



Worthy of Note

A Newsletter of the Choral Society of Middle Georgia

Choral Society of
Middle Georgia

Volume 2, Issue 1

October 2009

THE DOWNBEAT. . .

by Dr. John Simons
Artistic Director and Conductor of the
Choral Society

The Choral Society of Middle
Georgia 2009—2010



Welcome to the 2009-2010 Season of the Choral Society of Middle Georgia. We begin our season of celebration with one of the greatest choral works ever composed—*Requiem* by W.A. Mozart. The Choral Society, with over 80 singers, will be joined by the Select Choir from Warner Robins High School, lead by Joy Dumas, and the CSMGA Festival Orchestra. The performing forces are 110 singers and 20 orchestra members. Our first concert will serve to recognize civic and spiritual leaders who paved the way for the freedoms we enjoy. A true celebration of All Saints Day, the concert will also include a guest appearance by the Mercer University Children's Choir. Our event will be held in the beautifully renovated sanctuary of Vineville United Methodist Church in Macon, Georgia on Sunday, November 1st at 4 p.m. As well, we will give a second performance without the Children's Choir at First United Methodist Church of Milledgeville on Tuesday, November 3 at 7:30 p.m.

We will conclude the first half of our season with our annual performance of Handel's *Messiah*. We begin rehearsals for this performance on Monday, November 2. All interested singers are welcome to join us. However, you must start rehearsals by November 9 in order to sing with us during the Christmas Season.

Our choral society is a group of people in community making an artistic contribution to our society. While that is a mouthful, it is truly who we are. I invite you to come and be a part of this wonderful community. You will find friendship, community engagement, and personal fulfillment. In addition, you will be able to give our Middle Georgia society a great gift. Put simply, music changes lives. Not only the lives of the performers, but also the lives of those reached by the power and beauty of the music heard.

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REQUIEM

By W.A. Mozart

Choral Society of Middle Georgia
Select Choir from Warner Robins
High School
Festival Orchestra



Ellen Futral Hanson, Soprano
Mary Beth Kosowski, Alto
Richard G. Kosowski, Tenor
Charles F. Huber, Bass

John E. Simons, Conductor

Sunday, November 1, 2009
Vineville United Methodist Church
Macon, Georgia
4:00 PM
Cost: \$10/\$8 Seniors, Students,
Military

Tuesday, November 3, 2009
First United Methodist Church
Milledgeville, Georgia
7:30 PM
Cost: FREE

From the President's Desk...

I am so excited to be back again as we kick off the 2009-10 concert season!

We had an awesome season last year and I know that this season will promise to be the same. We have increased with members of the chorale in a phenomenal way and I am so humbled, pleased, and thrilled to see new faces and also those joining us for another season.

I hope our supporters will find great enjoyment in the works that we are rehearsing and preparing for the season. We will be appearing on WMAZ-Channel 13 again during the Christmas season and at other times of the year. So come out and be a part of our concerts this season and bring your family and friends along with you. It is our desire this

season be filled with magnificent memories never to be forgotten...

Supporters, I personally thank each of you for your continued commitment to the chorale. Board members, I thank you for your faithfulness and hard work as we come together as a team throughout the season and year. I would also like to thank our director, John Simons, our accompanist, Gail Pollock, and every single chorale member for your dedication and commitment to our art and for choosing to put your hearts into bringing the best that can be given to our audiences every season. I applaud you for your work...

Again, welcome back supporters and chorale...

Welcome back, one and all...



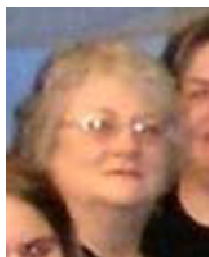
Johnnie Goolsby
President

Choral Society of Middle Georgia

VOICES OF THE CHORALE



Frank Ellis, Bass, has been with the CSMGA for ten years and his favorite musical piece to perform is Mozart's *Requiem*. Frank played trumpet in elementary and high school and has sung in church choirs since his junior high school days. He is currently a retired Materials Manager from Coliseum Health System. Frank has enjoyed singing with the Chorale's Ambassadors and Chamber Singers for the past several years.



Carla Asbell-Dennis, Alto, has been with the Chorale for the past sixteen years. Her favorite musical pieces performed are Faure *Requiem*, Mozart's *Requiem*, Robert Ray's Gospel Mass, Carmina Burana, and Spirituals. She sang for her supper at ages 3 and 4 for 'My Mary', the family cook and currently sings with the Vineville United Methodist Church choir. Carla is a CPA at Georgia College & State University, lives in Macon, and works in Milledgeville. As John Simons has pointed out, "Music changes lives" and it did for Carla when she found the "love of her life" singing in the Chorale – met and married Tenor, Peter Dennis

Rita Davis began studying voice at eleven years of age with Gloria Hutchings. She did further study with Louise Brumfield of Macon, Robert Warfield of Rochester, New York, Rebecca Lanning of Macon. As an undergraduate at Wesleyan College, she studied with Alice Hopper. She was selected as a participant in music for the first Governor's Honors Program. In 1992, she was one of the first place winners in her category in the state National Associations of Teachers of Singing competition.

Ms. Davis is a graduate of Macon State College with an Associate Degree in Nursing and Bachelors in Health Services Administration and Ellis College New York Institute of Technology with an M.B.A. She is currently an administrator at a health care case management facility in Macon. She became a member of the Macon Civic Chorale, now the Middle Georgia Choral Society in the 1970's. Some of her most favorite works are the Dvorak *Requiem Mass* performed at Carnegie Hall and Brahms—*A German Requiem*.



David Simons, Tenor, is the son of Chorale Society Director, John Simons. He has sung with the Chorale for the past two years. David began singing at the age of six and his favorite musical piece to perform is Handel's *Messiah*..



REQUIEM ... FUN FACTS



The Requiem Mass in D minor by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart was composed in Vienna in 1791, during the last year of the composer's life. The requiem was Mozart's last composition and is one of his most popular and respected works, although the question of how much of the music Mozart managed to complete before his death and how much was later composed by Franz Xaver Süssmayr or others is still debated.

At the time of Mozart's death on 5 December 1791, only the opening movement (Requiem aeternam) in all of the orchestral and vocal parts were completed. The following Kyrie (a double fugue) and most of the Sequence (from Dies Irae to Confutatis) are complete only in the vocal parts and the

continuo (the figured organ bass), though occasionally some of the prominent orchestral parts have been briefly indicated, such as the violin part of the Confutatis and the musical bridges in the Recordare. The last movement of the Sequence, the Lacrimosa, breaks off after only eight bars and was unfinished. The following two movements of the Offertorium were again partially done — the Domine Jesu Christe in the vocal parts and continuo (up until the fugue, which contains some indications of the violin part) and the Hostias in the vocal parts only. The completed score, initially by Mozart but largely finished by Süssmayr, was then dispatched to Count Walsegg complete with a counterfeited signature of



Wolfgang and Constanze Mozart

Mozart and dated 1792. The various complete and incomplete manuscripts eventually turned up in the 19th century, but many of the figures involved did not leave unambiguous statements on record as to how they were involved in the affair. Despite the controversy over how much of the music is actually Mozart's, the commonly performed Süssmayr version has become widely accepted by the public.

The confusion surrounding the circumstances of the Requiem's composition was created in a large part by Mozart's wife, Constanze. She had a difficult task in front of her - to keep secret the fact that the Requiem was unfinished at Mozart's death, so she could collect the final payment from the commission. For a period of time, she also needed to keep secret the fact that Süssmayr had anything to do with the composition of the Requiem at all in order to allow Count Walsegg the impression that Mozart wrote the work entirely himself. Once she received the commission, she needed to carefully promote the work as Mozart's so she could continue to receive revenue from the work's publication and performance. During this phase of the Requiem's history, it was still important that the public accepted that Mozart wrote the whole piece, as it would fetch larger sums from publishers and the public if it were completely by Mozart.

You can read more about the history of *REQUIEM* by going to <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mozart>

George Frideric Handel was born in Germany in 1685, the same year as Johann Sebastian Bach. His father wanted him to study law, but when it became apparent that the young Handel was musically gifted, his father reluctantly agreed to let the boy study music.

Handel became an accomplished harpsichordist and studied in Naples, where he became an acclaimed writer of Italian operas. He later moved to England, where he continued to have success writing opera, as well as compositions for the royal court. Handel's *Water Music* was composed for King George I. But nothing Handel ever wrote became as popular as *Messiah*. Using Jennens' libretto, Handel completed the entire musical score in only 24 days. It is an astounding accomplishment.

That first performance of *Messiah* in Dublin (a charity event to raise money for a hospital) was a huge success. The piece was not as well received when it debuted in London, but Handel made it a recurring part of his schedule of performances — it became his tradition to perform *Messiah* annually as a benefit to raise money for London orphanages.

Handel's Messiah

George Frideric Handel died in 1759 and is buried in Westminster Abbey. *Messiah* is one of his greatest musical creations, and is arguably the greatest piece of Christian music ever written. The *Hallelujah Chorus* is instantly recognizable, even by those who do not consider themselves members of the Christian faith. It has become a part of our Christian cultural heritage.

In almost every community during this Christmas season, there will be performances of *Messiah*. It is available in a number of recorded versions. Set aside some time this Christmas to listen to Handel's masterpiece. Learn the melodies. Hum along and let the words sink into your heart.

Handel didn't write *Messiah* for music historians or classical music geeks. He wrote it to tell the story of Jesus to ordinary people, through music, the language of the heart.



**Choral Society of
Middle Georgia**

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We're on the WEB!
<http://www.csmga.com>



Laura Hein, Editor
'Worthy of Note' CSMGA Newsletter

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Christmas with the Chorale



featuring

MESSIAH

By Handel



December 15
7:30 p.m.

St. Joseph Catholic Church
Macon GA

And

December 17
7:30 p.m.

First Assembly of God Church
Warner Robins GA

Would you like to be a sponsor for the Choral Society of Middle Georgia or do you know a friend or business that would? Pick up a sponsorship brochure from the sponsorship board member, Lillian Goolsby or go to:

Phone: 478-742-2561
e-mail: SIMONS_JE@Mercer.edu
johnniegoolbey@peoplepc.com
<http://www.csmga.com>

**ALL DONATIONS ARE
TAX DEDUCTIBLE**

SPONSORSHIPS

**Choral Society of Middle Georgia
2009 Performance Schedule**

Mozart's Requiem

Nov 1 at 4 pm at Vineville United
Methodist Church, Macon
Cost: \$10/\$8 Students, Seniors, & Military

Nov 3 at 7:30 pm at First United
Methodist Church, Milledgeville

Cost: FREE



Handel's Messiah

Dec. 15 at St. Joseph Catholic Church, Macon and
Dec. 17 at First Assembly of God Church, Warner Robins

Performances begin at 7:30 pm
Cost: \$10/\$8 Students, Seniors, & Military



**Christmas Concert with the
Macon Symphony**

Performance at Porter Auditorium on the Wesleyan College Campus
December 20
Time and Cost TBA