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In Memoriam Gunda Hack

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The Keystone State Boychoir

Sunday
March 8, 2009
3:00pm

Barthelmes Auditorium
611 Spring Garden Street
Philadelphia, PA 19123
Calendar of Events

March
Mon. March 16  German Society Board Meeting, 7:00pm
Fri. March 20  Friday Film Fest, “Die Gustloff”, 6:30pm
  This film focuses on the tragic events surrounding the sinking of the
  Wilhelm Gustloff, a German passenger ship, at the end of WWII.
  was motiviert Hardy?”, 7:00pm
Sun. March 29  “Wister and More!” Series presents Frankfurter Kammertrio, 3:00pm
  Selections by Beethoven, Bruch, and Glinka

April
Sat. April 4  Women’s Auxiliary Monthly Meeting, 10:00am
Sat. April 4  “Ein Abend an der Waterkant: Hamburger Abend”, 7:00pm
  Menu includes würstchen, potato salad, goulash soup, and desserts.
Fri. April 17  “Wister and More!” Series presents Cole Porter Trio, 7:00pm
  Selections by artists from Schubert to Tchaikovsky, Kern to Mancini
Mon. April 20  Spring Session of Adult Evening German Classes Begins
  Beginner to conversational levels available for all ages and abilities
Wed. April 22  Konversationsabend with Prof. Karlfried Froehlich, 7:00pm
Fri. April 24  Friday Film Fest, “The Good German”, 6:30pm
  U.S. Army correspondent Jake Geismar gets caught in a web of in-
  trigue with ex-flame Lena set in post-World War II Berlin
Sat. April 25  Spring Session of Saturday Youth German Classes Begins
  Classes for 4-7 year olds and Pre-Teens available
Sun. April 26  Annual Members’ Meeting, 3:00pm
April 27—May 7  Trip to Eastern Germany—Weimar, Leipzig, Dresden, and Berlin
  With side trips to Görlitz, Wittenberg, and Eisenach

May
Sun. May 3  “Wister and More!” Series presents The Wister Quartet, 3:00pm
  Selections by Gesensway, Mozart, and Dvorak
Fri. May 8  Friday Film Fest, “Die Luftbrücke”, 6:30pm
  Historic drama about a difficult love affair between a German woman
  and an American soldier during the Berlin Airlift
Sat. May 16  108th Anniversary Luncheon of the Women’s Auxiliary
Fri. May 22  Konversationsabend, Topic TBA, 7:00pm
Sun. May 24  “Wister and More!” Series presents The Wister Quartet, 3:00pm
  Selections by Mozart, Dohnanyi, Dvorak, and Griffes

History of the German Society of Pennsylvania

In 1683 thirteen families from Krefeld under the leadership of Frankfurt lawyer, Franz Daniel Pastorius, founded the first German colony in America: Germantown – today part of Philadelphia. Many of these immigrants formed clubs that enabled them to preserve their cultural heritage. They also formed clubs that emphasized a specific geographic area, such as the Swabians, Bavarians, Saxons, Danube Swabians, Plattdeutsche, Tyroleans, and many others.

The German Society of Pennsylvania, founded in 1764, is the oldest German organization in the United States. It was founded to protect German immigrants from unscrupulous shipping agents and to ensure just treatment on their arrival here.

Since that time, the German Society has dedicated its efforts to preserving German heritage. This it does, for instance, by offering a full-fledged German language program as well as scholarships and prizes to students of German. In addition, the Society is a source of cultural programs, lectures, film series, and seminars. These events build bridges and strengthen national and international relations among individuals, organizations, businesses, and governments.

The fine arts program also includes presentations that feature European music and literature as well as access to the Joseph P. Horner Memorial Library for education and research. The newly restored Library, holding over 70,000 volumes, is the largest private German library outside the Federal Republic of Germany.

In serving its members and the community, and in all its undertakings, the Society strives to benefit anyone in need of its resources.

Since the time of Pastorius, more than 8,000,000 Germans reached these shores. Today, 29% of the total population in the United States claims Germany ancestry.
Keystone State Boychoir

Under the direction of Music Director Joseph P. Fitzmartin and Associate Music Director Steven M. Fisher, Keystone State Boychoir (KSB) consists of 150 young men between the ages of eight and 18 who sing an enthralling repertoire from the classical to the contemporary. Major choral works that KSB has performed include Orff’s Carmina Burana, Handel’s Messiah, Mendelssohn’s Elijah, Britten’s St. Nicolas, and the Fauré Requiem. The Philadelphia Inquirer review declared KSB’s performance in the Bach St. Matthew Passion “excellent.”

KSB has sung with the region’s most distinguished ensembles, including the Philadelphia Orchestra, the Opera Company of Philadelphia, and the Philadelphia Singers, and at the region’s most prominent venues, including Verizon Hall at the Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts, the Academy of Music, and the Mann Center for the Performing Arts. KSB has performed internationally at the Manaus Opera House in Brazil, the Hanoi Opera House in Vietnam, and the Petronas Philharmonik Hall in Malaysia, as well as in venues throughout Alaska, Canada, South Africa, Japan, Thailand, Cambodia, Australia, Monaco, France, Germany, Austria, and Bulgaria.

The KSB experience centers on its truly joyful music-making. The vibrant sound of the choir is enhanced by its compelling and energetic stage presence. Fitzmartin and Fisher believe that today’s choral music must be seen and felt, as well as heard, if the art form is to continue to thrive and to attract new audiences.

Keystone State Boychoir and its sister-choir, Pennsylvania Girlchoir, are members of Commonwealth Youthchoirs, founded in 2001 by Joseph P. Fitzmartin and Steven M. Fisher. Under the leadership of Executive Director Susan S. Ashbaker, this non-profit organization is committed to offering exemplary choral music education and performance opportunities to young people from diverse economic, racial, and ethnic backgrounds, while nurturing leadership skills, building character and encouraging self-discipline.

Joseph P. Fitzmartin, Music Director                  Steven M. Fisher, Assoc. Music Director

PROGRAM

TREBLES
This Little Light of Mine
Peter Piper
Al Shlosha
Dance Boatman Dance
When You Believe
Evening Prayer
Can You Hear Me?
Old Dan Tucker

TREBLES AND GRADUATES
Amahl and the Night Visitors
Willkommen, lieber schöner Mai
Baba Minkovca
Hold Me, Rock Me
Route 66
How Can I Keep From Singing?
If You Can Walk You Can Dance
God Is
You Must Be Faithful
Joyful, Joyful

INTERMISSION

Please visit our bar in the back of the Auditorium for refreshments during intermission.

-program continued on next page-
program continued

INTERMISSION

GRADUATE CHOIR

Nine Hundred Miles Folk Song, arr. Philip Silvey
De Animals a-Comin’ Spiritual, arr. Marshall Bartholomew
Come to the Music Joseph Fitzmartin
Oseh Shalom John Leavitt
The Word Was God Rosephanye Powell
Vive L’Amour arr. Alice Parker, Robert Shaw
In the Still of the Night Fred Paris, Jack Jersey
Whistle, Maggie, Whistle Morris Hayes

TREBLES AND

Friends, Forget The Cares Mozart
Total Praise Charles Tindley
Praise His Holy Name Keith Hampton
Ma’oz Tsur Jason Robert Brown
South African Medley (Khuluulu, Kwangena, Shosholoza) Traditional, arr. Steven Fisher
We Are The Boys Roger Miller, arr. Steven Fisher

The audience is invited to a reception in the Ratskeller following the concert.

Joseph P. Fitzmartin
Music Director

A co-founder of Commonwealth Youthchoirs, Joseph P. Fitzmartin has served since 2001 as Music Director of member-choir Keystone State Boychoir. His role with Keystone State Boychoir combines Mr. Fitzmartin’s long dedication to music education, conducting, and composing. A distinguished composer, he has written and arranged extensively for choirs and orchestras, including A Fantasy of Carols, performed by the Philadelphia Orchestra. Additionally, Mr. Fitzmartin’s Concert Mass, a major work for symphony orchestra and choir, made its world premiere at Carnegie Hall and has since been performed at the Sydney Opera House in Australia, in Berlin, and by the Novgorod Symphony in Russia.

A native of Philadelphia and graduate of Catholic University in Washington, DC, Mr. Fitzmartin is also choral director for the middle and upper schools at the William Penn Charter School. Previous positions include organist and choir director at Girard College, and associate director and accompanist for the Philadelphia Boys Choir and Chorale, a post he held for twenty-one years.

Steven Fisher
Associate Music Director

Steven M. Fisher is a co-founder of Commonwealth Youthchoirs, and has served as Associate Music Director of its member-choir Keystone State Boychoir since its founding in 2001. He is also director of “FYI!” (Find Your Instrument!), the school outreach program of Commonwealth Youthchoirs and music director of the West Philadelphia Children’s Choir. A conductor, composer, and music educator, Mr. Fisher holds a master’s degree in music from Temple University’s Esther Boyer College of Music. He studied conducting with Alan Harler, composition with Richard Broadhead, arranging with Alice Parker, and piano with Alexander Fiorello. In 1998, Temple University awarded him the prestigious Presser Foundation Award, which recognizes “a graduate student who has the potential to make an outstanding contribution in the music world.”

Mr. Fisher is a composer of musical theatre. His work Mandela has been presented in New York and in Johannesburg. His musical Isabelle and the Pretty-Ugly Spell received a rave review from the New York Times. Mr. Fisher is currently at work writing a new musical titled In the Theatre, based on the life of Joan Littlewood, and another inspired by the life of ventriloquist Terry Fator – winner of the first season of America’s Got Talent.