

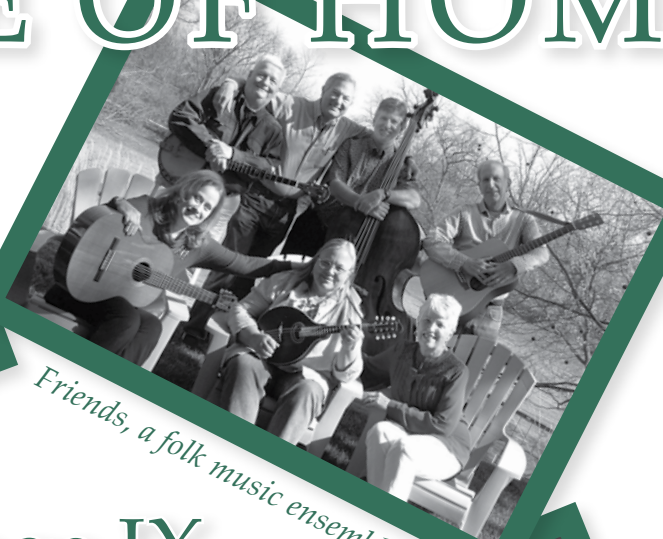
masterworks

MASTERWORKS CHORALE • TOLEDO, OHIO • MAY 2016

THE VOICE OF HOME



Masterworks Choral



Friends, a folk music ensemble

Collage IX



The Hot Air Buffoons



The Ballet Theatre of Toledo

join us for this collage of american music and dance!

Barbershop from the Hot Air Buffoons! Bluegrass and folk from Friends! Dance from the Ballet Theatre of Toledo! And of course, great American choral music performed by the Masterworks Chorale, including folk songs like "Black Is the Color of My True Love's Hair" and "Shenandoah," a stirring rendition of "The Battle Hymn of the Republic," the joyful Rodgers & Hammerstein chorus "Oklahoma!," and an achingly beautiful Craig Hella Johnson arrangement of Stephen Foster's "Hard Times." These are sounds that make up a truly American Voice of Home.

So please join us for our ninth annual *Collage*, a celebration of our musical heritage. A feast for the ears and the eyes, comprised entirely of artists from the American heartland. Saturday, June 4, 8 p.m. at the Valentine Theatre, downtown Toledo. Ticket details on page 4.



*our upcoming collage concert ...
american music that touches us
at our roots*

*Tim Cloeter,
Artistic Director and Conductor*

from the director

the voice of home affords us comfort and connection

This season for Masterworks Chorale has focused on Voices. Our Christmas concert in December made the case that there is no sweeter music to express joy and awe at a new birth than singing, and our Classics concert in March explored our deepest longings with repertoire that let our innermost voices speak. Our upcoming *Collage* concert in June considers the voice of home with a great variety of American music that touches us at our roots.

The musical voice of home comes in many different guises. I recall sitting beside my mother in church as our musically conservative Lutheran congregation sang hymns harmonized in the style of Bach. It was her practice to take my hand and guide my index finger to point at the syllables of the text as they were sung, and it was also her practice to sing the alto part. I'm certain that this constituted my introduction to and earliest practice of musical score reading — experiencing week

after week how the musical information was laid out on the page, and how what she sang corresponded to the pitches printed just above the words at which I was pointing. But it was also a deeply comforting and connecting experience with my mother, and to this day the harmonies of Bach chorales are just part of my DNA, and those hymns resonate in my heart and mind. In the same way, the ringing sounds of barbershop harmony, the down home simplicity and emotional expression of American folk music, the rousing tunes from the golden age of musical theater, and the unique character of pieces by Charles Ives and Aaron Copland are in our cultural DNA, and afford us comfort and connection.

I hope that you'll join us and our guests, the Hot Air Buffoons, the Friends folk music ensemble, and the Ballet Theatre of Toledo, at the Valentine Theatre on June 4 for music and dance that offers the comfort and connection of home.

aspects of the choral art

documentary follows transformative kansas prison choir



*The East Hills Singers, made up of inmates at Lansing Correctional Facility in Lansing, Kansas and singers from outside the prison walls is the only prison choir in the country to perform outside the prison walls. The choir is the subject of the documentary *Conducting Hope* by Margie Friedman.*

Conducting Hope, a documentary produced and directed by Margie Friedman, follows the East Hills Singers—inmates at Lansing Correctional Facility in Lansing, Kansas — as they prepare for an upcoming concert and travel outside prison to perform before hundreds of people including their families. They sing everything from rap to classical choir music and for choir director, Kirk Carson, it's a

daunting task since most have never sung in a choir before.

The film focuses on four inmates sentenced for murder, drug manufacturing, theft and sexual offense. It also introduces two former inmates who continue to sing with the choir along with other community volunteers. For them, the choir has served as a lifeline while transitioning back to “the outside.” The men are amazingly candid, sharing intimate feelings and at times, even humor, exposing sides of the incarcerated seldom seen.

The receiving line after the concert is both joyful and heartbreaking. For one inmate it's the only chance to hold his young son in a non-prison setting — a scene that brings the inmate and his family to tears.

This transformative musical experience provides support, builds self-esteem, teaches critical life skills such as teamwork and most important, gives hope.

The film raises important questions about the

high rate of recidivism and how programs like the East Hills Singers can make a difference. Clearly, there are no easy solutions to this

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complex issue but these men are going to be released at some point so the question is: will they be better prepared thanks to the power of music?

To learn more and see clips from the film, visit www.conductinghope.com. This article and picture were used with permission from Margie Friedman, Producer, *Conducting Hope*.

chorale alto

lisa young: consummate all-round vocal artist

"Lisa Young is an extremely fine singer," said WGTE-FM host Larry Wagner. He wasn't talking about a Chorale performance; he was speaking on his show *Portraits in Swing* about her work with the Johnny Knorr Orchestra. Lisa performed with the orchestra during its final season last summer, and her vocals were featured on a live broadcast from Centennial Terrace.

Lisa felt honored to be a soloist with the Knorr orchestra. "My mom [the late Mary Ann Russo] sang with that band for many years," she says. The Knorr Orchestra no longer performs, but Lisa sings the third Tuesday night of every month with the Monroe Big Band at Harbor Inn and Ale.

Chorale alto and big band vocalist. Two very different kinds of singing. And there's more. She's been a wedding band vocalist, a barbershop quartet member, member of a vocal jazz ensemble, and a jingle singer.

A jingle singer? Yes, for 22 years, Lisa sang jingles weekly with other top vocalists, including the national champion barbershop group The Ritz — jingle singing is not for amateurs

"singing in groups is exercise for the brain and food for the soul"

— at KenR Inc., downtown Toledo. "It was challenging," she said. "For three and a half hours, we would go through a stack of jingles and record them. We had a blast." Their jingles were heard worldwide.

Lisa is grateful to her parents for her broad musical background. From her mom, she learned about jazz and big bands. From her dad, a music teacher and trumpet player, she learned about classical music. She also credits Louis Davis, the inspiring choir teacher at Sylvania High (now Northview), and his son Chip. After Lisa graduated, Chip was her friend and voice teacher until he left Toledo and founded Mannheim Steamroller.

At the University of Toledo, Lisa majored in music for one year. The focus was classical. After switching majors to psychology, she sang with UT choral groups and the Toledo Symphony Chorale. These experiences confirmed to her how much she loved singing in groups. "It was the harmony, the joy of making such beautiful sounds together," she says. "It

is exercise for the brain and food for the soul."

A couple of years after Lisa graduated from UT, her dad encouraged her to try singing as a soloist, and she auditioned for a wedding band. She sang pop, ballads, and standards. Things started coming together about that time, for she also started with Big Band Impact and began singing jingles.

Marriage took her to Cleveland, where her daughter, Zoe, was born in 1989. Lisa commuted weekly to Toledo to continue her work with jingles. After moving back to Toledo in the early 90s, she sang with several community choral groups.



Lisa Young performing recently with the Monroe Big Band

Lisa was devastated when the jingles gig folded in 1999. Fortunately, about that same time, the legendary vocal jazz artist Jon Hendricks moved back to his hometown of Toledo to teach at UT. Performing with Hendricks's Vocalstra, she was amazed to find herself on the Valentine stage with the master. She even had a solo. The Vocalstra experience led her and several other singers to form the jazz ensemble 6th Edition in 2001. Since then, the group, has sung with the Toledo Symphony, the Toledo Jazz Orchestra, the Monroe Big Band, and on WGTE.

Encouraged by friends, Lisa auditioned for the Chorale four years ago. "It felt like coming home. Choral singing is where I started," she says. It's so interesting to me that this accomplished pro thinks of Masterworks as "very challenging". But listening to recordings of 6th Edition at tinyurl.com/SixthEd, I realize how high her standards are. How wonderful that this amazing artist has chosen to share her talents with the Chorale and its audiences! — Tom Sheehan

outreach to youth: two main components

expanding intern program & art school workshop

In its efforts to share the joys of choral singing with young people, the Chorale has had two main programs for many years: the almost-annual choral workshop with the choirs of the Toledo School for the Arts (see photo) and the intern program. The intern program will be greatly expanded during the Chorale's 2016 – 2017 season.

Since the intern program's inception, from one to four talented high school singers have joined the Chorale for rehearsals and performances of our Christmas concerts. For the first time next year, the Chorale will be inviting high school singers to participate in each of our main concerts, one group of interns for the Christmas concert, a second for the March Classics concert, and a third for the June Collage.

"Our high school internship program provides qualified singers with an unparalleled experience singing exceptional literature amid the seasoned musicians and advanced singers of the Masterworks Chorale," explains Artistic Director and Conductor Tim Cloeter. "Past interns have consistently reported growth and enjoyment, and we're eager to expand the number of high school students we serve in this way."

Like our regular adult members, students who would like to participate in the Chorale's intern program should visit www.masterworkstoledo.com to sign up for an audition.



Director Tim Cloeter coached the combined choirs at the Toledo School for the Arts in the Chorale's almost-annual Saturday morning workshop at the school in February. About half the Chorale attended the workshop and sang with and for the TSA students. The Chorale has had an "artnership" with TSA for years. In addition to the workshop, the Chorale shares its extensive library with the TSA choirs.

Masterworks Chorale is
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generous support from:



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Masterworks Chorale

northwest ohio's premier chamber choir

masterworks *Matters*

Go Ahead! Slit the Seal! Here's What's Inside!

A preview of Collage IX, *The Voice of Home*, a celebration of American music, from bluegrass to barbershop, from spirituals to jazz, a feast for the ears and the eyes! • An inspiring message from Artistic Director and Conductor Tim Cloeter • A report on *Conducting Hope*, a documentary about how a prison choir has changed inmates' lives • A profile of Lisa Young, Chorale alto, whose vocal accomplishments range from classical to big band and more • A report on how Masterworks Chorale reaches out to young people, including plans to expand our intern program

Mark Your Calendar and Join Us!

Collage IX: The Voice of Home

Saturday, June 4 at The Valentine Theatre

Reception for season ticket holders at 7:20 p.m.

Concert at 8:00 p.m.

This May Be Your Year to Audition for Masterworks Chorale!

Adult Singers: Have you always wanted to sing with Masterworks Chorale? Why not now? We are hoping to add singers in all voice parts. See below for audition information.

High-School Singers: The Intern Program is expanding! We hope to have as many as four interns — in any voice combination — rehearse and perform with the Chorale for each of its three concerts.

To make an appointment for an audition, fill in the form at www.masterworkstoledo.com/audition.html Questions? Leave a message at (419) 242-0800 and someone will call you.

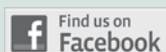
Tickets for Collage IX

Tickets for Collage IX, June 4, 8:00 p.m.
at The Valentine Theatre: Box seats, \$35.
"A" level \$30. "B" level \$25. "C" level \$20.
Students \$12. Order by phone at (419)
242-2787 or buy them at the door.

Disabilities



If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please advise the Chorale's business office at (419) 242-0800 at least two weeks before the concert. For TTY/TDD use Ohio Relay Service 1 (800) 750-0750.



Masterworks Chorale of Toledo

www.masterworkschorale.us