

# The Harmonium Inchoirer

Choral Society

## Arts Council Honors Harmonium

The Arts Council of the Morris Area has recognized Harmonium Choral Society members for their contributions to the arts in Morris County. Awards were presented this summer in a ceremony at Fairleigh Dickinson University in Madison. The award citations are adapted below.

**Dr. Anne Matlack**, Artistic Director, has been recognized as the 2003 Outstanding Arts Professional for her work with Harmonium Choral Society and with youth and adult choirs at Grace Episcopal Church, Madison. In her work with Harmonium, and as artistic director of the Grace Community Music program, she reaches out to the community in many ways. Beverly Wand, a Madison resident and the mother of two Grace Church youth choir members, says of Anne, "The work she does tirelessly is for the love of the music; the choir reaches for the musical carrots she dangles before them without even realizing the magnitude of their accomplishments, and the true life-value of the things [dedication, perseverance, practice, poise] she has taught them." Anne also promotes young, upcoming composers by leading the judging of Harmonium's annual New Jersey High School Student Choral Composition Contest, naming a Harmonium Composer-in-Residence, and commissioning new works.

The Arts Council also recognized Harmonium charter members **Penny** and **David Hoadley** of Brookside as the 2003 Outstanding Arts Advocates. Penny and David have been a vital force at the Chester Theater Group for over thirty-five years, and both have been involved in Harmonium since it was founded in 1979. Says Anne Matlack, "David never misses an opportunity to perform, and is a great example to the kids when he stands up at the outreach shows and tells them he's been singing for almost 60 years."

Harmonium Choral Society was named Outstanding Arts Organization by the Arts Council in 1998.



2003 Student Choral Composition Contest. Front row, left to right: Elliot Lee, Program Director for Morris County, Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation; Heidi Lam, Grand Prize Winner; Christine Woodbury, Third Runner-Up; Michele Yurecko, Contest Coordinator. Back row, left to right: Craig Pellet, Second Runner-Up; Miguel Felipe Berg, First Runner-Up; Anne Matlack, Artistic Director

## Spring Concert Premieres

On May 31 and June 1 Harmonium presented the East Coast premiere of Minnesota composer Edie Hill's *Dazzle of Day* for chorus and guitar (with guitarist Darren O'Neill). The composer was present and gave a brief explanation of the work, which had previously been performed only by the professional Dale Warland Singers. She was also able to bring her parents who live in Connecticut to hear the work for the first time!

The same concert presented a movement of Morristown composer David Sampson's *Jersey Rain*, presented for the first time in a new version for chorus with piano (Joan Tracy) and clarinet (Dave Walsh). Harmonium had participated in the premiere of the entire *Jersey Rain* with the Colonial Symphony in May 2002. Harmonium also performed excerpts from this work at the Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation Poetry Festival in September 2002, with the composer and former U. S. poet laureate Robert Pinsky in a discussion of the interaction between poetry and music.

Continued, page 2

Spring Concert, continued from page 1

The concerts also featured the winners of the sixth annual student choral composition contest: second place *Como el sol* by Miguel Felipe Berg, and grand prize winner Heidi Lam's *This Day*.

## Meet the Winners

**The Harmonium New Jersey High School Student Choral Composition Contest** aims to encourage young choral composers and create new repertoire. The contest was generously funded again this past year by a grant from the Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation. Here are profiles of the 2003 winners:

**Heidi Lam** was a junior at Princeton Day School, where she studied Music Composition with Composer-in-Residence Laurence Altman. *This Day*, written for SATB choir and piano, is her latest work. She has previously written a piano sonata, a string quartet arrangement of Laurence Altman's piano piece "Hymn Jazz," a sonata for cello and piano, a cello solo inspired by the events of September 11th, and another piece for mixed chorus, "A Time to Gather the Day," which received a Special Text Award in the 2001-2002 Harmonium Choral Composition Contest. She is inspired largely by her favorite composer, Frederic Chopin, and by her teacher, Laurence Altman. The text for the present entry comes from one of her own poems.

**Miguel Felipe Berg** has been interested in music since a young age. In his childhood in Colombia, South America, he watched many *telenovelas* or nighttime soap operas. One that attracted his interest was the telenovela entitled "Musica Maestro" ("The Music Maestro"). For this contest he wrote a Spanish work entitled *Como el sol*, which mixes classical Spanish and modern styles. He currently lives in Mahwah, NJ, with his parents, Anders and Gloria Berg. Having graduated from Mahwah high school, he will attend Pennsylvania State University in the fall of 2003 as an engineering major.

Third Prize winner **Craig Pellet** is an accomplished trombonist and pianist and June 2003 graduate of **Mount Olive High School**. He was sponsored by

his Choral Director Laura Anderson. Craig plans on a double major in Music Education and Music Theory and Composition at either the University of Delaware or Shenandoah Conservatory.

Fourth Prize winner **Christine Woodbury** was a freshman at **Madison High School** where she was a member of the orchestra and chorus. She studies music composition with Paul Somers, violin with Leslie Webster, and viola with Peg Roberts. She is also a cadet teacher of violin. Christine is currently a member of the New Jersey Youth Orchestra.

Harmonium offers many thanks to this past year's judges: **Mark Miller**, organist, church musician, and Harmonium's Composer-in-Residence; **Edward F. Corson**, Harmonium bass, composer, and music software consultant; **Matthew Harris**, New York City composer whose *A Child's Christmas in Wales* for chorus and chamber orchestra was premiered by Harmonium this past December and is now published by C. F. Peters; **Elizabeth Alexander**, a talented composer from Ithaca, New York who has joined us at the Dodge Poetry Festival, and coached this spring's composer workshop; **David Sampson**, Composer-in-Residence for the Colonial Symphony; and **Anne Matlack**, Artistic Director of Harmonium. All students who submit manuscripts receive constructive, detailed written evaluations from all judges.

Next year's Student Composition Contest theme is: **Spring Fever, A Choral Celebration of Love** — a concert of love songs! Please tell your friends, teachers and composition students! Registration will be due in December and manuscripts in February.





## Mark Miller to Conduct March Concert

Composer in Residence Mark Miller will conduct Harmonium during the winter months of early 2004, while Artistic Director Anne Matlack takes a brief creative sabbatical. Mark's tutelage will culminate in concerts March 6 and 7, 2004 at the Church of the Redeemer in Morristown. (See page 7 for ticket info.) The concert programs will include three works previously written for Harmonium by Miller, the world premiere of a brand-new work by Miller, and gospel music with guest soloists from the Community Gospel Choir of Marble Collegiate Church in New York City, where Miller is currently musical director.



*Mark Andrew Miller, Composer-in-Residence conducting the Harmonium Choral Society.*

## Harmonium Treasurer Receives Volunteer Award

**Randi Jermansen**, also of Madison, was recognized by the Volunteers of Morris County for her dedication and excellent work in and for Harmonium Choral Society. Randi is a Certified Public Accountant and, in her nearly four-year tenure as Treasurer of Harmonium, has tightened the group's earlier, more informal accounting practices into a fully professional system. Board Secretary Val Davia comments "Randi's contributions have made Harmonium vastly more proficient and efficient. Her financial reports make writing grant applications easy."



*Jeri Herbert, left, and Chris Hatcher*

## Marriages a-Plenty!

Harmonium singers have been busy getting married — to each other! Best wishes to bass Mike Acocella and alto Roberta Haines (July 4, 2003) and bass Chris Hatcher and alto Jeri Herbert (August 9, 2003). Felicitations also to tenor John Pivarnik (April) and bass Jack Grier (June) and their brides!

## Christmas Concert Spans Centuries

**AVE!**, Harmonium's December concert, will highlight the eclectic variety of styles that our audiences have come to expect, with works from the Middle Ages to the Twentieth Century. For example, the concert will open with a gorgeous Renaissance *Ave Maria* by Robert Parsons, followed by Morten Lauridsen's lush contemporary version. Arvo Pärt's *Magnificat* will be followed by Durante's Baroque setting with string orchestra and soloists. (Some may know this piece as Pergolesi's *Magnificat*, but recent scholarship has attributed it to Durante.) There will also be a set by the 20-voice Harmonium Chamber Singers, and a multi-cultural set including Kenyan and Sephardic lullabies. The concert will be held in the gothic acoustic of the Church of the Redeemer in Morristown, December 13 at 8 p.m. and December 14 at 3 p.m. *Please see the subscription page 7 for ticket information.*

— Thank you Advertisers, 2002-2003 Season!! —

Acupuncture Center of New Jersey  
Kenneth Albiston  
The Astragal Press  
Baroque Orchestra of Boonton  
Beth Wilson  
E.A. Boyer  
Jill S. Brueckner, DMD  
bshopiro design  
Castle Printing  
Music at Christ Church  
Connell Family  
Corbett Custom Framing  
Corson Studios  
Damon Falzone  
Dan Karger Family Therapy  
Davis Landscaping  
Drew Summer Music 2003  
Feline Health Center  
Filling Station  
The Finishing Touch  
Foundry Music  
Friends of Planet Earth  
Gabrielle de la Crétaz  
Gill St. Bernard's School  
GMP Networks  
Grace Church  
Harte Orthodontics  
Infectious Diseases Consultants  
King of Kings Lutheran Church

Kings Fine Wines of Berkeley Heights  
Larry Viarengo  
Linda C. Erikson  
Louise Karger  
Madison Avenue Chiropractic Group  
Magic Touch Massage  
Mendham Bakery  
Michael J. Terzis  
Morristown Dental Associates  
The Music Den  
Music Together of Warren Township  
One Source Communication  
Pandora Book Peddlers  
Plainsong Algorithms  
Progressive Asset Management  
Prudential Financial  
Ridge Light Opera  
S. Johnson Landscape  
Sarah Cavanaugh Landscape Design  
Sharp Looks  
Sidney Chonowski  
Simchuna  
Smooth-On  
Sovereign Bank  
Stickel, Frahn and Lloyd  
The Pampered Chef  
Tullen Sound Recording  
Vienna Piano Company  
World of Music

---

## Anne Matlack Named to International Advisory Board for Special Needs Chorus.

Joyful Noise, a special needs chorus based in Had-donfield, NJ, has invited Anne to be a member of its international advisory board. Shown here are board members, from left to right:  
*Allison Fromm Entrekin, Joyful Noise;*  
*Charles Bruffy, Kansas City Chorale;*  
*Steven Sametz, Princeton Singers;*  
*Alice Parker, Melodious Accord;*  
*Jon Washburn, Vancouver Chamber Choir;*  
*Dennis Keene, Voices of Ascension;*  
*Anne Matlack, Harmonium Choral Society*

