



An Occasional Newsletter

Volume 1 Number 9 Spring 2011



On your mark ...

VCG Rehearsals Begin Earlier Than Usual this Fall.

Rehearsals for the Christmas concert will begin on Monday August 22nd in the choir room of the First Baptist Church at 7:30 PM. At this time the music has not been announced.

Have a great summer in the sun and come back ready to work. Be sure to be there and bring along some singing friends to join us!

~ Spring Concert Smiles ~

I heard from lots of audience members (and several singers) that we seemed to be having a good time during our recent Spring Concert. Folks really enjoyed the musical theater selections and the variety of solos and small ensembles during the program. They even enjoyed the insulting Goodbye at the end! A BIG THANK YOU to each of you for your work on the program and for the extra time outside of rehearsal that made the concert a real success.

I also want to say another BIG THANK YOU to all of you who helped get the sanctuary and choir room cleaned up after the concert on Monday night. Everyone pitched in so well that the job was done in no time! That's the way it should be! MANY THANKS!

Grant

~ Spotlight On ~



The spotlight this issue is on Anna Marie Schaer. For many years if one wanted to visit her bird sanctuary, they had to climb a small mountain to get to the front door. Here is a picture of Annie Marie with Skye, one of her 10,000 birds. The tall, big bird in the background is named "Frank". Even though she lived in a bird sanctuary, it later became a Rabbit Hutch.



One rabbit??

No, rabbits are born pregnant like Tribbles!

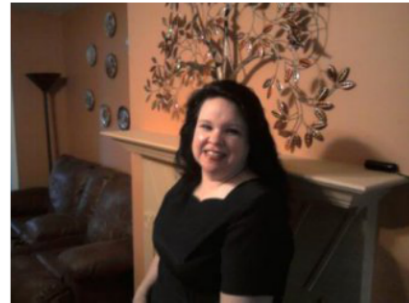
See the resemblance?



And then...

“♪ Wonder of wonders, miracle of miracles ♪” she moved recently into, believe it or not, a house!!! A real live house that people live in! Anna Marie and Frank have turned their garage into the new zoo. (Petting of birds is strictly forbidden! Cuddling of Tribbles is encouraged.)

She has been in Choral Guild for 18 years. Anna Marie was Vice-President for three years; she finished a term for Dick Saeger and then served another term. She was Soprano Section Leader a number of years from '93 until Paulette Butts took over. Anna Marie was Historian and kept the scrapbook. She is also a member of Prairie Band Potawatomi.



~Christmas Concert Dates~

The dates for the Christmas Concerts are set and on the calendar at First Baptist

Dress rehearsal on Saturday, December 10 time to be announced

Concerts will be performed.

Sunday, December 11 at 2:30 PM & Monday, December 12 at 7:30 PM

MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW!

Dates for the Spring 2012 Concerts will be confirmed and announced later this summer.

~Party Time!~

We will have our Fall party on the evening of Saturday, October 1. Place and exact time will be announced later. For now, just reserve the date on your calendar for a great time!

~Broadway in Town~

The annual Peach State Summer Theater has begun at VSU and they have three great shows running in rotating repertory this summer:

- *Carousel* – a Rodgers and Hammerstein classic
- *The Jungle Book* – great for the kids
- *Hairspray* – a hysterical romp of a show with a social message.

Contact Information:

Artistic Director: Jacque Wheeler · Managing Director: H. Duke Guthrie

Box Office Phone: 229-259-7770 · Hours: Tues-Sat: 10-5 & Sun: 10-1

Administrative Office Phone: 229-333-5307 · Fax: 229-249-2602

Email: Contact Us · or visit the Website: <http://www.valdosta.edu/psst/> for further information.

~Big Apple~

Dick Uhler and Anna Marie Schaer went away together for the Memorial Day weekend to the Big Apple; New York City. Don't worry, they were chaperoned by about 50 others including Dr. Neal. Dr. Paul Neal, the Director of the VSU Symphony Chorus, took about 50 people to New York City to sing Gabriel Faure's *Requiem*.

Alfreda E. Newman, Editor in Chief, would like to thank Dick and Anna Marie for their collaboration on the following article.

Valdosta Singers Appear at Lincoln Center, NYC

On May 27th a group of 48 singers representing Valdosta State University and the Valdosta Community, including current and former members of the Valdosta Choral Guild. Anna Marie Schaer, Dick Uhler, Jane Whitehead and Catherine Redles under the watchful eye of former Guild Director Dr. Lynn Corbin, traveled to the City of New York where they met Dr. Paul Neal also a former Guild Director.

Dr. Neal was selected for the second year by the Distinguished Concerts International – New York as an emerging conductor. The group was joined by singers from Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College, Colgate University and the Lincoln Nebraska Lutheran Choir.

From the Park Central Hotel where they stayed, the singers traveled to the Alvin Ailey Studios for rehearsal on Saturday and Sunday. In between they did much walking and shopping at, among other places, Bergdorf Goodman and Macy's.

Sightseeing was by taxi, double-decker tour buses and horse drawn buggies to see many of the wonderful



locations like a Staten Island Ferry ride at night, Times Square at various times in the day, Central Park, The Empire State Building, The Chrysler Buildings and, of course, the emerging memorial at Ground Zero, the latter bringing heavy emotional feelings. (Stock Photo Staten Island Ferry)

After dinners at such places as Bubba Gump's Seafood

Restaurant, Bricco Ristorante Italiano and the Hard Rock Café, many of the group attended Broadway shows like *Sister Act*, *Billy Elliott*, *The Lion King*, *Memphis*, and *The Book of Mormon*. (Anna Marie takes pictures like a tourist.)



On Memorial Day the group traveled to Alice Tully Hall of the Lincoln Center for an afternoon rehearsal and finally that evening a fabulous orchestra accompanied performance of the Faure' *Requiem* conducted by Dr. Neal. The question still remains whether the greater thrill was experienced by the group who performed or



the wonderful audience which received it with super applause. The choir also has a chance to sing in St. Patrick's Cathedral on Labor Day. (Stock Photo Lincoln Center on left & St. Patrick's Cathedral by Anna Marie on right)



After a very nice dinner reception at the Providence that evening, the group returned to Valdosta via Orlando the following day. When asked, a member sighed, "The performance was *magical!!!*" and quipped, "It was also Fleet Week, so it was exciting with all the Sailors and Marines around!"

~European Tour for the Summer of 2013~

Please join Lynn Corbin, former Valdosta Choral Guild director, for a summer choir tour in 2013. In cooperation with Jennifer Franz-Melady, director of the Magnolia High School Choir (*Mozart Requiem*, 2008), a tour to either Italy or Austria is being planned.

The cost will be in the neighborhood of \$3500 for a 9 day tour that includes airfare, housing, some meals, some sightseeing, guide, and all ground transportation.

Lynn would like to know of your interest in order to proceed with repertoire selections and other issues.

The tour is being run by the same company that took some of the Guild to Australia in 2009. Expressing interest at this time does not commit you to the trip, but please be sure you are seriously interested. For more information, please contact Lynn Corbin by going to: <http://www.valdostachoralguild.org/europe-2013.html> and emailing her.

~Membership Handbook~

Our outstanding Membership Chair, Dick Uhlir, is working on a VCG Handbook that will list lots of helpful information regarding the Guild. Articles about dues, concert attire, rehearsal attendance, Guild history and so much more will be part of this document which will be available to you early next season. Thank you, Dick!

JUNE



A HAPPY BIRTHDAY

To All

Jean Plondke, Grant Brown & John Akers

Birthdays