Robert Spano, conducting, on a disc that made the Classical Billboard charts. In 2004 the Atlanta Symphony released the Grammy-winning *Higdon: Concerto for Orchestra/City Scope*. December 2006 saw the release of a compact disc of Higdon's chamber music on Naxos, as well as a Grammy-winning recording with eighth blackbird. During the 2008-09 season, Naxos released Higdon's *Short Stories* performed by the Anicia Saxophone Quartet and Koch released a recording of Higdon's flute and chamber works. The 2009-10 season will feature two releases from Telarc, Higdon's *Dooryard Bloom* and *The Singing Rooms*.

Jennifer says about *Deep in the Night*: "This work makes the spiritual statement that we are all guiding angels to each other in our gestures of kindness and thoughtfulness; we are a form of light on a path for those who may be searching; from our experiences, we give to our fellow human beings. The music emerges quietly, as if from darkness into light, and creates a sense of fullness through sound, thereby representing the fullness that we feel when we reach out to others. When the poetry reaches the realization that we are all angels, the musical lines separate and reach out in different directions. The music closes with a meditative and unified sound." *Deep In The Night* was commissioned in 1997 by Terry Knowles and Marshall Rutter.

Cynthia Folio (b. 1954) is Associate Professor and chair of music theory at Temple University, where she teaches theory courses at all levels: from entry-level Introduction to Music Theory and Literature, to a Doctoral Seminar in Analysis and Performance. In the spring 1996 semester, she was awarded the Lindback Foundation Award for Distinguished Teaching. Before her Temple days, she taught theory and flute at Texas Christian University (1980-1990) and played piccolo and flute in the Fort Worth Symphony, Opera, and Ballet Orchestras.

Cynthia earned an M.A. (1979) and Ph.D. (1985) in music theory and a Performer's Certificate in flute (1979) from the Eastman School of Music. Her undergraduate school, West Chester University, granted her a Distinguished Alumni Award (1989). She studied theory and composition with Joseph Schwantner, Robert Morris, and Larry Nelson and flute with Bonita Boyd and Emily Swartley Newbold. Other awards include a National Endowment for the Humanities grant, composer residency at the Yaddo Artist Colony and at the Virginia Center for the Creative Arts, eleven consecutive ASCAP Standard Awards, winner in the 1994 and 1999 New Music Delaware Competitions, winning entry in the National Flute Association Newly Published Music Competition, and grants from Meet the Composer. She has received commis-

sions from the Mendelssohn Club, Relache, Network for New Music and Hildegard Chamber players (jointly), Pi Kappa Lambda, SAI, and others. She has published music theory articles and reviews in many journals and she serves on the editorial board of *Music Theory Spectrum* and *ex tempore*. As a flutist, she performs regularly as a soloist and in several groups in the Philadelphia area, including Network for New Music, Hildegard Chamber Players, and the Temple Faculty New Music Trio (with Jeffrey Solow and Charles Abramovic). She was recently invited to Tübingen, Germany to perform in *CAMP '99 (Creative Arts and Music Pool)*, an international festival for free improvisation. In spring 2001, she was a guest composer at the Indiana University of Pennsylvania Festival of Women Composers. As a theorist, composer, and performer, her main interests include analysis and performance of contemporary music, analysis of jazz, and the relationship between analysis and performance.

Andrea Clearfield (b. Philadelphia, 1960) is an award winning American composer of concert music. She has been praised by The Philadelphia Inquirer for her “virtuosity”, “compositional wizardry” and “mastery with large choral and instrumental forces” and the L.A. Times for her “fluid and glistening” orchestration. Recent commissions include works for The Philadelphia Orchestra, The Debussy Trio and the Los Angeles Master Chorale, the Mendelssohn Club, Astral, Orchestra 2001 and Network for New Music. Her new work for internationally acclaimed flutist Carol Wincenc with NY Philharmonic Principal players Cynthia Phelps and Nancy Allen was premiered at The Morgan Library in NYC on February 22, 2010.

She has received grants and awards from ASCAP, the NEA, the American Music Center, the American Composers Forum, the International Alliance for Women in Music, the Independence Foundation, Leeway Foundation and the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts. She was awarded The American Academy in Rome Fellowship from the American Composers Forum, 2010 as well as fellowships at Yaddo, where she held the Aaron Copland Residency for an American Composer, the MacDowell Colony, Djerassi, Blue Mountain Center, Ucross, The Wurlitzer Foundation and Virginia Center for the Creative Arts among others. A native of Philadelphia, Ms. Clearfield received a D.M.A. in composition from Temple University where she was a two-time recipient of the John Heller Memorial Award for Excellence in Composition and the first composer to receive the Presidential Fellowship. She serves on the composition faculty at The University of the Arts and is the host and founder of the Philadelphia Salon concert series now celebrating its 23rd year, winner of the Best of Philly Award, 2008. For more info, visit www.andreaclearfield.com.

“The Rainbow Chorale of Delaware commissioned both the poem and the music of *Into the Blue* for its 10th anniversary concert. Andrea masterfully set Susan Windle’s poem. The singers enjoyed Andrea’s entire creative process, from conception, to sketch, and finally to manuscript. Her visits with the ensemble were warm and inviting, and she always left the singers feeling empowered. The music is complex and rewarding without being abjectly difficult, and it is a work that choirs at all levels can perform with pride and strength.” –Stephen Caldwell, Artistic Director, The Rainbow Chorale of Delaware

Keith Hampton is currently the Director of Choral Activities at Gary Comer College Prep, A Campus of Noble Street Charter School and the Director of Music Ministries and Organist at the Park Manor Christian Church, in Chicago, IL. Dr. Hampton is very active as a conductor, an organ soloist, and an accompanist and is in constant demand as a workshop clinician. He has guest conducted the Rhode Island All-State Chorus, American Choral Directors Association’s Eastern Division High School Honor’s Choir, Baltimore All-County High School Chorus and the Pennsylvania Region I and Region VI High School Choirs.

Dr. Hampton earned a Bachelor of Music Education Degree from Westminster Choir College, Princeton, NJ; a Master of Arts Degree from Marywood University, Scranton, PA; and a Doctor of Music Degree in Church Music from Northwestern University, Evanston, IL. Dr. Hampton was twice chosen as one of fourteen conductors to participate in the Oregon Bach Festival Conducting Master classes. In addition, he was chosen to conduct in the *a cappella* music workshop sponsored by Chorus America. Dr. Hampton is the President of Dr. K.T. Productions, Inc., providing music transcriptions of Black Gospel Music with the use of Finale by Coda Music. As a published composer, his arrangements of spirituals and gospel songs can be found at Augsburg Press, Earthsongs Publications and Hinshaw Music. Dr. Hampton’s composition, *Praise His Holy Name*, is among the most popular pieces to be performed by choirs.

Jeffrey Brillhart, Music Director

Appointed in 1999, Jeffrey Brillhart directs the Singing City Choir and oversees all aspects of Singing City's musical initiatives. He provides artistic leadership for a rich program of formal concerts, choral music workshops as part of *Singing City in the Schools*, and outreach concerts in diverse communities in and around Philadelphia. Jeffrey is also Director of Music and Fine Arts at Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church in Bryn Mawr and is recognized as one of the foremost musicians working in the Presbyterian Church. He has won national recognition for his abilities in organ improvisation, organ performance, and conducting. His formal training was at Drake University, where he received his Bachelor of Church Music degree in 1977, and at the Eastman School of Music, where he received a Master of Performance and Literature Degree in 1979 and studied piano, organ, harpsicord, voice and conducting. In addition to his position as Director of the Fine Arts Program at Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church, where he works with over 600 youth and adults, Jeffrey supervises nine choral and handbell ensembles, an art program and "Young-in-Arts," a music and art school for children and is a founder of the West Philadelphia Children's Choir. He directs the 120-voice Senior Choir, which sings for two services each week, and prepares several special performances each season. Jeffrey also directs the Bryn Mawr Chamber Singers, a 24-voice ensemble specializing in baroque and 20th century music. His church ensembles have performed for national conventions of the American Guild of Organists and the American Choral Directors Association. He has presented master classes at the Curtis Institute of Music, the University of Iowa, Drake University, and the Eastman School of Music. He served as chorus master for The Philadelphia Orchestra's Martin Luther King Tribute Concert in January 2004. In January 2005, he joined the music faculty of Yale University to teach organ improvisation.

James A. Batt, Assistant Conductor and Pianist

James A. Batt, with over twenty years of experience in accompanying and religious music, is proficient in both organ and piano and is well-known in the Delaware Valley for his musical talent and expertise. Mr. Batt is Assistant Conductor and Accompanist of Singing City Choir and Young Audiences and is currently on staff as Associate Musician at the Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church. He is also the Associate Organist at Reform Congregation Beth Or in Maple Glen and serves as Musical Director

for Concert Operetta at the Academy of Vocal Arts in Philadelphia. Prior to these positions, Mr. Batt served as Minister of Music at St. Thomas' Church, Whitemarsh, Fort Washington; Director of Music at Old Pine Street Presbyterian Church, Philadelphia; Director of Music at First Presbyterian Church, Morrisville; and Choir Director/Organist at Reform Congregation Keneseth Israel, Elkins Park.

Mr. Batt has participated in world premieres of two major choral/instrumental works and is also recorded on Arkay Records. He is on the roster as accompanist for Columbia Arts Management and accompanies professional vocalists and instrumentalists throughout the Tri-State area.

Suzanne Duplantis, mezzo-soprano

Hailed in the press for her "velvety tone and elegant phrasing," mezzo-soprano Suzanne DuPlantis made her New York debut in the *St. John Passion* of Bach at Alice Tully. She made her Kimmel Center debut in Mahler's *Das Lied von der Erde* with Orchestra 2001, and has returned to the Kimmel on many occasions to perform with The Chamber Orchestra of Philadelphia. Suzanne is well known in the region through her solo appearances with The Philadelphia Orchestra, The Haddonfield Symphony, Reading Symphony, Singing City, Mendelssohn Club, Vox Ama Deus, and The Philadelphia Singers. While enjoying a successful career in opera, she has debuted with Arizona Opera, New Orleans Opera, Cincinnati Opera, Eugene Opera, Knoxville Opera, Chautauqua Opera, and Opera Company of Philadelphia, to name a few, in roles that include Rossini's heroines Rosina and Isabella, Carmen, Cherubino, Orlofsky, Suzuki, Maddalena and Waltraute.

Suzanne has been the recipient of many awards including first prize in the Musica Sacra Competition and the Lola Hayes Vocal Artist Award, both in New York City, the Connely Award at the Washington International Competition, Grand Prize Winner of The Concerto Soloist Competition and regional winner of the Metropolitan Opera auditions. Ms. DuPlantis is cofounder of Lyric Fest, a vibrant, new concert series in Philadelphia dedicated to song. Lyric Fest joins a myriad of wonderful singers together with a pianist and the spoken word to present dynamic, theme-oriented programs noted for their artistic excellence and broad appeal.

Singing City: History and Mission

Singing City was founded in Philadelphia in 1948 by Dr. Elaine Brown. It began as one of the first integrated choirs in the country, with the belief that differences between races, religions, and cultures could be bridged by people coming together in shared activities. In this case, choral singing was that bridge. In addition to performances in and around Philadelphia, the Choir traveled to the South during the 1950's and '60's struggle for civil rights, performing before integrated audiences.

As a result of critical acclaim through performances with The Philadelphia Orchestra, the Choir was invited to perform in Israel with Zubin Mehta and the Israel Philharmonic and also in Jordan and Egypt while on tour in the 1970's and '80's. Singing City was the first western choir to perform with the Leningrad Philharmonic in Leningrad in 1990. In May 2000, Singing City was the lead choir at the First International Choral Festival de Cuba. The choir toured Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland in the summer of 2004 and Brazil in July 2009.

The Choir remains committed to artistic excellence and to the betterment of the community. Singing City offers programs corresponding to the three "pillars" of its mission and vision: Performance, Community, and Education. The Choir's multi-faceted mission continues to include choral performance at the highest levels, community involvement and educational outreach.

Singing City continues to bring choral music to the under-served, performing not only in concert halls, but also in homeless shelters and nursing homes in and around Philadelphia. Singing City's nationally recognized schools residency program, *Singing City in the Schools*, has brought music rudiments, choral singing, and composition techniques to children in the Philadelphia public schools and to some private schools in the area. *Singing City in the Schools* was taken to a new level with the launching of the *Singing City Prize for Young Composers* in 2003. This is a composition competition for area high school and college students. The winners benefit from a monetary prize, a performance of their work by Singing City, and a year under the tutelage of a professional composer.

Under the banner of Performance, Community and Education, Singing City strives to be an artistic, social and spiritual force, bringing people together through choral music.

Singing City Choir

| | |
|---------------------|-----------------------|
| Lauren Anderson | Jeremy Lane |
| Soryl Angel | Molly Lester |
| Charles Babcock | Francine Levin |
| Sharon Babcock | Laura Lukasewycz |
| Joyce Barton | Robert Mann |
| Andrew Beck | Blake Marshall |
| Carla Block | Yuko Martin |
| Kathleen Brady | Rebecca Mays |
| Michelle Breitkopf | Meghan McHugh |
| Wendy Browder | Joshua McNeil |
| Gloria Brown | Ryan Miller |
| Luke Brown | Betty Morrell |
| Sara Harris Brown | Karen Moses |
| Travis Burch | Jennifer Mosher |
| Lisa Carmalt | Charles Murphy, III |
| Theresa Carter | A. Michael Nasielski |
| Emily Cashin | Kara Nelson |
| Lorance Checchia | Janet Neukirchner |
| Elizabeth Childs | Rosalyn Ominsky |
| Deborah Clarke | Russell Pagano |
| Steve Crandall | Alicia Paist |
| Howard Crossland | C. Stewart Patrick |
| Peggy Curchack | David Perry |
| Anthony Del Vecchio | David Price |
| Elaine Del Vecchio | Andrew Puntel |
| Kelly Anne Dolan | Ralph Purri |
| Susan Domingos | Laura Randolph |
| Chelsea Erdmanis | Sterling Randolph |
| Doug Faulkner | Carol Restifo |
| Dana Fiero | Betsy Riley |
| Karl Ford | Mark Ritter |
| Julie Friedman | Gili Ronen |
| Anjali Gallup-Diaz | Mindy Rubinlicht |
| Laura Gibson | M'Annette Ruddell |
| Melissa Graf-Evans | Sarah Learned Sciarra |
| Marlene Graham | Heather Simmons |
| James Grant | Matthew Siverd |
| Martha Grant | Michael Smith |
| Lee Harp | Richard Sobel |
| Mary Cay Harris | Betty Stockwell |
| Jack Hill | Susan Sytsma-Bratt |
| Mark Hollern | Rebecca Tatum |
| Robert Holmes | Robert Thuener |
| Claire Huff | Heather Warren |
| Laila Nada Isaacson | Rick Wiles |
| Lauren James | Amberly Williams |
| Barbara Jenkins | Kerri Williams |
| Beth Johnson | Barbara Willig |
| Robert Kidder | LaVerne Wood |
| Jeffrey Knightly | Bill Young |
| Jay Kuder | Kalman Zilberman |
| Glenn Kutler | |

Season Supporters

Benefactors

Mr. and Mrs. James R. Affleck, Jr.
Ellen Anderson and Brant Rudisill
Lauren Anderson
Jeffrey Brillhart
Peggy L. Curchack
William Garrow
James and Martha Grant
Scott and Yardly Jenkins
Clare and Jim Mackie
Linda and Ted Madara
Maris A. Ogg
Evelyn Parker
C. Stewart and Leny Patrick
Thomas and Barbara Rittenhouse
Mr. and Mrs. Gary Schlarbaum
Richard and Dorothy Stevens
Betty Stockwell
John and Sandra Stouffer
Joelle Winter

Patrons

Susan J. Alpine
Ruth Miller Cox
Frances N. Crawford
Martha and Bill deHeyman
Dr. Barbara Domingos
Stuart Donaldson
Dr. Marion B. Dugan
Sonya C. Garfinkle
Ron and Peggy Gregg
Sue Anne Grier
Dr. Elizabeth L. Haslam
Robert H. Holmes
Claire and Warren Huff
Rhoda B. Indictor
Don and Laila Nada Isaacson
Beth E. Johnson
Mary T. Ledwith
Linda Litwin
Claire S. McKinley and William Krewson
Karen R. Moses
Charles (Kim) Y. Murphy
Roselyn Ominsky
Elaine B. Shaffer
Michael Smith
Mary Ann Sullivan
Peter C. Ward
Janet Yamron

Sponsors

Soryl Angel and James Wark
Elaine Broudy
Douglas S. Faulkner
Julie A. Friedman
Margeurite Harris
Ginny Mahr

Debbie Schragger
Angela Scully
Cheryl Slipski
Barbara Supplee

Singing City Friends Drive 2009-2010

We are grateful to the following individuals who have made gifts to our annual Friends Drive. It's not too late to make a donation – our fiscal year ends June 30. Help us meet this year's goal.

Visit our website: www.singingcity.org to make a gift online or send a check to Singing City, 123 S. 17th Street, Philadelphia, PA 19103. Thank you!

Anonymous
Jill Acker
Timothy A. Adams
Sally B. and James R. Affleck, Jr.
Henry and Eunice Alexander
Janet Andereck
Lauren Anderson
Soryl Angel
Elaine Baer
Frances F. Barnard
Charles and Therese Barringer
Elizabeth W. Bartle
Jim Boerckel
Jack and Eve Bogle
William and June Brown
Sara Brown
Patricia and Roger Brown
H. Boyce and Karen Budd
Lauretta V. and Charles Bushar
Elizabeth P. and Charles R. Carmalt
Jeff Knightly and Cynthia Cassel
Ruth Chalfin
Alice Chase
Anthony P. Checchia
Jeffrey Cornelius
Sharon and Bruce Cundiff
Suzanne M. and Charles H. Davis
Linda Deeter
Dave and Cyndi Detwiler
Kelly Anne Dolan
Michael and Kathleen Dolan
Frank Domingos
Susan M. Domingos
Andrea T. Dominic
Beverly Ejsing
Angela Scully and George Elser
Peter A. Evans
Ruth Ewing
Joseph M. and Marie H. Field
Edward and Anne Flood
Nancy Frandsen
Harry B. French
R. Thomas Friedman

Julie Friedman
Sonya Garfinkle
Elisabeth Yarosh Gentieu
Helen H. Gilmore
Carolyn Green and Michael T. Blakeney
Ron and Peggy Gregg
Carol Grey
Sue Ann Grier
Robert E. Guthrie
Elizabeth Haslam
Alice Hardenbergh
Charles Lee Harp, Jr.
Margeurite Harris
Dr. Mary Catherine Harris
Dr. Herbert and Margaret Heineman
Dr. Robert Holmes
Claire and Warren Huff
John Immerwahr & Kathy Byrnes
Annabelle P. Irey
Don and Laila Nada Isaacson
Walter H. Johnson
Beth E. Johnson
Susan Kettell
Bob and Louise Kidder
Elizabeth D. Krick
Ray Kuhn
Simone J. and Glenn Kutler
Dolores Kuykendall
Robert and Lisa Landley
Carrie B. Lane
Elizabeth T. Ledwith
Mary Tryon Ledwith
Dr. and Mrs. Bruce A. Levin
Christian and Jeffrey Libson
Linda Litwin
William A. Loeb
Anne and Richard Lucas
Rosalinda R. and Edward S. Madara Jr.
Dorothy Marshall
Barbara A. Maxwell
Mrs. George C. McFarland
Barbara and John McNichol
Robert and Barbara Merin
Ms. Frances S. Middleton
Carolyn P. Miller
Betty Morrell
Charles (Kim) Y. Murphy
Mike Nasielski
Judith R. Neilson
Margaret P. O'Malley
Brenda Oliphant
Rosalyn Ominsky
Mr. and Mrs. C. Stewart Patrick
Jane G. Pepper
Lachlan Pitcarin
Barbara F. Poll
David L. Rawle
Thomas and Barbara Rittenhouse

Mark and Sandy Ritter
Christopher and Edith Roberts
Thomas B. Roberts
Debra D. Roberts
Frances B. Rubinsohn
M'Annette Ruddell
Thelma M. Segal
William and Linda Seybold
Elaine B. Shaffer
Mr. and Mrs. William Shumaker
Richard Sichel
Evelyn and John Simensen
Heather Simmons
The Skinner Family
Cheryl Slipski
Michael Smith
Virginia A. Smith
Richard and Rachel Sobel
Harriet Soffa
Charles and Patricia Spackman
Richard and Dorothy Stevens
Betty Sockwell
Mr. Elbridge Stockwell
Barbara Supplee
Carol Tashjian
Linda and William Thompson
Steven H. and Lynn W. Tyre
Nancy N. Vick
Christopher and Nancy Wackman
John A. and Linda H. Weaver
Howard William and Janet B. Westerman
Barbara Willig
Mr. and Mrs. Alan T. Willoughby
Anne Wood
Janet Yamron
William S. and Anita L. Young

Foundation and Government Support

Barra Foundation
Claniel Foundation Inc.
Joseph and Marie Field Foundation
Lenfest Foundation
Lincoln Financial Foundation
PA Council on the Arts
Philadelphia Cultural
Management Initiative
The Presser Foundation
Greater Philadelphia
Cultural Alliance
The Joseph Skilling Foundation

Business Partner

Woodcock Washburn



Singing City Staff

Jeffrey Brillhart, Music Director
Lauren Anderson, Executive Director
James A. Batt, Assistant Conductor, Pianist
Elaine B. Shaffer, Choir Administrator
Victoria Baker, Office Manager
Katy Gentry, SCIS Workshop Director
Andrew Bleckner, SCIS Composer-in-Residence

Choir Council Executive Committee

Kelly Anne Dolan, President
Mindy Rubinlicht, Vice-President
Peggy Curchak, Secretary
Robert Thuener, Treasurer

Singing City Board of Directors

Linda Madara, President
Robert Guthrie, Vice-President
Jim Boerckel, Treasurer
Margaret C. Gregg, Secretary
William Carrozza
Warren Cooper
Steve Crandall
Linda Deeter
Kelly Anne Dolan
Leonard Dow
Nancy Frandsen
Sonya Garfinkle
Elizabeth L. Haslam
Walter Johnson
C. Stewart Patrick
Cheryl Slipski
Michael Smith
Sandra Stouffer
Radclyffe Thompson
Joelle Winter
Janet Yamron

Join us For Singing City Lights Wine Tasting and Auction

Sunday, March 28, 4-7 p.m.
Cira Centre, 2929 Arch Street, Philadelphia



Our fundraising event of the year – **Singing City Lights** – will be an auction and wine tasting with live music and views of the city that are unparalleled! There will be terrific bargains on wonderful items and fun for all. Most importantly, you are supporting Singing City and its programs. It's the place to be and to be seen!

Register online at www.singingcity.org or call 215-569-9067 for more information.



Singing City in the Schools Workshop Director Katy Gentry, back row, right, with students and teachers at a workshop sharing at the Tanner Duckrey School in December. Students learn choral rudiments, vocal techniques, poetry and composition and to perform together as a choir in their schools. *Singing City in the Schools* is an intensive, 14-week, multi-year model that builds relationships with students, teachers, and parents.

Singing City Concert Season 2009-2010



Fall Concerts

Witchcraft

Friday, October 30, 8 p.m.
St. David's Episcopal Church, Wayne, PA

In the first half, works by Ravel and Verdi that explore themes of darkness, Halloween, and spooks! In the second half, revel in the exuberant music of Broadway favorites and light opera – including selections from *Phantom of the Opera*, *Sweeney Todd*, *Wicked*, *Les Miserables*, and more!

Boo!

Saturday, October 31, 2 p.m.
St. David's Episcopal Church, Wayne, PA

Halloween fun for the family in a one-hour program that includes spooky music from Broadway, surprising works for solo voices, and a guest appearance by Count Dracula playing his most terrifying selections on the glorious organ of St. David's Episcopal Church.

Winter Concert

Philadelphia Treasures

Saturday, February 27, 2010, 8 p.m.
The Church of the Holy Trinity, Rittenhouse Square

Showcasing Philadelphia treasures – works by Andrea Clearfield, Rob Maggio, Samuel Barber, Vincent Persichetti, and more.

Family Concert

Voices of Philadelphia – One Family

Saturday, March 20, 7 p.m.
The Church of the Holy Trinity, Rittenhouse Square

Our annual youth and family concert.
Guest choirs include Chester Children's Chorus, Northeast High School, and Joyful Noise.

62nd Anniversary Concert

Masterpieces of the 20th Century

Sunday, May 2, 4 p.m.
Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church, Bryn Mawr, PA

Stravinsky *Symphony of Psalms*, Poulenc *Gloria* and
Schönberg *Friede auf Erden*

For tickets and more information: www.singingcity.org or 215.569.9067

Singing City • 123 S. 17th Street • Philadelphia, PA 19103