



GNHCC News & Notes

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Tenor Sectional Rehearsal

Section Leaders, Justin and Dan would like to remind all tenors that there will be a tenor sectional rehearsal this week at 7:00 PM. Please meet in the front room at the Parish Hall.

In order to be prompt, allow plenty of time. Competition for parking spaces will be keen—the NH Symphony is in concert this week.

Memorize...

Just a reminder, there are two sections that Christopher has asked us to work on memorizing:

- 1) West Side Story: America, from rehearsal #17 through to the end of the piece -including repeats
- 2) Chichester Psalms: Movement 3, from measure #60 through to the end of the piece

Hint: Write the words on a 3 x 5 card and keep it with you. Whenever you have a spare minute, use the card as a memory aid—like a flash card.

It's about who you know

GNHCC is more than a welcoming community chorus...more than an enduring fixture in the New Haven arts community. Part of our mission is to engage and enrich the community. For some 47 years, our loyal and supportive families and friends have sustained us. We have consistently relied on our own membership dues, concert ticket sales and block ads or dedication sponsorships in our concert programs to fund us. Over those 47 years, times have changed. Economic realities have changed. And as an organization, we are currently exploring ways for us to adapt to those changes.



The GNHCC Finance and Fundraising Committee is putting together a small, "ad-hoc" group to discuss the possible formation of a GNHCC Advisory Committee. We are seeking names of community members, (*not* members of the Chorus or our immediate family and friends), who would be valuable participants in an initial, information-

gathering "ad-hoc" meeting. As an outgrowth of this initial, exploratory discussion, we hope to establish a GNHCC Advisory Committee that will help us envision better ways to reach out to the Greater New Haven community, counsel us on how we can improve our visibility and perceived value across the region and actively assist us in garnering increased support of donors, community leaders and institutions.

If you know the name of someone who should be considered for either the initial "ad-hoc" exploratory discussion group or for the actual Advisory Committee, please give his or her name (and, if possible, the appropriate contact information) to Vickie Gerdon, who is the Chairperson of our Finance and Fundraising Committee.

March Workshops: Multicultural Influence on Choral Music



Promotional flyers which also include the all-important registration form are available at the information table in our main rehearsal room. All workshops are open to the community at large so, please help us promote them. Post copies of the flyer at work, share them with fellow singers in other choruses you sing with and encourage your friends and relatives to attend.

The workshops will explore multicultural influences on choral music, exploring the origins, rhythms, sources, melodies, themes and theories behind: "[The Latin-American Spirit](#)"; The "[African-American Influences on Choral Singing](#)" and "[Americana](#)". All sessions will incorporate singing. This series of workshops is made possible in part through the support of the City of New Haven Mayor's Community Arts Grants Program.

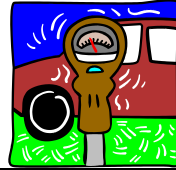
The Circle Will Get Us Squared Away

This week...and for the next few weeks, Christopher is changing our seating plan. Rather than our regular seating arrangement, we will be sitting—by vocal part—in a big circle. This layout might seem a bit uncomfortable at first but it *really* helps us to hear each other and to tune better. It also puts each of the vocal sections at a fairly uniform distance from Christopher so that he can help us all get 'squared away' with the music.

Reminders:

Refreshments this week:

Altos



Parking spaces will be at a premium this week because of the N. H. Symphony concert being held on Thursday evening. Give yourself some extra time—you be circling the block a couple of times. Better yet, organize a carpool with fellow singers.

The New Haven Chorale will be presenting "**Unforgettable Voices: American Masters of Choral Music and Song**" this Sunday, February 21, 2010 at 4:30 PM at the East Haven High School Auditorium. Additional information is available on the Chorale's website: www.newhavenchorale.org. You can purchase tickets through this link: <http://unforgettablevoices.eventbrite.com>.



Cold weather getting to you?



Feeling like you want to escape to a warm tropical island?

We may not have an 'in' with the cruise lines, but we *can* offer the next best thing: a mid-winter **GNHCC Luau Party!** Saturday, February 27th at 2 PM. The party will be held in the penthouse of Tomas Miranda's condo building in West Haven. (Directions will be provided next week.) In an effort to minimize expenses, food will be pot luck (by voice part) and beverages will be BYOB. Suggested assignments for potluck offerings are listed below—but if you prefer to bring something else, feel free...

Sopranos – dessert; **Altos** – entrée; **Tenors** – salad; **Basses** - snacks

Ice and paper goods will be provided.
(Grass skirts optional)

Something New

The fundraising committee is broadening the scope and variety of our internal fundraising activities. You will be hearing about a couple of new opportunities later this month. We still plan to have the 50/50 raffle on the first, second and last rehearsals of each month, and a gift basket raffle on the 3rd rehearsal of the month.



However, on the first rehearsal of the month, in addition to the 50/50 drawing, we will have a White Elephant Sale! The first one will be Thursday, March 4. We are asking members to bring in a new or nearly new item or hand crafted item to DONATE to the chorus. (This is *not* a rummage sale. Items should be in very good condition). We will price the items and offer them for sale during the social break. Bring extra cash for that bargain you can't be without! The next gift basket will be offered up on March 18.



Conducting Assistant Scholarship Recipient

We are pleased to welcome Spencer Cromwell as GNHCC's first Choral Conducting Assistant Scholarship recipient. Spencer is currently a sophomore at Yale University pursuing a double major in Music and Psychology. He began studying piano at the age of 12 and first began conducting at the age of 16 as the Assistant Conductor of both the Mannes College of Music Preparatory Division Senior Choir and Vocal Chamber Ensemble. Double majoring in piano performance and orchestral conducting during his four years at Mannes, Spencer was also a piano student of the Tanglewood Music Festival, the Brevard Music Festival, and the Brown University Program in Musical Performance.

At Yale, Spencer is the Music Director designate of the Jonathan Edwards College Yale Philharmonic for 2011 & 2012 and has also had the opportunity to conduct the Yale Symphony Orchestra, The Opera Theater of Yale College, The Gilbert & Sullivan Society, the Ezra Stiles Wind Ensemble, and several recording sessions with the Yale School of Music.

Of Special Note:



This past Sunday, GNHCC Soprano, Laura Pringleton was privileged to have sung at St. Joseph Cathedral in Hartford with the Archdiocesan Gospel Choir during the Mass in recognition of Black History Month. Laura is also serving as Choral Mistress for the production of *Faust* that is being produced by Hillhouse Opera on April 22-25, 2010.



Have you paid your GNHCC Membership dues for the Spring semester yet? If not, please remember to get your payment to Madelyn Borrelli as soon as possible.

Member Profile



Mary Connors (Alto) has been a member of GNHCC for almost 20 years and has served as Chairperson of our Social Committee for many of those. Mary is a Special Education teacher in Bridgeport, working with high school students. Mary's musical interests extend beyond chorus—she's currently studying guitar. And her creative talents aren't limited to music. Mary has written and acted in many "mysteries" which she has put on for dinner parties. She is also an animal lover, and an outdoorswoman who kayaks and travels whenever she can...and her St. Patrick's Day Parties are well known.