



St Paul's Choir School

A MUSICAL AND EDUCATIONAL OUTREACH OF ST PAUL'S IN ENGLEWOOD
113 Engle Street, Englewood, NJ 07631 • 201.568.3276 • stpauls-choirschool.org

SPRING 2016 NEWSLETTER



A Fantastic Fourth Year!

The St Paul's Choir School has just finished our fourth year! Throughout the pages of this newsletter, you will read about exciting success stories, the work we do, and the future we are building—all with the help of partners, benefactors, and supporters like you! Please check our website, stpauls-choirschool.org, to find out more about what we do, and what you can do to help us continue our success in mentoring and encouraging our young singers.

About the St Paul's Choir School

The St Paul's Choir School program is based on the idea that all children are able to sing, given encouragement and instruction. We offer free music education and performance opportunities for girls and boys, ages 8 through high school. We are a unique after-school program that offers professional choral training, voice and piano lessons, music theory, leadership development, and mentoring to children and

teenagers. Each chorister receives individualized attention in a dynamic, creative, structured, and hands-on setting from caring teachers who are accomplished professionals in their areas of instruction. Our students come from Englewood and surrounding towns, representing a wide range of cultural communities, and from all faith traditions. Everyone is welcome!

Our Mission:

- To provide solid musical instruction in a friendly and fun environment of mutual respect and achievement;
- To create an opportunity for children to grow in musical and spiritual strengths that nurture their growth;
- To provide children of diverse abilities and backgrounds with a program of music appreciation and choral performance that seeks to fulfill each child's musical potential.



Choir School in the Community

We traveled to Trinity and St Philip's Cathedral in Newark (*right*) in December to sing with members of the Cathedral Choir and the Schola Cantorum on the Hudson under the direction of Dr Deborah Simpkin King for a vigil for those who lost their lives to gun violence. Nearly 200 t-shirts were hung on crosses outside the Cathedral as "Memorials to the Lost." It was an honor for us to be part of such a beautiful and moving ceremony, and to be able to share our music with this community.



faculty of Ramapo College. We have sung with him many times before, and it was great to come and sing for him in his home church.

In February, the Choir School sang with baritone and composer Robert Daniel Martin for our annual Black History Month Concert. Mr Martin composed a work especially for the Choir School, *Hands Free, Hearts Free*, and it was a joy to sing its premiere at the concert.

We traveled to sing a Sunday morning service at AME Zion Ridgewood Church (*left*) with our good friend Pastor Mack Brandon. Pastor Brandon plays for our Christmas Eve Jazz Mass every year and is on the music

Evensong

We traveled to sing Evensong at Trinity, Asbury Park, St Peter's, Perth Amboy and Christ Church, Teaneck in the fall, and in the spring to Holyrood Church, New York City (*right*), St Mark's, Teaneck, Trinity Cathedral, Trenton, and Christ Church, Short Hills. We were fortunate to be accompanied by splendid organists, including Dr David Macfarlane of First Presbyterian, Englewood, Dr John Sheridan of Christ Church, New Brunswick, and Christopher Jennings of St Ann and the Holy Trinity, Brooklyn Heights, NY.



Choral Festivals

We participated in three choral festivals this year. These are great opportunities for our choristers to make music with peers from around the area, and to learn from some of the best choral conductors around. We joined treble choristers from New York and New Jersey for the Diocesan Choir Festival at the Cathedral of St John the Divine in January under the direction of Dr Malcolm Merriweather of the Cathedral and Melissa Attebury of Trinity Church, Wall Street.

We were part of the third annual Royal School of Church Music New Jersey Choral Festival in April at the Church of St Andrew and the Holy Communion, South Orange (*right*). The festival was directed by Loraine Enlow, Director of Youth and Children's Choirs at St James, Madison Avenue in New York City. We also learned to sing—and dance—a song



in Swazi under the leadership of Roshan Chakane. Mr Chakane is pursuing a master's degree in organ at Mason Gross School of the Arts, Rutgers, is a native of South Africa, and speaks Swazi! The choir included choristers from Trinity, Asbury Park and members of the Newark Boys' Choir as well as other area churches.

We traveled to St Bartholomew's, Park Avenue, New York City (*right*) for their annual choral festival in May. It was again a joy to sing for Gordon Appleton, former president of the international Royal School of Church Music. We joined more than one hundred singers from Connecticut, Massachusetts, and New York for a day of rehearsal, tours of St Bart's, and Evensong. We even got a chance to visit the lobby of the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel next door!



Summer Choir Camps

We will once again send choristers to the Diocese of New Jersey Choir Camp at Church of the Advent, Cape May, July 24-28. Four of our choristers will attend the Royal School of Church Music Summer Course at Newport, RI during the first week of August. Three of our students will take the exam for the Silver Award, and one for the Bronze during the Newport course. Many of our choristers will join the Trinity, Asbury Park choristers at Camp Dark

Waters near Medford, NJ for our fourth annual Choir Camp in mid-August. Choir camps and other summer courses give our choristers the opportunity to join with voices from diverse programs. This intense period of growth—socially, musically, and spiritually—provides experiences that last a lifetime.



Honors, Competitions, Awards—and Fun!

Almost all of our choristers achieved honor roll this past year, and four of our choristers graduated from Middle School this June. One of the graduates was accepted into Bergen Technical Academy for the fall.

Two of our choristers participated in the New Jersey Music Teachers' Association annual voice competition at Westminster Choir College in Princeton. Our alto won Honorable Mention and our tenor won Honors...and everyone won a trip to Thomas Sweets for ice cream!

A generous donor bought tickets for members of the Decani Choir to attend a performance of the New Jersey Symphony Orchestra under the direction of Jacques Lacombe at Bergen Performing Arts Center. This was the first time the choristers have attended a live symphony concert, and the program included a stunning performance of Rachmaninov's *Third Piano Concerto* with the incomparable Joyce Yang as soloist. Some of the choristers got to meet Ms Yang after the performance!

Our Choir School year ended with a wonderful piano and voice recital led by our voice teachers, Giulia Utz and Mara O'Kelly, and our piano teacher, Leslie Frost. Our Activities Director, Jessica Jackson, coordinated the event.



Building Our Future

Since our first day in 2012, St Paul's Choir School has worked wonders with a small budget and minimal resources. We have significantly increased enrollment and managed to change lives and accomplish great things. Thanks to our supporters and benefactors to date, we have been able to build a sustainable and increasingly healthy program. In the year ahead, we have several challenges for funding and expanding our programs, and we can't do it without your help. As we look toward summer camps and the next academic year, will you consider contributing to our future? Checks in any amount are always welcome, and all gifts are tax-deductible. [You can send your gift to St Paul's Church, 113 Engle Street, Englewood, NJ 07631; earmark your check to 'St Paul's Choir School.'](#)



How can you help?

Sponsor one chorister for one year, \$1,000

Expanding our program to include a handbell choir, \$7,515

Cape May Choir Camp Scholarships for six singers at \$350 each: \$2,100

RSCM Choir Scholarships for six singers at \$625 each

RSCM travel expenses, \$120 per chorister

Camp Dark Waters support: \$1,200



Thanks to our Supporters!

We acknowledge gratefully the businesses, organizations and individuals whose financial contributions and support have made the founding and first four years of the St Paul's Choir School possible:

Businesses: Lexus of Englewood, One River School of Art and Design, Owens Group Insurance of Englewood Cliffs, ShopRite, Tapestry, Tea Fields of Englewood

Foundations and Organizations: ACTS/VIM of the Diocese of Newark, Alleluia Fund of the Diocese of Newark, The Gertrude Butts Foundation, Christ Church Short Hills Outreach Grants Committee, Community Chest of Englewood, The Cove Point Foundation, Northern New Jersey Chapter of the American Guild of Organists, St Elizabeth's Church, Ridgewood

Individuals: Pamela Abner, Drs Marian & Sam Acquah, Christopher & Adrienne Anderson, Franklin & Yvonne Atekpe, Khoren & Lucie Bandazian, Elizabeth Basile, Andrea Bills, Dawn Diaz, Dr Albert Griffith, Robert & Maral Hajjar, The Reverend Audrey Hasselbrook, Jasmine Jaswal, Margaret King, Beverley Lannaman, Drs Jean & Katharine Le Mée, Nancy Lynn, Dr Susan Martin-Márquez, Rafael & Ina Martínez, Azim and Lolita Mayadas, Sharon McGrady, Jaime McLain, Donald C. Morris, Gloria & Jon Norton, William Payne Jr, Jean Pierre Rowe, José & Alicia Sánchez, In Memory of Ethel Mary Sands, The Reverend Robert L. Shearer, Karol Steadman, Mark A. Trautman & Dr Ben. Sifuentes-Jáuregui, Cynthia A. Westbrook, In Memory of Father Joseph A. Wysocki, Helen Yeisley, Lydia Zapico, Felicia Zekauskas

Thank You!

Thank you for your support of the St Paul's Choir School. Your gifts and extraordinary support continue to make a difference in the lives of our children and our community, and we are grateful indeed. Feel free to contact me at any time to find out more about how you can be a part of this important outreach.

—Mark A. Trautman, Director of Music