

# The Harmonium Inchoirer

A Classical Choral Society

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## Winning Student Compositions Performed

The spring concert highlighted the winners of Harmonium's third annual Student Choral Composition Contest, generously supported by a grant from the Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation. **Stefan Swanson**, a senior from **Madison High School**, was the Grand Prize winner with his composition, *E Kounia Tou Theou* (Greek meaning "The Cradle of God"). Stefan has



*Stefan Swanson (at right), Grand Prize Winner, with his sponsor, Robert Seibert, Director of Bands at Madison High School.*

entered the contest each year it has been run, receiving third place and Honorable Mention for compositions he submitted last year. He is a self-taught composer who has been composing since the age of seven.

Robert Seibert, Director of Bands at Madison High School, was Stefan's contest sponsor. "Stefan is one of the very few kids," Mr. Seibert said, "who is passionate about what he's doing. He's composing all the time; he's writing at home, whether he needs to or not." Stefan is a trumpet player and loves sports and cinematography. Stefan will major in theory/composition at Rowan University in Glassboro next year, and hopes to make a career of composing film scores and teaching composition and trumpet.

**Joshua Flores**, a senior from **High Point Regional High School**, was the First Runner-up (second place winner) with his composition, *Song of the Sea*. Josh also entered the contest last year, receiving an Honorable Mention. He participated in a school study program with his

sponsor, Choral and Theater Director at the high school, Theresa Riccardi, concentrating on composing. Playing trumpet, guitar and piano, Josh performed with the Sussex County Youth Orchestra as well as in the school Concert Band and Jazz Band. He also sings with the High Point Harmonizers, Concert Chorus and select Chamber Singers. "He loves to fiddle on the piano," said Ms. Riccardi. "He's produced some of the most amazing arrangements." Shortly after Harmonium's June concert, the Sussex County Youth Orchestra premiered a work which Josh composed for the orchestra's senior brass players. Next year Josh will major in music education at the University of North Carolina in Greensboro.

Both student composers, along with their families and friends, attended the Saturday and Sunday Harmonium concerts. They were thrilled to hear their pieces performed, and beamed as the audience gave them warm applause.

Stefan was given a \$500 cash award, and Josh received \$100. Third Place was shared by two students whose works were given a read-through at the April Musicianship Workshop: **Michael Weinstein**, a senior at **East Brunswick High School**, won for his composi-



*Joshua Flores (at right), First Runner-Up, with David Grant, Executive Director, Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation.*

Composition, continued from page 1

tion *Wavering Leaves*; and **Timothy Knipper**, an eleventh-grader at **Princeton High School**, won for his composition *Winter*. Honorable Mentions were awarded to two other Princeton High School students: **Michael Mindlin**, and **Elaine Fefferman**.

## Outreach Chorus News

In its three-year history, Harmonium's Outreach Chorus of 8–16 singers has demonstrated by example that singing brings satisfaction at any age. The group's program is adaptable for elementary, middle, and junior high schools and introduces students to the fun of fine *a cappella* singing. The Outreach program demonstrates part-singing, canon, and different styles of music, including Renaissance, romantic, and contemporary; stressing the importance of text in choral music, and the expression of feelings. Students also participate in some of the singing.



*Outreach Chorus members at the Arts Council Showcase.*

Arts Council Arts-in-Education Showcase.

[To schedule a performance for your school, call Karen Melchman at the Arts Council of the Morris Area, 973-377-6622. Next year the Outreach Chorus will also be listed with Young Audiences of New Jersey in Princeton.]

## Harmonium Members Sing for Aids Quilt Display

*Breaths*, the opening song in the spring Harmonium concert, was written by and for the group Sweet Honey in the Rock. Harmonium and the Montville High School Chamber Singers performed it as a gathering song, with singers wandering in from all sides of the church and from within the audience—all joining in a community of song. Its performance was even more moving the following Monday as we met again, this time at Montville High School to sing for the opening ceremonies of a display of several panels of the Aids Memorial Quilt, (including one created by conductor Jan Kucher-Patenaude and her husband to remember a friend of theirs).

“I didn’t know this occasion would arise when I planned the concert,” said Artistic Director Anne Matlack, “but I couldn’t have found a more appropriate piece of music if I had spent all year looking.”

Those who have died have never never left  
The dead are not under the earth  
They are in the rustling trees, they are in  
the groaning woods  
They are in the crying grass, they are in the  
moaning rocks  
The dead are not under the earth, so  
Listen more often to things than to beings  
Listen more often to things than to beings  
'Tis the ancestors' breath when the fire's  
voice is heard  
'Tis the ancestor's breath in the voice of  
the water.

Ysaye Barnwell

## A Chorus Manager, at Last!

Meet our wonderful new chorus manager, Jaclyn Connell. Jacki lives in Morristown with husband, Craig, and daughter, Emily (page 3, opposite). Jacki brings to Harmonium a creative arts background and organizational experience as coordinator of long-term and adult day care settings. She manages administrative assignments and organizes and coordinates all volunteer activities. Jackie enjoys meeting chorus members and their “fans,” and working with such a unique group as Harmonium.

# Harmonium 2000–2001 Subscription Season

## **J.S. Bach *Magnificat*, Frank Martin *Mass***

December 9, 2000, 8 pm and December 10, 2000, 3 pm  
Church of the Redeemer, Morristown

## **Henry Purcell *Ode on St. Cecilia's Day 1692***

and SILENT AUCTION (*auction opens at 7 pm, closes after intermission*)  
Saturday March 3, 2001, 8 pm, Church of the Redeemer, Morristown

## **“Shakespeare Songs” with student composition contest winners**

May 19, 2001, 7:30 pm and May 20, 2001, 7:30 pm.  
Grace Church, Madison

Regular Price **\$15** (*\$10 student/seniors/group*) per concert  
Subscription Price **\$40** (*\$25*) for 3 concerts includes member benefits!

## **NON-SUBSCRIPTION EVENTS:**

Harmonium Choral Society Session on *Poetry in Choral Music at the,*  
**Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation Poetry Festival**, Waterloo Village  
Saturday afternoon, September 23, 2000, 3:15 pm

Look for us at *First Night Morris*, December 31, 2000, Morristown, NJ

**Muscianship Workshop** with Phyllis Clark, April 28, 2001, 9 am–4 pm  
Concert 3–4 pm open to public

**The Harmonium Outreach Chorus Sings in the Schools**  
*Call 973-377-6622 to book us for your school.*

Funding has been made possible in part by the Arts Council of the Morris Area through the  
New Jersey State Council on the the Arts/Department of State Block Grant Program.



*“...I loved being in the church  
singing with all the extremely  
talented adults and having the  
whole place echo with our voices;  
it was beautiful,”*

Montville High School Chamber Singer  
June, 2000

# Coming Season, old and new....

The **Christmas concert** will feature Bach's *Magnificat* with chamber orchestra—a work many know and love, paired with the sumptuous rich harmonies of 20th century Belgian Composer Frank Martin's double choir *a cappella Mass*. Join us Saturday, December 9th at 8 pm or Sunday, December 10th at 3 pm in the lovely acoustic of Church of the Redeemer, Morristown.

Our **March concert** is one night only (March 3, 2001) but what an event! Purcell's *Ode to St. Cecilia's Day 1692*, with baroque orchestra, chorus and a full complement of Harmonium soloists joined by professional counter-tenor William Zukof (a founding member of Western Wind) will be preceded by a silent auction (hors d'oeuvres and punch) offering an array of goods and services for all budgets and tastes! Our last silent auction included trips, artwork, catered dinners, music lessons, computer help and much more! If you have something you would like to donate to our silent auction please contact us at 973-538-6969—and mark your calendars now for a great evening of music and fundraising to support Harmonium!

The theme of next year's Fourth Annual High School Student Composition Contest will be "**Shakespeare Songs**"—ensuring an abundant choice of high quality public domain texts! Look for the **spring concert** earlier than usual: May 19th and 20th at 7:30 pm at Grace Church, Madison. Student compositions will share the bill with Brahms, Vaughan Williams, Matthew Harris and many more wonderful settings of Shakespeare texts.

Subscribe today to enjoy savings, and get your convenient subscription card good for either night of each of the three programs. (See subscription form below).

Information filed with the Attorney General concerning this charitable solicitation may be obtained from the Attorney General of the state of New Jersey by calling (973) 504-6215. Registration with the Attorney General does not imply endorsement.



NAME \_\_\_\_\_ ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY/STATE/ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

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**Dec. 9 or 10, March 3, May 19 or 20**

**No. of tickets**

**TOTAL**

Adult **Subscription Series** at \$40 (3 concerts) \_\_\_\_\_

Student/Senior Series at \$25 (3 concerts) \_\_\_\_\_

**Yes. I want to help:**

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P.O. Box 9026

Morristown, NJ 07963-9026

## Songs of the Earth Celebrated

As well as featuring student composition contest winners, the June concert offered Harmonium's trademark eclectic variety of music around the theme "Songs of the Earth." Selections ranged from Elgar and Saint-Saëns, to a New Jersey premiere of Elizabeth Alexander's *Spring Revels*, Alberto Grau's *Kasar mie la gaji* (*The Earth is Tired*) (complete with whispering, yelling, clapping and stomping), Venezuelan folksongs, and even an *a cappella* rendition of Toto's 80s hit song, *Africa*.

"I swear never to miss another Harmonium concert!" raved one happy audience member.

[CDs of the concert will be available soon. Visit our website or phone us at 973-538-6969 for more info.]

## Chorus America Conference

Artistic Director Anne Matlack, new Chorus Manager Jaclyn Connell, and last year's treasurer, Darlene Wyzga, were overrun with good ideas attending the Chorus America Annual Conference in Baltimore June 7-10. Harmonium was announced finalist for the Chorus America/ASCAP award for adventuresome programming (won by I Cantori di New York). Anne enjoyed meeting colleagues from across



Emily with composer Alice Parker

the country, browsing music and attending concerts and sessions on working with orchestras and outreach programs, while Darlene explored financial and development issues. Jacki attended sessions on board development and the role of the administrator, while Jackie's husband Craig showed baby Emily the sights of Baltimore Harbor. Emily (the youngest attendee) made friends with composer Alice Parker at the closing dinner in honor of her 75th birthday.

## High Schoolers Blend Voices with Harmonium



Jan Kucher-Patenaude,  
Director of the Montville  
Township High School  
Chamber Singers

As well as reaching out to high school composers, the spring concert included the participation of a Student Partnership Chorus, the fabulous Montville High School Chamber Singers, Jan Kucher-Patenaude, director. They performed the Navaho round, *Now I Walk in Beauty*, and joined Harmonium Choral Society in *Breaths*,

*The Blue Eye of God* (women), two men's choir pieces, and two works by Elliot Levine: *El Progreso Honduras*, in which they were Chorus I, and *i thank You, God*, their hands-down favorite of the concert. They rated their experience outstanding and inspiring in a follow-up questionnaire:

"I loved being in the church singing with all the extremely talented adults and having the whole place echo with our voices, it was beautiful..."

When asked what they learned from the experience, students replied:

"How good completely different choirs could sound together...Old people can have fun with music, too(!). But, music can and does bring out a passion in all people...different styles of music...flexibility...To blend with the other singers and to listen to the adults because they had so much more experience than me and I could learn a lot from them...I learned how quickly we could all learn together and how teamwork makes it all work."

And a final favorite comment, "Music can change your life. Make sure it does."



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## Rave Reviews of March Concert

*Classical New Jersey's* Henry Wyatt praised the March performance of the Bach *Cantata 21*:

Under Anne Matlack's direction, this great cantata received a deeply moving performance, with textures and dynamics beautifully shaped in an old-fashioned way that recalled Helmuth Rilling or the late Robert Shaw; like those two masters, Ms. Matlack emphasized intensity of expression and warmth of vocal tone over period performance practice.

Of the Brahms, Stanford, and Reger performances:

Harmonium sang all these diverse works very well indeed....the soft octaves in the Stanford were firm and in tune....Reger's bleak meditation on death...can

derail an unaccompanied chorus' sense of pitch, and happily this was not the case. Both of Harmonium's ensembles, the Madrigal Singers and the full Choral Society, kept the faith, as it were.

## Notes in Advance



Reading Anne Matlack's exhaustive program notes can add to your enjoyment of any concert; but sometimes there isn't time before the performance! Subscribers may now receive program notes in advance either by mail or e-mail! Did you miss the last concert? Find the program notes at [www.harmonium.org](http://www.harmonium.org).