



~ Patron Drive Time ~

The Choral Guild takes this opportunity to thank all of our patrons for your gracious support!!! We are still in existence because of you! Our revenues have managed to meet the annual minimum budget of \$6,000. Within these confines, we try to provide two of the highest quality productions. However this summer, the Choral Guild board upped the ante!

Our Concert Chairman proclaimed, "It is time for us to step out of our comfort zone of the ordinary; step forward and live our Mission Statement of bringing quality music to the community at an affordable price!" To that end, we are increasing our performances and instrumentation!! Doing so; however, will increase our production costs.

This time we are blessed to present our Christmas concert in the Performing Arts Center! We will also let you in on the Big Secret of the Flash Mob scheduled for next month. We will be singing for various organizations in our community, meetings, parties and carols in hospitals and nursing homes. The Choral Guild board realizes that we are capable of more; however ultimately, it is dependent on your generosity.

~ A Note from our Editor in Chief ~

I can't wait to read about Sarah Riggle's experience singing in Washington D.C in the Spotlight On later in this issue. Also Becky's recap of the Luau is a treat. The overworked newsletter staff managed to get the pictures onto the website. Church Chatter, an upcoming feature, gives our members a chance to share free concerts, bazaars, bake sales and the like happening at their church. Email the newsletter staff at valdostachoralguild@gmail.com, talk to Kerry or just hand her a church bulletin.

A special thanks to the reporters that gathered the Member's Milestones information. If you know about a special happening, email our staff at the above address.

Due to technical difficulties, until further notice, pictures will be posted on a "Photo Gallery" page. Links will be provided. -- Alfreda E. Newman

~ Flash Mob!!~

Don't miss being a part of Valdosta's first "Music Flash Mob"!!
We will be performing at the Valdosta Mall
on November 23rd, (Black Friday)
at 10:00 a.m. & 2:00 p.m.

Sign up with Daniel Folsom to find out about rehearsal times etc.

For those of you that have no idea what a flash mob is, it is fantastic publicity for the Choral Guild and should attract new members, patrons, sponsors and fans! Come be a part of this history making event!!

Check out a video of one performed in Welland, Ontario (my home town) last year.

This is a short cut to watch a Hallelujah Chorus flash mob performed by my old home town Choral Group at our local mall – Kerry

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SXh7JR9oKVE>

~ Aloha Reatha Island ~

On September 29th, members of the Choral Guild set sail for Reatha Island and the wonderful luau that awaited us there. Guests were greeted with a traditional Hawaiian lei by the social committee dressed in grass skirts. Thankfully coconut bras were not to be seen on these premises! Tiki torches, flower decorated tables, a hammock, a fire pit and Hawaiian music set the tone perfectly for our luau.

Guests were encouraged to get to know each other by playing a game where each one tried to get the others to say the words, “I”, “I’m” or “I’ll” or they’d lose their Hawaiian lei. Do you realize how hard it is to carry on a conversation without saying those words?!!!! Daniel Folsom won this game handily and by dinner time he had collected most of the leis on the property.

To work up an appetite for the feast, the guys donned grass skirts and did a reverse limbo. For those of you who do not know what this is, have a look at the photos, I think they depict it pretty good! As most of you guys do not know how to “hike up” your skirt, this proved to be a real challenge. It was a sight to see, that's for sure!

Dinner served! So many delicious dishes arrived that one and all had their fill of everything including appetizers, entrees and desserts. Some of us had a little nip of the grape as well, but don't tell. Everything was delicious and the ladies ate so much that they had to work it off by putting on grass skirts and having a hula contest. We do have some great hula dancers in our group! The judges just could not decide on a winner. Not to be outdone, John Mitchell had to join the fun and dance with each hula girl himself. (He started with his wife so it was OK.)

Rebecca pulled out her "Who's Line is it Anyway" grab bag while guests basked in the after dinner glow and got some of us up entertaining the others by reciting Mary Has A Little Lamb in the styles of different characters we pulled out of a hat. We especially enjoyed Grant's rendition of Honey Boo Boo, Jenn's portrayal of a grandma with no teeth, Daniel's politician rendition and Don's weather man in a hurricane recital. Everyone did a great job portraying their characters and it gave us all a great laugh! Check out the pictures at: <http://www.valdostachoralguild.org/vcg-fall-2012-luau.html>

~ Spotlight On ~

This month, the Spotlight is On Sarah Riggle, longtime member of the Guild. Sarah's whole life has been about two things; family and music. When this editor first met her, she had been repairing wind instruments for many years. After that company downsized, she went to college to hone one of her other talents; graphic arts.

Shortly after we became friends, she met Kay Smith at church. Kay had been a nurse longer than Florence Nightengale's wings. They shared a sandwich at a picnic table. it was love at first sight. Not long after, they were married and retired to spent their life focused on family and helping people in need. Somehow, they even find time to make artful quilts.

Lowndes Lampoon is proud to present Sarah from our tenor section, who will tell the rest of the story in her own words.

As a musician and singer of many years, I have had some wonderful experiences that are humbling in their own way. I served our country in the U.S. Army where I was given the opportunity to use my musical gifts both as an instrumentalist and a vocalist. Being stationed with the post band at Fort Jackson SC, our stage band was tasked to be the backup band for a charity event given by Bob Hope. After our rehearsal that afternoon, Mr. Hope stayed a little later and chatted with us until he had to prepare for that evening's Benefits.

Stationed with the Army Band at Fort Bliss TX, we had the opportunity to play in the 'Sun Bowl' stadium at the University of Texas at El Paso (UTEP); the site of a College football playoff game. It was Military Appreciation Day there and a crowd gathered of about 45,000 people. Because of the acoustics and the placement of the huge speakers, I had to sing our National Anthem unaccompanied; quite exhilarating!

I stood on the tarmac at Rhein Main Air Force Base with the 3rd Armored Division Band and an Air Force Band alternately playing patriotic marches as the recently released Iranian hostages were officially welcomed home. Each one, in turn, passed through our ranks and shook our hands in gratitude.

Of all the places I have sung around the world, none of them can compare to having the chance to sing in our Nation's Cathedral in Washington DC. Dr. Paul Neal, Choral Director at VSU, was asked to be one of the festival conductors. Several singers with the Symphony Chorus signed up to support him.

The concert took place on Labor Day of this year with 140 voices and approximately 65 musicians in the Festival Orchestra. The chorus was made up of adults from seven states. We only had three rehearsals to bring the music together, under control of the two conductors! Only four singers from Valdosta made the trip to D.C. to sing in this year's inaugural concert; I was one of them. Most of the singers had the music for two years. We were each given a recording of the 14 pieces picked to be performed.

Our rehearsals were held in the Nation's City Christian Church, which was the first church for the Presiding Bishop for the Episcopal Church. The church is magnificent and had wonderful acoustics; required for singing a few of the pieces. With only seven hours for rehearsing, it offered little time to meet some of the other singers who had gathered from choirs across our nation.

Sadly, because we arrived on the first day of rehearsals, I only got to see the magnificent Gothic,

European style, Cathedral for the first time on Sunday evening as we gathered for a short rehearsal before that evening's concert. This Cathedral is a Church for the people of America, but it was also my Church as an Episcopalian. The inside of the church had a series of netting strung along the upper level to catch any falling pieces (due to the east coast earthquake last year); but it couldn't block the view of the wonderful stain glass windows and especially the huge Rose Window set in the front wall of the Church.

For two solid hours, our voices echoed, drifted and filled the upper chambers of the Nave's vaulted ceilings. Our soaring music gave praises and glory to the majesty of both the Cathedral's construction and the wonderfully lifting musical phrases and lines of song from singers and musicians.

Click here to see the pictures! <http://www.valdostachoralguild.org/photo-gallery.html>

~ Member's Milestones ~

Just to bring everyone up to date on the exciting happenings in your fellow members lives this past summer:

- In May, one of our Sopranos and one of our Altos became official family members as the son of Lynne Bennett married the daughter of Martha Cummings. It was a beautiful wedding, too bad the moms didn't think of singing together at the ceremony!
- In June, Soprano, Katrina Price gave birth to a bouncing baby boy. A very special welcome to Declan Kilby! Also congratulations on your 5th anniversary (Oct 6th)!
- Our illustrious Social Chairperson, Rebecca Mullican welcomed the arrival of her second grandbaby! Now Lorelai has a little brother, Cooper, and Rebecca's heart has grown even larger
- Another of our Sopranos, Susan Maul, became a grandmother for the 1st time! Congratulations!
- Don't forget to continue to pray for Kay Vincent, and the continued healing of her broken arm. It was great to see her out at the luau and back in her seat amongst the Sopranos!
- Rebecca Mullican missed a board meeting this past Monday but showed up for a few minutes at rehearsal. Her knee was badly bruised. This reporter was informed that she wears a back brace and that she fell in the kitchen. Brave soul that she is, she babysits her grands. Prayers for her too please.
- This editor had to slog through the last half of bringing you this newsletter because the extremely talented Managing Editor, Kerry Montgomery, was called out of town on an errand of mercy. Her mother-in-law was rushed to the hospital and her father-in-law has health issues. Please put Kerry and her family on your prayer list. – Alfreda

If you have had something exciting happen or a milestone worth mentioning or even want a special prayer request, let me know so I'll be able to share it with your fellow members. Don't be left out, we really want to get to know you better!

Email Kerry at <http://www.valdostachoralguild.org/>

Join us as we step into 2012! We are now on Facebook!

Check it out and 'Like' us & tell your friends!

Just click on this link!

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/411791765546318/>

~ Church Chatter ~

Is your church having a special concert, a bake sale or bazaar? Let us know and we will post it here.

~ Upcoming Events ~

Other Exciting Events You Can Be Involved In!!

- Craig Center party - December 13th 6:30pm Bas Bleu-Downtown
- Christmas Caroling at Moody Air Force Base
- Caroling in nursing homes and hospital

Publicity chairperson, Daniel Folsom will have more information to follow!

~ Mia Culpa ~

The Choral Guild has started a patron drive. Until we get some money, we have to break child labor laws and hire 3rd graders to do our work for us. Because of that a lot of mistakes are made.

This time we would like to apologize to the Lovely Liberace of the feminine gender that accompanies us. Sara's picture was supposed to be with her Spotlight On article. Instead, it appears in the Photo Gallery. <http://www.valdostachoralguild.org/photo-gallery.html>.

Don't forget, she is still walking. Has anyone found a bike for her to ride? Is there a church fund someone can tap? Christmas is coming up you know.

~ Moving Sale -- Everything Must Go! ~

Our webmaster has informed us that we will be charged more to keep putting community events into the newsletter; however, we can keep paying her with lightly-salted, dry roasted Goober Peas if we put the information on the website instead. She also informed us that "It would be more effective for each reciprocal link because yada, yada, blah, blah". Yeah, Techy Speak.

Seeing that we have found our last two accompanists from the student body of VSU we'd like to support their music department by attending their various concerts and recitals. Follow the link below to find a schedule of this year's upcoming events including the symphony. . Also new, VSU Theater /Dance. If you have a community entertainment you would like to have posted on our events page, drop us a line at: <http://www.valdostachoralguild.org/>

Follow the link: <http://www.valdostachoralguild.org/community-events--links.html> to our New and Improved Community Events and Links page!

~ Are We Having Fun Yet??? ~

The tenors are familiar with Michael Lingers sense of humor, so for now we can blame...uh...credit him for this month's hilarious rules for us that Grant never mentions. Thanks, Michael for the great selection, you'll keep us laughing for months to come!

Golden Rules for Ensemble Singing

1. Everyone should sing the same piece.
2. Take your time turning pages.
3. Do not worry if you do not have perfect pitch – you may find singing less stressful without it!
4. The right note at the wrong time is the wrong note.
5. The wrong note at the right time is still a wrong note.
6. A wrong note sung timidly is still a wrong note.
7. A wrong note sung with authority is an interpretation.
8. A true interpretation is realized when not one note of the original remains.
9. If you happen to sing a wrong note, give a nasty look to one of your neighbors.
10. If everyone gets lost except you, follow those who get lost.
11. If you are completely lost, stop everyone and start an argument about repeat marks.
12. Strive to achieve the maximum notes per second – that way you at least gain the admiration of the totally incompetent.
13. If a passage is difficult, slow it down. If it is easy, speed it up. Everything will work itself out in the end.
14. Markings for slurs, dynamics, ornaments and breathing should be ignored. They are only there to embellish the score.
15. When everyone else has finished singing, you should not sing any notes you may still have left.

Birthdays

The drums roll and the trumpets blare for those people who had birthdays in October: Brenda Freeman, Daniel Folsom, Ralph Gosnell, Sallie Honeycutt