



SOUTHEASTERN NEW ENGLAND CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

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http://choristersguild.org/cg_southeasternnewengland.html

Upcoming Events

Choral Reading Session

August 24, 2008
3:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Meshanticut Park Church
180 Oaklawn Ave.
Cranston, Rhode Island

Join Paul M. Mancini, Sr., director of the Ocean State Children's Chorus, for a read-through of over a dozen children's anthems to get you through the year, including all of the repertoire for the 2009 Children's Choir Festival. A chapter meeting and BBQ supper will follow the reading session.

Director's Workshop

March 20, 2009
Time TBA
Tewksbury Congregational Church
10 East St.
Tewksbury, Massachusetts

Mark Patterson, a nationally recognized leader in the field of sacred music for children, will lead an intensive workshop for children's choir directors.

2009 Children's Choir Festival

March 21, 2009
Time TBA
Tewksbury Congregational Church
10 East St.
Tewksbury, Massachusetts

Save the date now, and plan to bring your children's choir for this day-long festival led by clinician Mark Patterson, one of the most popular composers of worship music for children today! Festival repertoire at right. ->

For more information on any of these events:

Michael Olbash
(508) 359-2351 ext. 14
olbash@post.harvard.edu

Support Your Chapter

Our newly re-chartered chapter of Choristers Guild is up and running! Unfortunately, we were chartered on April 5, 2008 – just days after the March 31 deadline to be eligible for the annual chapter support payment from the national office. Won't you help your chapter get off the ground? Please consider making a donation of any amount, payable to "Southeastern New England Chapter Choristers Guild" and send it to:

Choristers Guild
Southeastern New England Chapter
c/o Howard Lotis, treasurer
35 Audubon Rd. Apt. 307
Weymouth, MA 02188

We are grateful to Bonnie Palmquist, who served as treasurer of our chapter nearly a decade ago when it became inactive. Thanks to her faithful stewardship of previous chapter funds, we were able to re-charter with a little seed money. Thanks, Bonnie!

2009 Festival Repertoire

Repertoire for the 2009 Children's Choir Festival in Tewksbury, Mass., has been announced. Please consider ordering sufficient copies for all of your choir members this summer, so that the repertoire can be fully memorized in time for the festival.

Create in Me a Clean Heart (Reeves)
Choristers Guild, CGA 879

Lo, He Comes (Horman)
Choristers Guild, CGA 487

Show Me Thy Ways (Patterson)
Augsburg Fortress, 0-8006-7623-8

This is My Father's World (Wright)
Choristers Guild, CGA 1057

This Little Light of Mine (Patterson)
Choristers Guild, CGA 1108

Check out photos from 2008 festival!

<http://picasaweb.google.com/michaelolbash/SENewEnglandChoristersGuild>

A Chapter Is Reborn!

The Southeastern New England Chapter of Choristers Guild was officially rechartered at a Children's Choir Festival on Saturday, April 5, 2008, the first event for the chapter in nearly a decade. The festival took place at the United Church of Christ in Medfield, Massachusetts, about 20 miles southwest of Boston, and included 60 children from five Massachusetts choirs as well as the Ocean State Children's Chorus of Rhode Island. The charter was presented to chapter president Michael Olbash by Choristers Guild representative Michael Bedford, who led the day-long choir festival as well as an intensive workshop for children's choir directors.

In addition to the usual full chorus rehearsals, festival participants were given an opportunity to participate in small "breakout sessions," including games, handbells, and small-group rehearsals with Dr. Bedford. The handbell demonstrations, led by volunteer Sue Schaub and assisted by chapter secretary Nancy St. Laurent, gave all participants an opportunity to try their hands at tone chimes and Whitechapel handbells. The games, led by Susan Holbrook, director of children's ministries at the host church, were designed to foster teambuilding skills and gave the children an opportunity to win prizes not only for themselves but also to raise funds for the Little Lights Foundation.

The entire festival was made possible by the time and talent of Lynne Miller, whose attention to detail and personal touches made the entire weekend a remarkable success. The Miller family donated the funding for the entire festival in memory of Barbara, Elsie and Stephen Sutton, H. Glen Miller, and Amilia Rose Luhrmann.

During the festival, charter members of the chapter held their first official business meeting. Officers were elected, by-laws adopted, and future events planned, including a choral reading session and barbecue to be held August 24, 2008, in Cranston, RI, as well as a second choir festival, to be held March 21, 2009, in Tewksbury, MA, under the direction of Mark Patterson.

Announcement of Officers

The following individuals were elected officers of the Southeastern New England Chapter of Choristers Guild and installed by Dr. Michael Bedford on April 5, 2008:

Michael Olbash, *president*
Martha MacMillan, *vice president*
Howard Lotis, *treasurer*
Nancy St. Laurent, *secretary*

The next election will be held during the 2009 Children's Choir Festival. If you are interested in serving the chapter, or if you wish to nominate a colleague, please contact Michael Olbash at olbash@post.harvard.edu.

Meet our 2009 Festival Clinician



Mark Patterson is quickly gaining recognition as a composer, music educator and choral clinician. He is a Part-Time Instructor in the School of Music at Texas Tech University, Lubbock, Texas, where he is pursuing a PhD in Music Education. Prior to beginning his doctoral studies, Mark was Director of Choirs at Covington Middle School and Director of the Choristers Choir at Covenant Presbyterian Church, both in Austin, Texas. Mr. Patterson holds Bachelor of Arts and Master of Music degrees from the University of Texas at Austin.

He is frequently invited to conduct honor choirs and choral festivals across the United States and is often asked to lead workshops for choral directors. In both church and school settings, Mark is well known for his work with the child and adolescent voice, for developing imaginative approaches to teaching in the choral rehearsal and for working to cultivate a quality sound in even the most challenging of ensembles.

Mr. Patterson's choral compositions for adults, youth and children comprise a rich variety of styles for the sanctuary, classroom and concert hall. His works are known for their meaningful texts, memorable melodies and rhythmic vitality. Currently he has over 200 works in print with numerous major publishers. Mark has been a recipient of the ASCAP Award in composition each year since 1997.

We are thrilled to be welcoming Mark Patterson to Massachusetts for an intensive director's workshop on March 20, 2009, and our 2009 Children's Choir Festival on March 21, 2009, at the Tewksbury Congregational Church. We hope that choirs from around the entire New England region will benefit from Mark's knowledge, experience, and artistry.

Spread the Word!

Do you know someone who should be on our mailing list? Please send contact information to:

Nancy St. Laurent
nancystl@comcast.net