

Travelers Choral Club



Première
Composition
By Stacy Cahoon

84th Annual Holiday Concert

Directed by Dorothy Barnhart

Accompanied by Stacy Cahoon

Wednesday, December 17, 2008 - 7:30 p.m.

The Bushnell 🌲 Mortensen Hall

Hartford, Connecticut

Our Director:

Dorothy Barnhart, Director of the Travelers Choral Club, received her degree in music education from Kansas University and a Master's Degree in music from Wichita State University. She has lived in Connecticut since 1979 and initially taught vocal music in New Haven Public Schools. Ms. Barnhart studied conducting under Maestro Otto Werner Mueller during his tenure at Yale University. In addition, she studied voice with master teachers Madam Marga Mueller in New Haven and Madam Eva Likova in New York City. She is Artistic Director of Chorale Connecticut. Ms. Barnhart teaches voice in her Southington studio and is Director of the Handbell Choir at the First United Methodist Church. Ms. Barnhart studies singing with professional soloist and master teacher, Beverly Myers, in New York City.

Our Accompanist:

Stacy Cahoon received her Master of Music Degree in Piano Accompanying from the Hartt School of Music and a Bachelor of Music in Performance from the University of Massachusetts at Lowell. Active as a freelance accompanist, she has appeared throughout the Northeast, including the Lincoln Center Library and St. Peter's Church in New York City. She has had the distinct pleasure of being the Choral Club Accompanist since 1995. As a soloist, Stacy has performed recitals in Hartford, most recently at Center Church, as well as throughout Cape Cod. Stacy has been a staff accompanist for the Hartford Conservatory and an instructor at the Nutmeg Conservatory for the Arts. Currently she is an independent piano teacher.

Our Guests:

The Hockanum Valley Ringers are an auditioned community handbell ensemble, formed in October 2005, and consist of 13 ringers, ringing five octaves of bells (61) and three-plus octaves of hand chimes (42). The first performance of the Hockanum Valley Ringers was an appearance at the Travelers Choral Club Annual Holiday Concert on November 30, 2005. Since then the ensemble has performed numerous public and private concerts throughout Connecticut, ringing a wide variety of styles of music from classical and Broadway to pop and jazz, along with a sprinkling of contemporary original music written especially for handbells. The Hockanum Valley Ringers are directed by Greg Fisher, who has been directing handbell choirs since 1977.



Our Advisory Board:

President: Catharine Floryan
Vice President: Yushen Michelsen
Business Manager: Jim Liddle
Executive Board Members: Phil Stice and Randy Walker

Treasurer: Michael Dolan
Secretary: Amanda Dondelinger
Historian: Greg Ludovici
Librarian: Diane Hayes

Committee Chairpersons:

Auditions: Julie Fredrickson
Communication/Tickets: Marcia Horan
Events: Sue Ward
Liaisons: Patricia Gray and Beatrice Shields
Membership: Phil Stice
Music: Kathy Stott

Newsletter: Marty Proulx
Programs/Posters: Cheryl Sullivan
Publicity: Jack Powell
Stage Decorations: Alice Sheremeta
Recordings: Raelene Cronin
Website: Randy Walker

Director Emeritus: Lois Jungas

Honorary Member: Michael G. Rooney

Our Thanks To:

The Board of Directors, Travelers Senior Management Team, and the Travelers Foundation for their continuing support.

The Travelers Employees' Club for providing ushering assistance.

You, our audience, for joining us this evening and for your always generous donations to FoodShare.

A very special thanks to Sue McGonigle and Cheryl Foston for assistance with decorations.

A CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

God Rest You Merry

arranged by Alice Parker

What Child

by Paul Lohman

Whisper! Whisper! (Baby Born Today)

by Jay Althouse

Angels' Carol

by John Rutter

Three Spanish Carols

arranged by Emily Crocker

Little Tree

by Stacy Cahoon

INTERMISSION



Away in a Manger

by Mark Hayes

★ Handbell Set – Directed by Greg Fisher

★ *Parade of the Tin Soldiers*

arranged by Martha Lynn Thompson

★ *God Rest Ye Merry*

arranged by Judy Phillips

★ *Carol of the Bells*

arranged by Arnold B. Sherman

★ *We Wish You a Merry Christmas*

arranged by Valerie Stephenson

Ring Those Christmas Bells

by Gus Levene, arranged by H. Ades

Winter Wonderland

by Felix Bernard, arranged by Ed Lojeski

Santa's Job is a Snap! (The Elves' Rap)

by Sally Albrecht

A Rhapsody of Christmas

arranged by Ed Lojeski



William Very and Rob DeSesa, Drums & Percussions

Youth Choir - Travelers' Sprites

Jessica Berry
Audrey Conklin
Shelby Doerfler
Erika Florian
Jenna Hutensky

Jordan Hutensky
Nicholas Klimczak
Victoria Klimczak
Samantha McGrail
Allie Ornato

Carrie Ornato
Julia Reilly
Philip Rieth
Andrew Rittenhouse
Raquel Romano

Hockanum Valley Ringers

Carol Aronson
Karen Bale
Lynn Fisher
Sandra Halmers
Paula Haney

Peggy Haney
Amy Hubeny
Janice Klingman
Deb Manning

Tracy Oates
Carol Ross
Marissa Shanbaum
Sylvia Yoder



SOPRANO I

Päivi Ingeri Annast
Thelma Clemons
Linda Cromwell
Catharine Floryan
Julie Fredrickson #
Patricia A. Gray #
Rose Libratore

Doreen Madama
Anne Martin
Yushen Michelsen
Pamela Paul
Beatrice Ann Shields
Jo-An Ulrich
Divinagracia Vernier

SOPRANO II

Amanda Dondelinger
Samantha Fernandes
Katie Finnegan
Diane Hayes
Leslie Jaiven #
Kathleen Kondratovicz
Amy Lamica >

Jillian Moler
Marlyce Ostergren
Katherine N. Stott
Beverly Strout
Cheryl Sullivan #
Deb Susca ✓

ALTO I

Joyce Augello
Maura Curran Baker
Joan Helene Blakeslee, M.D.
Carole Cipolla
Raelene L. Cronin #
Irena Miroslaw Evans

Kimberly Goodrich
Marcia Horan
Rachael Jackson
Gloria R. Lombardo
Karen Mealey ✓
Sharon Piaskowski

Leyda Quast
Alice Sheremeta
Grace Shuman
Jessie S. Slade
Sue Ward

ALTO II

Judy Brandi
Barbara Glastris
Laraine LeDuc # >
Nancy Perrone
Linda Roche
Donna Yount

TENOR

Daniel Bull
Richard Daggett
Steve Deming
Michael Dolan
Randy Eborá ✓
Eric Ellison
Larry Goodwin #
Michael Kalinowski ✓
Brenda J. Lawrence
David Lesieur

Greg Ludovici
Paul Mason
Geoffrey Mather
Jack Powell
Martin Proulx
Joe Sacala ✓
Jean-Michel Sibille >
Patrick Spadaccino
Phil Stice #
Dan Tuve #

BASS

Kenneth Burr
William Curlew
Rob DeSesa
Dale Eberhardt
Eric W. Johnson
Bernard E. Kean
Tim Kloczko
Ray Knapp

Jim Liddle
Scott Macdonough
Peter Reinke
Anthony Sisti #
Carroll Toal
Barrett True
William Very
Randy Walker #

- Past President

> - Section Leader

✓ - New Members

The Travelers Choral Club was formed in 1924 and started out as a small ensemble performing in the Travelers' auditorium. In 1931, the group appeared at the newly opened Bushnell Auditorium and has performed annually in Mortensen Hall ever since (with the exception of the WWII years). During the 1940's, 50's and 60's, the group sang Christmas carols on radio station WTIC, then owned by the Travelers.

In 1965, the ensemble sang at the World's Fair Travelers Pavilion in New York City. Over the years, members of the group have performed at Festival of Light in Hartford, at community carol singing events in Hartford's South End, on Constitution Plaza as part of Plaza Pizzazz, at the Festival of Trees in the Wadsworth Atheneum, at Hartford Hospital to entertain the patients and at the Travelers Championship in Cromwell. In 2007, the Travelers Choral Club was honored to sing at the Governor's Residence Holiday Open House in Hartford.

Our annual spring and holiday concerts are open to the public and admission is always free of charge. As a service to our community, the nonprofit Travelers Choral Club collects thousands of pounds of nonperishable food from our generous concert audiences for donation to FoodShare each year.

The Travelers Choral Club invites you to visit our website at

www.travelerschoralclub.org

for information about upcoming performances, music programs, club history, photo albums, audio recordings, frequently asked questions, club contacts and more.

**Please join us for our next free concert on Friday, May 15, 2009
The Bushnell, Mortensen Hall**

In appreciation for all my years with the Travelers Choral Club, I decided to compose a piece specifically for the group. I approached Dorothy about my interest in setting an American poem to music. She suggested I check out "little tree" by E.E. Cummings. I immediately connected with its simple beauty.

My goal was to capture the tender, pure voice of the child in his longing to protect the small tree. In the dreamy middle section, with the piano representing the spangles, I wanted to convey the wonder and magic of Christmas from a child's perspective.

While my own daughters, Jordan and Jenna, were inspiration for the piece, my hope is that everyone, regardless of age, can share in the joy of this beautiful holiday season.

Stacy Cahoon



little tree - a poem by E. E. Cummings

little tree
little silent Christmas tree
you are so little
you are more like a flower

who found you in the green forest
and were you very sorry to come away?
see i will comfort you
because you smell so sweetly

i will kiss your cool bark
and hug you safe and tight
just as your mother would,
only don't be afraid

look the spangles
that sleep all the year in a dark box
dreaming of being taken out and allowed to shine,
the balls the chains red and gold the fluffy threads,

put up your little arms
and i'll give them all to you to hold
every finger shall have its ring
and there won't be a single place dark or unhappy

then when you're quite dressed
you'll stand in the window for everyone to see
and how they'll stare!
oh but you'll be very proud

and my little sister and i will take hands
and looking up at our beautiful tree
we'll dance and sing
"Noel Noel"