

THE CAMBRIDGE COMMUNITY CHORUS



JANUARY, 2007

REFLECTIONS ON THE MESSIAH

As a group that was initially founded for the purpose of performing Handel's *Messiah*, the Cambridge Community Chorus is very familiar with this work. However, even after 17 years of performing it, both chorus members and audience alike face the *Messiah* season with great anticipation. This year's *Messiah* was no exception.

Conductor William Thomas discussed this year's *Messiah* performance at the January planning/board meeting. He said "It was great fun doing the whole thing again.

There's something special about performing the full *Messiah* because it's rarely done." William was pleased with this year's performance, and he wasn't alone. Chorus member David Pap related a comment he heard made by a professional singer who was in the audience at this year's concert. The singer said that he had seen a recent performance of Haydn's *Messiah*, but that he enjoyed the CCC performance of Handel's *Messiah* better. Another audience member, who has attended every Cambridge

Community Performance of the *Messiah* from the group's inception, back in the days when it was performed at the Baptist church, said that he was riveted by how William conducts and that this year's performance was the best one ever.

So in spite of performance distractions at MIT's Kresge Auditorium and experimentation with different instrument configurations (no organ), this year's performance of the *Messiah* popularly ranks as the best one yet.

SPRING 2007 REHEARSALS BEGIN ON MONDAY, FEBRUARY 12

The first rehearsal of the spring 2007 season is **Monday, February 12, at 6:30pm at St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church**, 239 Harvard Street, Cambridge. The first snacks of the season will be provided by the Sopranos. *Elijah* will be produced by Gay Tappan and co-produced by Surya Reis. Gay can be reached at 617-547-7905 or awtappan@juno.com.

Parking is not available at St. Mary's. Janet Rustow, chorus president, has spoken with the city to get special 'consideration' for members attending chorus rehearsal. Typewritten notes will be available at the first chorus rehearsal to place in your cars notifying ticketing officers that you are attending a rehearsal. These notes will grant consideration if you are parked in a resident-only parking

spot. This is only a consideration, however, and not a 'no ticket' guarantee. It also does not cover parking in a regularly illegal spot. There are additional parking alternatives available:

Alternate Parking:

Prospect St.—City Parking

Harvard St.—City Parking

Carpooling or taking public transit are recommended parking alternatives.

IN THIS NEWSLETTER:

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SPECIAL THANKS TO:

- William Thomas—Director
- Janet Rustow—President
- Kathy Williams—Vice President
- Heather Tuttle—Clerk
- Edith Walker—Treasurer
- Concert Producers: Florence Grant, Mary Keith, Rena Leib, Surya Reis, Gay Tappan, Kathy Williams
- Executive Committee
- Fundraising Committee
- People who help with the following: liaisons with St. Paul's and St. Barts, our Publicity assistants, web design, graphic design, newsletter and Face-Book production, database maintenance, rehearsal media, archivist, voice lessons, Messiah reception, and writing. A comprehensive list will appear in the Chorus Directory.

And a special thanks to the countless folks who make the Cambridge Community Chorus all that it is.

*THE
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JOIN US ON THE WEB!
WWW.CAMBRIDGECHORUS.ORG

SPRING '07 REHEARSAL SCHEDULE

First Rehearsal: Monday, Feb. 12, 6:30pm - 9:30 pm

Mon. Rehearsals: Feb. 19, 26, April 2, 9, 16, 23, 30, May 7, 14 - 6:30pm - 9:30 pm

Sat. Rehearsal: April 21 10:00am - 3:00pm—Cochran Chapel, Phillips Academy, Andover

Performance: Sunday, May 20—MIT's Kresge Auditorium

Monday Rehearsals: St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church, 239 Harvard Street, Cambridge

Save the Date! - June 11!

The next Planning/Board Meeting will be held Monday, June 11, 2007. Time and place will be announced when more details are available.

"A BIRD DOESN'T
SING BECAUSE IT
HAS AN
ANSWER—IT
SINGS BECAUSE
IT HAS A SONG."
~MAYA
ANGELOU

CCC "FACE-BOOK"

The Cambridge Community Chorus Directory, or "Face-Book," got off to an excellent start during the fall and *Messiah* rehearsals. Participation is high, and people seem eager to see the finished product. However, many people who wanted to participate did not get the opportunity to do so during the prior rehearsals, so we are going to extend the deadline for entries. Entry sheets will be available during the first

and second February rehearsals (February 12 and February 19) and photographs will be taken at the February 19 rehearsal. The directory should be available for distribution at the first April rehearsal—April 2. A big thanks to all those who have submitted an entry, and we're looking forward to hearing from the rest of you during the next few rehearsals or in the next edition of the Face-Book!

"ODDS AND ENDS"

- Remember that you can join our mailing list by going to the website, www.cambridgechorus.org, and following the instructions under the "How to Join the Cambridge Community Chorus Mailing List" link! You can get the newsletter electronically, as well as information about special events or notes of interest to chorus folks!
- If you're not on the mailing list, you may not have known that our director, William Thomas, was interviewed on WBUR. You can check out the interview at: http://www.here-now.org/shows/2007/01/20070116_17.asp.
- Another round of voice lessons will occur this summer. Details to come later in the season!