



Tucson Chamber Artists Newsletter

The latest from Tucson's professional chamber choir

July 2007

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Summer greetings from Tucson Chamber Artists.

The summer heat causes many desert dwellers to leave town, and our musicians are no exception. We thought you might enjoy reading about some of their activities.

Also in this issue, read about the Tucson Business Edge's "40 Under 40" award recognizing Tucson's up-and-coming business and community leaders.

August brings an opportunity to hear an off-season performance of Tucson Chamber Artists as part of St. Andrew's Episcopal Church Bach Society Summer Concert Series.

The fourth season of Tucson Chamber Artists begins August 25th and 26th. Information about the upcoming season's concerts will be coming soon. We hope at least one, if not all, of these concerts will appeal to your musical tastes. We look forward to seeing you at a concert soon.

Tucson Chamber Artists' Musicians Beat the Heat

Many of our musicians are spending their time this summer away from Tucson, perfecting their skills.

Alla Generalow, mezzo soprano, writes from Serbia, where she is doing some field research on folksongs of the southern Balkans. Alla is a doctoral candidate at the University of Arizona, and specializes in Slavic choral music. In July, Alla will be

participating in a conducting workshop at Eastman with Dale Warland and William Weinert. She has been awarded a scholarship by the East European Folklife Center to study Balkan dance in New York this August.

Molly Holleran, soprano, is also staying cool. She's attending the Tyrolean Opera Program in Maurach, Austria, performing and taking classes high in the Austrian Alps.

Justin Raffa, tenor, reports that he will be working for two weeks this July at his alma mater, Westminster Choir College, with his former conducting teacher James Jordan, as a faculty member of their annual High School Vocal Institute. Justin will be specifically working with the Women's Choir at this event.

Kay Wiley, mezzo soprano and TCA Board chair, presented a paper at the *International Phenomenon of Singing*, St. Johns, Newfoundland, on July 1st. It's called *Healthy Singing in the Golden Years*. Kay did a study on senior choral singers - their knowledge of singing physiology and healthy voice care strategies as well as analysis of changes in their singing following a warm up exercise protocol.



Music Director Eric Holtan Recognized by Tucson Business Edge

In August, for the third year, Tucson Business Edge will recognize forty up-and-coming business and community leaders under the age of 40 - the leaders who will take Tucson into a bright and prosperous future. Tucson Chamber Artists' music director Eric Holtan is among sixty finalists for this recognition.

Holtan, who founded Tucson Chamber Artists, also serves as assistant director of the acclaimed Tucson Symphony Orchestra Chorus and director of choirs at Dove of Peace Lutheran Church, and has served as associate conductor of the Southern Arizona Symphony Orchestra. For the last year, he has coordinated the Arizona-Nevada task force to introduce a new hymnal for the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

When asked to comment for Holtan's nomination, Dr. Bruce Chamberlain, Director of Choral Activities at the University of Arizona and one of Holtan's principal conducting teachers, says this about his student: "Eric possesses all the traits of an inspired leader: depth of knowledge and understanding, unflagging energy, dedication to his field and that intangible - people just gravitate to him and will follow him."

The TCA Board of Directors and singers congratulate Eric on this community recognition.

Summer Concert Opportunities

Members of the Tucson Chamber Artists offer a twist on the three "B"s in a program of sacred works by Brahms, Bach, and Britten. This concert is presented through the St. Andrew's Episcopal Church Bach Society Summer Concert Series. The first half of the program opens with Brahms's sumptuous and seldom-heard motet, *Geistliches Lied*, Op. 30, followed by *Gottes Zeit ist die allerbeste Zeit*, one of J.S. Bach's earliest cantatas. While both these works were possibly intended for funerals, they offer sunny outlooks on life and death, as sort of 18th and 19th century versions of "Don't Worry, Be

Happy." Scored for two flutes, two celli, organ continuo, SATB solos and choir, Bach's early effort in this medium has a unique charm and simplicity relative to his prolific output which includes 200 extant cantatas.

Britten's *Rejoice in the Lamb* may be famous more for its text by Christopher Smart, who was in an insane asylum when he wrote it. There is a delightful sense of madness in the poem, including references to his cat Jeoffrey as "a servant of the living God," and the mouse as a "creature of great personal valour." Britten's setting of the text for organ, SATB solos, and choir is virtuosic and colorful, with a complexity that has secured its inclusion in most choral conducting competitions and auditions for years to come. Tucson Chamber Artists is delighted to collaborate with organist Dr. Jeffrey Campbell.

St. Andrew's Episcopal Church Bach Society Summer Concert Series
545 S 5th Ave
Tucson, AZ 85701

Sunday, August 5, 3:00 pm.
Tickets will be available at the door, \$10.

Contact Information

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