



Tucson Masterworks Chorale Notes

Volume 57, No. 1 August 2006

CELEBRATING OUR 57th SEASON!

FROM THE PRESIDENT...

Christine Hagadorn

I want to introduce myself to you, I am Christine Hagadorn the new Board President for Tucson Masterworks Chorale. I have a 15 year old daughter who sings with the Tucson Girls Chorus and plays the viola. We have two cats, Thomasina and Yoda and a puppy named Lexi. I love singing this style of music and find it to be a great blessing to sing with the Masterworks Chorale.

Once in office things started off quickly with Musical Madness in May, followed by the 1st Masterworks Chorale Summer Chorus, directed by Brian Wismath. We sang a program of 13 songs from 9 different countries. One of the pieces the chorale sang was a world premiere, *A La Puerta Del Cielo* by Edward Moroney. Mr. Moroney is an award winning composer from Canada, home country of Mr. Wismath. The piece was written for the conductor, Brian Wismath and the Tucson Masterworks Chorale. Besides Canada, we sang music from Norway, Russia, USA, Germany, Spain and Sweden. Now the board shifts it focus on finding a new conductor for the year ahead! As always, Tucson Masterworks Chorale is blessed to have wonderful candidates and we expect that the decision made by the membership and search committee will provide TMC with a terrific new director and a very exciting season (see Page 2 for a picture and biographical information.) The 57th season will start on August 14th, 7 pm at Trinity Presbyterian Church, 4th and University Avenue, I hope to see you then!

Christine and Karen celebrate Musical Madness



Tucson Masterworks Has The Power to Prevail!

Karen Young

I am proud to have worked with all of you in producing an outstanding season during the past year - our 56th! It was an experience of a lifetime to perform Durufle's Requiem in the Fall and Bach's St. John Passion in the Spring in concert with 90 other exceptional vocalists from throughout our community. Aaron McDermid is to be congratulated on preparing a memorable season for us all! And those of you who didn't sing but furthered our mission by attending our concerts and lending us your support financially, you made a very challenging season possible. BRAVO! During the two years of my TMC Presidency, I was educated in ways that I had never anticipated. One of my favorite lessons has been that our community is full of talented, mature artists that have more than the joy of music to share with us all. Many of them are the brave Board members that are dedicated enough to step forward and WORK HARD at making the Chorale a reality, a success, still viable after 56 years. I can't tell you how much I admire the individuals that served with me on TMC's Board! I feel so fortunate to have had the combined wisdom and talents of my comrades, dear people whose collective efforts made for one of our best years ever! Congratulations to all of you for guiding all of us through a season full of major accomplishments, one thank you note, one yard sale, one program design, one grant proposal, one newsletter, one website change, one membership drive, one musician's contract, one sectional, one piece of publicity, one rehearsal, one concert at a time. Thank you for sharing your passion and your power to prevail with me...with us all! Rave on!



MEET TONY THORNTON, TMC'S NEW ARTISTIC DIRECTOR!

Tucson Masterworks Chorale is thrilled to welcome Tony Thorton - conductor, teacher, author, and clinician – as our new Artistic Director! He will commence rehearsals with the chorale on August 14. Tony received his Bachelor of Music degree from Westminster Choir College and a Master of Music degree in Choral Conducting (*summa cum laude*) from Louisiana State University. Tony has studied conducting with Joseph Flummerfelt, Kenneth Fulton, Frauke Haasemann, Margaret Hillis, Donald Neuen, and Constantina Tsolainou. Trained first as a singer, Mr. Thornton has performed as a tenor soloist throughout the United States, Europe, and Asia. As a member of the Westminster Choir, Tony performed at the Spoleto Festivals in both Italy and the United States, and he has recorded with Leonard Bernstein, Riccardo Muti, Claudio Abbado, and Zubin Mehta. He sang for eight years as a member of the Grammy Award-winning Robert Shaw Festival Singers. Mr. Thornton has been a guest lecturer of music at UCLA, Pomona College, Los Angeles City College, and Cal Poly Pomona. He has held high school, church, and community chorus positions in Los Angeles, New Jersey, and Texas. Tony served as the chorus master for *Die Zauberflöte* at UCLA and assisted in the preparation of Bach's *St. John Passion* for Robert Shaw. A strong advocate for the choral arts, Mr. Thornton was recently engaged by the second largest school district in the United States, the Los Angeles Unified School District, and Beyond the Bell to present a choral pedagogy workshop to music teachers.

Most recently, Tony authored a comprehensive guide and CD for choral singers entitled *The Choral Singer's Survival Guide*. Tony holds active memberships in ACDA, Chorus America, TMEA and TCDA. He is a full member of NATS, the National Association of Teachers of Singing, Inc. Tony is currently completing his DMA in Choral Conducting at the University of Arizona. We look forward to a splendid season under his direction! Please join us!

Ah, Summer Chorus!

Ah Summer! After balancing the old checkbook I realized that traveling out of state was not an option this summer. However, I was drawn to the TMC Summer Chorus' concert theme "Crossing Borders – A Musical Journey." There was my travel opportunity! With great excitement I attended the first rehearsal. Wait a minute...13 pieces from 9 countries in 6 different languages all in only 9 rehearsals? The math just didn't add up. What was I expecting - Perhaps a musical trip to Austria with a medley from "The Sound of Music"? Anyway, I pulled out my pencil and stood ready for the challenge. There appeared our conductor Brian Wismath from Canada. (eh?) Rehearsals began. I was glad to be singing but my challenges weren't all vocal; they were intellectual as well. So many different time signatures. So many languages. And some of you readers know what I mean when I say "Immortal Bach"! I left rehearsals exhausted after working very hard, but totally invigorated as our musical challenge took shape. Brian was a competent and confident conductor. Most of all, he was passionate about what he was doing. His passion led to my and many others' confidence. The concert was the blossom of our musical gardening. We made the journey around the world together - old members and warmly welcomed new members. What a privilege to make music together – in today's world, a universal instrument of peace and beauty. To quote from one of the summer pieces in Swedish: "Vill du mig något så träffas vi där" (If you would meet me, we'll foregather there.) I hope many of you will gather with us on August 14. I'm glad I balanced my checkbook.

Liz MacLellan, Soprano, Board Member

Tucson Masterworks Has Roots in Arizona History

The Spring 2006 Concert was dedicated to the memory of Samuel Goddard, Jr., first president of Tucson Masterworks Chorale in 1949. He helped to found the Tucson Arts Festival that same year. Mr. Goddard became the 12th Governor of Arizona in 1965, and was known for his strong positions on civil rights and fiscal reform. Sam Goddard passed away February 1, 2006, at the age of 86!

Each year, for many years, Tucson Masterworks Chorale has been the proud recipient of Operating Support Grants and Concert Production Grants from the Tucson Pima Arts Council!

Thanks to TPAC for making our contribution to the community's wellbeing possible!

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Yes, I want to make a gift in honor of Tucson Masterworks' 57th Season!

I /we wish to give \$_____ A check is enclosed.

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Please mail your check and this donor form to: TMC; P. O. Box 41885; Tucson, AZ 85717. THANK YOU!!

www.tucsonchorale.org

Tucson Masterworks Chorale salutes the artistic contributions that our dear

Mary Lonsdale Baker made to our 2005-2006 Season!

We love you, Mary. You are the best!

And the members of the Chorale and Board would like to thank

Aaron McDermid for three years of nurturing artistic direction!

Good luck in your new position in South Dakota!

2006 - 2007 Tucson Masterworks Board of Directors

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Tucson Masterworks Chorale
P. O. Box 41885
Tucson, AZ 85717

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