

# Alla Breve



A NEWSLETTER FOR THE FRIENDS OF THE ROCKBRIDGE CHORAL SOCIETY

VOL 20, NO 2

NOVEMBER 2018

*From the Artistic Director:*

## RCS/RYC HOLIDAY CONCERT DECEMBER 1

We invite you to attend our annual Holiday Concert, which will take place on Saturday, December 1, at 7:30 p.m. at the Lexington Presbyterian Church. Once again, the Choral Society and the Youth Chorale will join together for a splendid celebration. Joining us will be pianist Anna Billias.

Choral Society pieces will include Gerald Cohen's gentle *Mishamayim Hibit Adonai* (on verses from Psalm 33); Benjamin Britten's double-chorus *Hymn to the Virgin*; John Rutter's *Dormi Jesu*; and fine arrangements ranging from the carol *Blessed Be That Maid Mary* to the swaying African-American spiritual *Wasn't That a Mighty Day* to the perennial favorite, *Winter Wonderland*. The



William McCorkle

combined adult and youth ensembles will sing the romping *Christmas Is Coming* and the haunting *Mary Did You Know*, along with two works, *Sing for Peace* and *Peace, Peace*, which give voice to our greatest hope.

As always, we will begin the evening with a community carol singing at 7:15. Please join us for this wonderful evening.

## The Rockbridge Youth Chorale

The RYC Youth Choir, along with 2-5th grade singers from the Children's Choir, were invited to

participate in the Virginia Music Teachers Association Conference Commissioned Composer Concert on Saturday, October 27, in Lynchburg. Together with the Richmond Women's Chorus, the RYC performed a newly commissioned work *Are We Listening?* by Martha Burford, Director of Music at Lexington's Grace Episcopal Church. The piece centered on the message of compassion and welcoming all. Each choir then performed individually as part of the same concert. It was a beautiful collaboration between groups of singers, young and old, having only met that same day.

Preparations are now underway for the December concert with the RCS. The Youth Choir will perform a piece from the October performance, *Gate Gate* by Brian Tate, a challenging composition sung in Sanskrit. Next, the Youth Choir will move on, musically, to France and Western Africa. Our trip through various continents and



Lacey Lynch  
RYC Director

## February 3, 2019 – Rockbridge Chamber Singers: *A EUROPEAN ODYSSEY*

The Rockbridge Chamber Singers will help to brighten your mid-wintertime with a concert entitled *A EUROPEAN ODYSSEY*, on Sunday, February 3, 2019 at 3:00 p.m. at the Lexington Presbyterian Church.

Let us take you across borders and centuries as we sample lovely choral music from countries in Europe, exploring many styles. This lovely program will feature choral songs on texts of love spanning many centuries, styles, and languages. Composers represented will include Debussy, Monteverdi, Brahms, Vaughan Williams, Gjeilo, and MacMillan.

The work of the Rockbridge Chamber Singers over the past decade has offered a varied sampling from the rich store of short choral masterpieces. We do hope you will come share a winter afternoon with us on February 3 as we explore musical riches from all over Europe.

AND: We promise to have you out in plenty of time to catch your favorite "Pre-Super Bowl" celebration!



traditions will end with the RYC Children and Youth Choirs joining voices on a lively arrangement of the traditional Jewish folksong *S'Vivon*.

For the holiday concert the Children's Choir will present *March Patapan*, a 2-part arrangement with instrumental accompaniment by Audrey Snyder. This arrangement combines two traditional Christmas songs, *Pat-a-Pan* and *March of the Kings* into a partner song. They will close their portion of the program with *Gonna Catch That Santa* by Andy Beck, all about the children trying to catch a glimpse of Santa on Christmas Eve. Will they succeed? You'll have to come to the concert to find out! (Continued on back.)

### DATES TO REMEMBER:

**Saturday, December 1**  
**7:30 p.m.**

(7:15 audience caroling)  
RCS and RYC Holiday Concert  
Lexington Presbyterian Church

**Tuesday, January 8, 2019**  
2nd Semester RYC  
rehearsals begin

**Sunday, February 3, 2019**  
**3:00 p.m.**  
Chamber Singers  
Winter Concert  
*A European Odyssey*

**Sunday, April 7, 2019**  
**7:00 p.m.**  
RCS with chamber orchestra  
and soloists  
**Hallelujah! Handel!**  
*Utrecht Jubilate*  
*O Praise the Lord with*  
*One Accord*  
*Foundling Hospital Anthem*

**Saturday, April 13, 2019**  
RYC Mini-Tour  
Details to be announced

**Tuesday, April 23**  
RYC Spring Concert  
Details to be announced

How Is Your Contribution Used?

FRCS exists for only one reason, to support the work of the Rockbridge Choral Society and the Rockbridge Youth Chorale. The contribution that RCS and the RYC make to musical life in our area is the more remarkable when you consider that their performances are sustained almost entirely through annual giving. Over the last four years, we're pleased to have raised an endowment of almost \$100,000, but we're not yet drawing any income, in order to let that investment gain strength. (In time, income from the endowment will contribute primarily to the stipends of our artistic directors.)

In FY18/19, FRCS received \$36,740 in contributions, \$5,000 directed specifically toward sponsorship of orchestra musicians and soloists, the rest in unrestricted gifts. Of this, \$26,030 went straight to RCS and RYC for program expenses, including stipends for the artistic directors, assistants, and accompnists; sheet music; program printing; payments to the orchestra and to soloists; and renting performance space. \$18,000 in income from tickets also helps to offset the cost of RCS and RYC performances. It costs more than you'd think to provide a community with first-class musical performances!

Of course, FRCS has its own expenses, all related to our charge of funding and publicizing the work of RCS and RYC. Like every other charitable organization, we need to budget for "everyday" expenses, from insurance to postage to office supplies. FRCS and the RCS share in supporting the stipend for our much needed and energetic Executive Director, Melanie Griffiths. And importantly, some \$5000 from your contributions goes to donor relations (maintaining our donor database, bookkeeping, designing, printing and mailing this newsletter, website support, and our fee for Constant Contact, which lets us stay in touch with you online).

When it comes to its own operations, FRCS is a lean, if not mean, organization. We're all about making it possible for RCS and RYC to maintain an annual schedule of dazzling performances, and we're doing all we can to insure that these two fine groups will keep going long into the future. We are grateful for your enthusiasm and generosity.

Merrily Taylor, Vice Chair

(Continued from front.)

Both the Youth and Children's Choirs have seen significant growth in singers this season. The RYC is delighted to have almost 40 young people singing with the RYC this year! Also, be on the lookout for the RYC Youth Choir's new concert attire. They are looking sharp!

The RYC is grateful to the FRCS and its donors for your continued support of quality youth choral music in our area.

Tax-deductible contributions can be made to the **Friends of the Rockbridge Choral Society** by mailing a check to P.O. Box 965, Lexington, VA 24450; or by credit card through our website at [www.rcs.org](http://www.rcs.org). Every contribution counts. We are most grateful.



RYC and the Richmond Women's Chorus welcoming Martha Burford, composer of the commissioned work Are We Listening? Performed together at the VMTA Conference Commissioned Composer Concert on Saturday, October 27, Lynchburg.



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