

Winter 2-2014

College Choir Chronicle (Winter 2014)

Choir, College of the Holy Cross

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College Choir Chronicle

All was indeed merry and bright for the Festival of Lessons and Carols this December. A Holy Cross tradition since 1978, the Festival of Lessons and Carols is a mix of scripture reading and traditional Christmas carols – ranging from more “choral” songs such as William Billings’ *A Virgin Unspotted* to central Christmas songs like *O Come All Ye Faithful*.

Following the opening carols *Veni, Veni, Emmanuel* and processional to *Once In Royal David’s City*, the service alternated between textual lessons from the Bible and choral carols. Each of these “lessons,” was presented by a distinctive member of the Holy Cross community, including Jesuits, other faculty, select students and even the commanding officer of Holy Cross’s NROTC program. Interestingly, several of these readings were in different languages including one in Spanish, and another in Tagalog, the language of the Philippines. Echoing the uniqueness of the lessons, this year the choir changed their traditional repertoire to include other well-known pieces such as *Sing We Now of Christmas* and Rachmaninoff’s lesser known *Bogoróditse Devo* as well as director David Harris’s *A Little Child Will Lead Them*.

Adding to the uniqueness of the evening, senior Rachel Gannon accompanied the choir on her harp, junior Joe Dalton joined the group of distinguished brass musicians that accompany the group for the majority of carols each year, and senior Adrian Fekula, guest conducted *Adam Lay Ybounden*, a 15th-century English carol.

Retaining some sense of tradition the evening came to a close in the truly glorious recessional *O Come All Ye Faithful*. The song, joined by attendees, highlighted the true meaning of both the service and of the Christmas season, to “come... to Bethlehem” and “adore him, Christ the Lord!”

~ Max Lies, ‘17



Congregation Fills the Chapel for Lessons and Carols



Altos and Some Sopranos Lead the Congregation in Song

In case you missed this spectacular performance, copy and paste the link below to listen to the choir perform:

Sing We Now Of Christmas arr. Fred Prentice, *Gabriel's Message* arr. Charles Bordes, *Bogoroditse Dievo* Sergei Rachmaninoff, *The Word Was God* Rosephanye Powell, and *O Come All Ye Faithful* arr. David Willcocks

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/8e6zwe6muzjdm9/7JLqFLvBLX>



Chamber Singers Perform for the First Time in the new Brooks Concert Hall



Soloist Adam Ouellette performs at the Brooks Dedication

Dedications

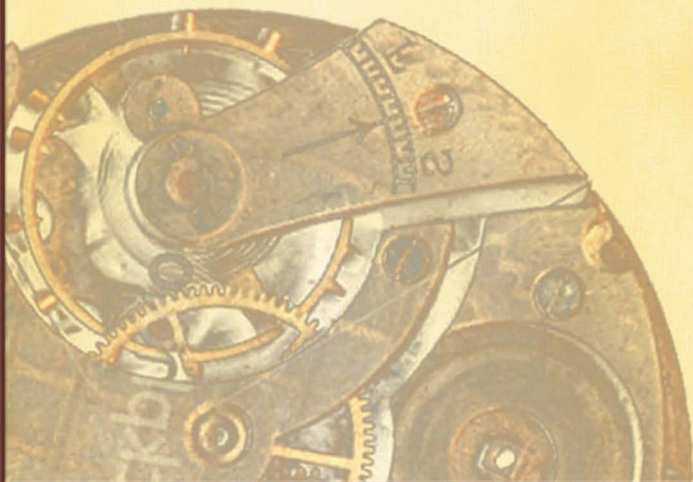
It's always a pleasure to sing in a beautiful space. On January 30th, the Chamber Singers performed Professor Chris Arrell's *Three Psalms* in the newly renovated Brooks Concert Hall. The evening's diverse program featured students, alumni, faculty and guest artists. The audience enjoyed repertoire ranging from Mozart to Thelonious Monk.

The Chamber Singers had the unique opportunity collaborate with the composer, Professor Arrell, in order to bring his vision to life. With less than two weeks of rehearsals upon returning to campus from semester break, the ensemble rose to the occasion and tackled a complex and moving composition.

Also featured at the event, sophomore Brooks scholar Adam Ouellette, a member of both the College Choir and Chamber Singers performed a solo accompanied by Professor Eric Culver.

The group was once again excited to showcase its talents at a special event for the College and looks forward to similar opportunities in the future.

~Hana Pollecek. '14



And All That Jazz

Jazz was once the sound of the college campus. Imagine that. Imagine Charles Mingus and his Sextet as the Spring Concert. Imagine Dave Brubeck's new album playing on every floor of every dorm in America. Imagine The Beatles missed their flight from Liverpool and James Dean never made t-shirts cool, and "going out" means putting on a striped tie and taking your girl to a smoke filled joint to dance to a guy named Mugs who wears his Wayfarers inside.

"Speak Easy," an evening with the Holy Cross Chamber Singers and Jazz Combo, gets back to that time, if only for a while. Featuring some of the best singers and musicians from the College, along with standards from some of America's finest composers, this unique 10 Spot will not only feature jazz but reimagine it through the collaboration of these two unique ensembles. Chamber Singers will weave classic harmonies and solo vocalists will bring the songs of Gershwin, Berlin and more to life on stage, while the masterful rhythmists of the Combo ensure there won't be a steady foot in the house.

Jazz has been a driving force in America since its inception, and it has left a masterful, swingin' path in its wake. "Speak Easy" is a chance to wind this perpetual path up the Hill and into our modern lives. Sixty years ago, the Don Drapers of the world turned on their charm with Ella singing "Fascinating Rhythm" in their heads. GIs fell in love to the tender swoon of *The Nearness of You*, and before them it was the "hi-de-hi-de-hos" of *Minnie the Moocher* that made the Twenties roar. Every member of every generation has had their best moments and finest memories rooted in or shaped by jazz. And, really, what's better than that.

So dust off that striped tie and polish your shoes, and get ready to make your jazz memories. We promise, they'll be de-lovely.

~ Tim Rice, '16

SPEAK EASY

JAZZ COMBO & CHAMBER SINGERS

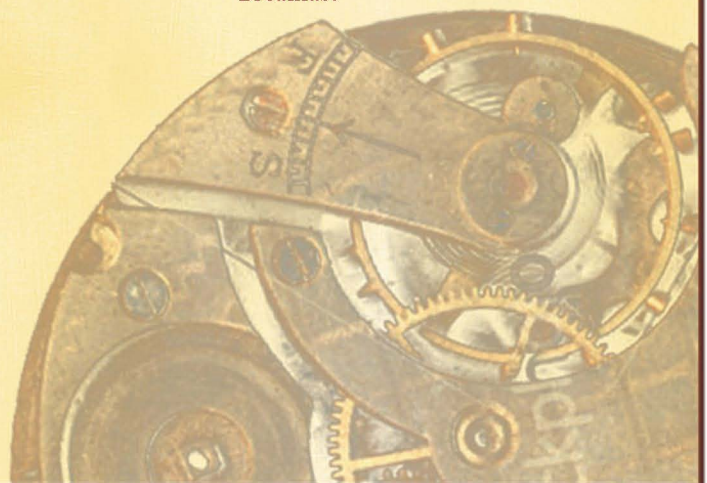
FEBRUARY 25
10PM
AT 10 SPOT



BRING YOUR DANCING SHOES



Members of the College Choir Performs at the Annual MLK Breakfast



Choir Participates in Classroom Revisited

Alumni, make plans to join the choir on April 5th for “A Day in the Life” choral experience. Rediscover your love of music with current choir members and our new director, David Harris.

Classics
featuring the Holy Cross
Chamber Orchestra
College Choir
Chamber Singers
with special guests:
Beaver Country Day School
Concert Chorus

Wednesday
March 12
8:00 PM
Brooks Concert Hall

What does the word
“classical”
mean to you?

In the music world, it is one of those words packed with cutting connotation that lacks definitive specificity, and therefore chafes almost anyone who tries to use it. Yet, when the Holy Cross Choirs and Orchestra play Mozart, Brahms, Gershwin and others, featuring our own Chris Arrell’s “Three Psalms,” we expect that you’ll leave the show sufficiently Grecian.

Sponsored by the Music Department
Concerts are free and open to the public.

BE SURE TO JOIN US:

On Wednesday, March 12th the Holy Cross choirs and orchestra will perform “Classics.” We will also be joined by a guest choir, the Beaver Country Day School Concert Chorus. Directors Eric Culver, David Harris, and Hannah Carr (from Beaver) will lead the singers in a performance of works by Mozart, Duruflé, Gershwin, David, and others. The concert will also feature our own Chris Arrell’s *Three Psalms*.

Of the pieces the choir will be singing, one of the most recognized is Mozart’s *Ave Verum Corpus*, Latin for “Hail, true Body, born of the Virgin Mary.” It is a much-loved piece written in 1791 for a church choir master in a small town near Vienna. It is a hymn in honor of the Blessed Sacrament, intended especially for the feast of Corpus Christi. Now sung throughout the world, it has become a Classic among choral pieces.

Chuck Close is an artist who creates images from small fragments that alone do not resemble the whole image. Like impressionist art, it comes together cleanly from a distance when put together, but has underlying dissonance. Now think of the word “Classical.” What does it mean? Or “Classics?” Though a frequently and casually used word, it lacks definite specificity and, alone, can mean many things. Only in context does it provide clarity about the whole purpose.

On March 12th at 8:00 pm, choirs and their directors will share with you Classical music, but the pieces themselves, as Classics, may leave you with something Greek.

~Ted O’Neil, ‘16