



A. Dennis Sparger

FROM THE PODIUM

I am convinced that we now can sing Bach in the music's original language thanks to the availability of splendid translations by Bach scholar David Gordon. The audience can listen to the beauty of the music as we simultaneously communicate the language translation, all while heads are up and out of the programs. We feel confident this will make for an even more enjoyable concert experience.

True to its name, the Candlelight Concert begins the carol

portion of the evening with a heart-warming candlelight procession, the only candlelight procession at Powell Hall. Many in our audience come year after year in great anticipation of this moment. The procession is followed by Eric Whitacre's *Lux Aurumque*, an ethereal representation of the angels singing to the newborn babe.

A lovely collection of familiar carols then follows, with settings by Mack Wilberg, Stephen Paulus, John Rutter, David Cherwien and our own composer-in-residence Stephen Mager. Led by CLASSIC 99's Ron Klemm, everyone gets to sing in the audience carols. And, for a

special treat, we all enjoy the marvelous young voices of the Archdiocesan Children's Choir under the direction of Dr. John Romeri.

Of course, this will be another outstanding concert. But what's most important is the impact it can make on your life. Don't deny

yourself the opportunity of being inspired by this great and timeless music of Christmas in St. Louis' most beautiful concert hall. As always, with the Bach Society: "A magnificent experience awaits you."

A. Dennis Sparger,
Music Director and Conductor

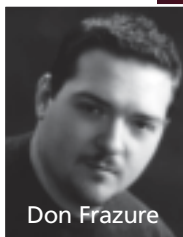
For so many of us, it is *music* that gives expression to our emotions and ultimately lifts our spirits. In particular, the music of

Christmas—the music of peace, joy and hope—is just what we need to kindle a positive force in our lives.

Plan now to join us at Powell Hall on Sunday, December 14th or Tuesday, December 16th, for the 2008 Christmas Candlelight Concerts. From the trumpet and timpani fanfare that opens Bach's *Christmas Oratorio* until the final triumphant chords of *Joy to the World*, you will experience why this event is a St. Louis tradition.

Featured in this year's concert is the Powell Hall debut of soprano Gina Galati, a young St. Louis singer who is quickly making a name for herself. Gina is joined by two veterans of opera houses and concert stages across the country: tenor Don Frazure and bass Curtis Streetman. This outstanding trio of soloists will join the Bach Society Chorus and Orchestra for a portion of the *Christmas Oratorio* as well as the grand finale of familiar carols.

Additionally, these performances will mark our debut of supertitles at Powell Hall. Following our success using this technology at last spring's performance of Bach's *St. John Passion* (and much positive feedback from audience members),



Don Frazure



Soprano Gina Galati
POWELL HALL DEBUT



Curtis Streetman

FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Our first concert of the 2008-2009 season...

... is safely past, with performances in Alton, Ill. and West St. Louis County. And what fun it was! The music was purposefully different from our past efforts—perhaps more approachable—and very moving to sing ... and did I mention fun? The concerts were thoroughly enjoyed by two large, enthusiastic, and appreciative audiences.

Now, just wait until you hear our Christmas Candlelight Concert at Powell Hall. You will be thrilled! And I am delighted to welcome Ameren UE, who joins Emerson Electric as a major corporate sponsor of this concert. These fine companies—as well as our other organizational sponsors—play an essential role in supporting our musical offerings throughout the year. We are deeply grateful for their help.

One of the things I eagerly await each new concert season is to see how Dr. Sparger, our esteemed Music Director, will put together our musical

offerings. I believe that the construction of a challenging, rewarding, coherent concert season—one that will please both our singers and our audience, and which hopefully will bring new listeners in the doors—is one of the most important (and difficult) things a music director does. And nobody does it better than Dr. Sparger. Bringing wonderful choral music to our St. Louis audience is what we are about. It is what we have been doing for the past 68 years, and what we hope to be doing for another 68 years.

Many of you have played a significant role in enabling the Bach Society Chorus to bring this wonderful music to our audiences through the years. You have shown up, you have brought friends, you have spread the word, and you have given your time, energy and treasure, all to ensure that this wonderful music that has been such an important part of your lives will be there for your children and their children.

These are difficult times for the Bach Society of Saint Louis, as they are for arts organizations and other non-profit groups in general. Economic uncertainties, diminishing personal portfolios, uncertain job situations and all the rest mean that most of us have fewer discretionary dollars to spread around among the organizations we want to support. We know that many of you face tough choices, and we are deeply grateful for our many faithful supporters who have stood with us through the years, and who find ways to continue that support. We hope that those of you who may have come to our concerts only recently, and who have been moved by what you heard, will want to do what you can to ensure that next year's concert season, and the years after that, continue to present the finest in choral music to the listeners of the St. Louis Metropolitan Area.

Because music makes a difference in our lives.

Deane Looney
Board President



Tenor Steven Slusher sings Albert Hay Malotte's arrangement of "The Lord's Prayer"



Concertmaster Lenora Anop accompanies the chorus in Mack Wilberg's inspiring arrangement of "Be Still My Soul"



Guest accompanist Christopher White adds to the soul-stirring performance of Keith Hampton's "Praise His Holy Name"



Soprano Darcie Johnson sings James Miller's spiritual "I Wanna Be Ready"



Tenor Damen Martin sings "This Little Light of Mine" arranged by Moses Hogan

MagnifEvent a Magnificent Success

What could be
sweeter than a
Bach Society
event?



Deane and Kay Looney



Richard Labore, Composer-in-Residence Stephen Mager,
and Gaylene Labore



Mike and Susan Niederer



Bob Ogrodnik, Jerry and Mary Cavanaugh, Carol Ogrodnik and
Sara Lee O'Sullivan



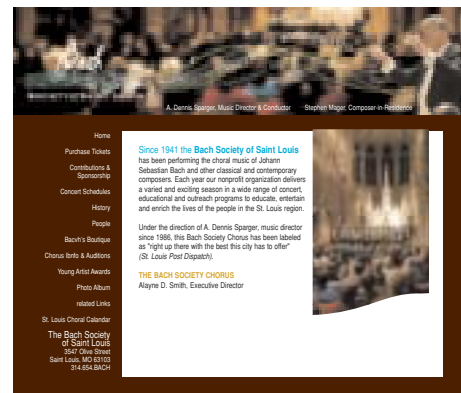
Cindy Johnson accompanied the evening's soloists: soprano Young
Artist Melissa Payton, mezzo Young Artist Debra Hillabrand, and
former Young Artist Sarah Lancaster.



Music Director and Conductor Dennis Sparger with grandson Hutton
Murdoch, the event's accompanist Cindy Johnson, and his daughter
Cindy Murdoch.

Friends of the Bach Society gathered at Sunset Country Club on September 27 for the MagnifEvent, our annual dinner/auction fundraiser. Guests enjoyed a lovely dinner followed by a performance by current Young Artists Soprano Melissa Payton and Mezzo Debra Hillabrand, along with former Young Artist Sarah Lancaster. Event Chair Eleanor Mullin reports that the event raised more than \$25,000 to support the Bach Society; of that amount, \$12,000 was designated specifically for the Young Artists Awards.

Fresh Look for Website



If you haven't visited the Bach Society website lately, you're in for a real treat. The website has a fresh look and some new features that you'll want to check out for yourself.

Here are just a few ways that our website can help you stay connected to the Bach Society:

- Order season tickets or single concert tickets online
- Use the concert calendar to mark all of our concert dates on your personal calendar
- Make a financial contribution online
- Purchase Bach Society CDs
- View photographs from recent events – maybe you'll see yourself or friends there
- Use the St. Louis Choral Calendar to see all the choral concerts happening in the entire metropolitan area

New CD Available Soon

The Bach Society Chorus spent several hours this fall in recording sessions to prepare a new CD of spectacular choral music. "Great and Marvelous" includes a wonderful variety of traditional hymns, spirituals and other selections that listeners are sure to enjoy. The CD, which includes 18 tracks, will be available for purchase at the Christmas Candlelight Concerts at Powell Hall, or online by mid-December. The CD will make a perfect holiday gift for any music lover.



SOCIETY OF SAINT LOUIS

Centene Center for the Arts
 3547 Olive St. Suite 120
 Saint Louis, MO 63103-1014

TUNE IN

The Bach Society Chorus will be featured on CLASSIC99's "From the Garden—Live!" on Sunday, December 7, at 12:05 p.m. Broadcasting from the Missouri Botanical Garden, a majority of the program will be devoted to carols by St. Louis composers including Barbara Harbach, Bruce Vantine, Paul Laubengayer, Robert Charles Howard, Cynthia Johnson, Martha Shaffer, and the Bach Society's composer-in-residence Stephen Mager.

Mark Your Calendar

**Christmas
 Candlelight Concert**
 Sunday, December 14 &
 Tuesday, December 16
 7:30 p.m.
 Powell Hall

Sing Me to Heaven
 Sunday, March 15
 7 p.m.
 Cathedral Basilica
 of St. Louis

Jesu, My Joy
 Sunday, April 26
 6:30 p.m.
 St. Francis Xavier
 (College) Church

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