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SAVE THE DATE:

DECEMBER 14 - TAE CHOIRS CHRISTMAS CONCERT, 7:30 PM
Central United Methodist Church, Downtown Concord

JAN 2008 - TAE CHILDREN'S CHOIRS & YOUTH ORATORIO AUDITIONS
By appointment only, Contact 704.795.2787 or programs@ArtsExperience.org
11 Union Street, Suite 106, Downtown Concord



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experience

SHAPE TOMORROW'S LEADERS
SHARE THE ARTS EXPERIENCE

A PUBLICATION OF THE ARTS EXPERIENCE

FALL*WINTER // 2007

JUST A NOTE

What an exciting and busy year we've had at The Arts Experience! Our programs are growing, we're reaching more and more children, and truly making a difference in our community, building bridges for youth. Children from all walks of life are learning important life lessons and building relationships with friends they may not otherwise have met, thanks to TAE.



Quincy Foil,
President

We traveled together, learned together and made great music together. It has been a fantastic year, but it has been challenging. We thank you for all the support you've provided us. It's your continued generosity and giving spirit that allows TAE to do its good works.

This year, TAE Choirs are celebrating 13 seasons with a record number of new singers auditioning and a recent trip to New York City. Our summer performing and visual arts camp completed 16 years this summer and was filled to capacity with campers representing five surrounding counties. Our choral festival, in its 8th year, was a singing success with every choral program in Cabarrus County participating. We continue to provide teachers with quality workshops, which provide them with innovative teaching tools for use in their classrooms. Our Scholarship Outreach program is paramount to our success as our programs are for all children, regardless of their ability to pay.

When all is said and done, it's not really about the arts, it's about the children we serve; providing them with a positive place to be after school and empowering them to achieve success while teaching them to embrace people from all walks of life. While racial conflict continues to fester in many places in our country, the kids in TAE are learning to appreciate their similarities instead of focusing on their differences.

With this year's announcement of Philip Morris USA's Cabarrus Plant closing in 2010, we are losing major industry. In addition, local businesses that we've counted on for support in the past are changing ownership. These changes will provide challenges, but we know that when doors close, windows are opened. We look forward to facing the challenges ahead of us with grace, music in our hearts and your continued support.

Won't you please help us Shape Tomorrow's Leaders by Sharing The Arts Experience with a child? They are the true beneficiaries of your generosity.

May you have a song in your heart this holiday season!

Quincy Foil, President

TAE MELODY CHOIR HELPS OPEN LEVINE CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL

TAE's Melody Choir cut the ribbon at the grand opening of the new Levine Children's Hospital at 10 AM on Saturday, October 20. Our little Melody makers were dressed in pint-sized scrubs and took their place on stage among all the dignitaries at the grand opening to sing an original composition commissioned for the event. The little ones also wielded the scissors as they physically cut the ribbon and officially opened the long-awaited children's hospital on the campus of Carolinas Medical Center in Charlotte.

dinner guests to their seats at a gala celebrating the new hospital on October 18. The events were planned by Tribble Creative Group of Charlotte, and we appreciate their inviting us to participate in the historic ceremony. More than 30 children, ages 6 to 10, sing in this preparatory choir.



▲ TAE Choristers cut the ribbon with hospital benefactors Mr. & Mrs. Leon Levine, Crista Overcash and Mr. & Mrs. Rick Hendrick

In addition to their ribbon-cutting duties, the Melody Choir singers escorted 800



◀ Chorister Alan Bennett greets Larry Hinsdale - CEO, CMC - NorthEast;

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TAE WELCOMES MATTHEW HINSON, ASSOCIATE CONDUCTOR



Matthew Hinson has joined TAE as Associate Conductor of its choirs. Matt joins with our Artistic Director, Dr. Jacqueline Yost, to round out our teaching staff. No

stranger to TAE, he has served as the music director of our Summer Experience camp.

Matt graduated from East Carolina University with a degree in music education with concentrations in choral music and piano accompaniment. He is the director of musical theatre and a piano instructor for Northwest School of the Arts in Charlotte. He previously taught chorus, musical theatre, drama, and music

theory, history and composition to middle and high school students in Kannapolis and Concord. Matt was awarded the First Year Teacher of the Year award by Kannapolis City Schools and has won awards in district and regional vocal competitions with the National Association of Teachers of Singing.

In addition to credits as vocal and orchestra director for Cabarrus Playmakers, Matt has performed with the Old

Courthouse Theatre and served as musical director for high school productions in Charlotte and with the Catawba Care Coalition. He has directed master classes and performed with the North Carolina Symphony, Opera Carolina, and the Oratorio Singers with the Charlotte Symphony Orchestra.

Matt lives in Charlotte, where he teaches private voice and piano lessons to students of all ages.

TAE CHOIRS HAVE A DOOR-BUSTER AUDITION YEAR

Thirteen has proven to be a lucky year for TAE Choirs. Our 13th season attracted record numbers of student singers to auditions. TAE President Quincy Foil said with a smile, "Our new brochures and marketing tactics have worked magic. We're thrilled with the level of interest among youth this year."

In addition to the new brochures, it didn't hurt to take a local news reporter on the choir trip to New York City last April. TAE's "imbedded reporter" enjoyed the whirlwind of activities with the choir and reported back to Concord almost twice daily through an updated website and blogs. This allowed choir members' parents and friends to enjoy the excitement with our kids as they experienced the trip. For more tour details, read on...



▲ TAE Choristers visit with former Governor Jim Martin at the Levine Children's Hospital Grand Opening.



TAE HAD A BIG TIME IN THE BIG APPLE

The Arts Experience Choirs took New York City by storm during Spring break last season. Thirty youth and more than a dozen adult chaperones took an overnight charter bus, arriving in time to change into performance clothes and sing at the venerable old St. Patrick's Cathedral the next day.

The Choristers performed at the flagpole on Liberty Island,

with Lady Liberty holding her torch high behind them. A backstage tour of Lincoln Center, the Broadway show *Wicked*, and a private seminar with actors from the production, along with a visit to the top of the Empire State Building, shopping in Times Square, paying respects at Ground Zero, and adventures in China Town rounded out the journey.

We don't know yet where the next choir tour will lead us, but it'll be hard to top Spring '07 in New York. Three local newspapers wrote feature stories on the trip, helping TAE gain the attention it deserves as the premiere arts education organization for youth in our region. To read more about it, visit www.ArtsExperience.org/tours.html.



CAMP 2007 – STAR SEARCH

We searched for stars of the future and found them at our Summer Experience camp held at Cannon School. Campers enjoyed a week of learning visual and performance arts, including painting, drawing, music, drama and dance.

This year's community partnerships with the Cabarrus Health Alliance and the Logan Community Association and others helped to connect us with children who could especially benefit from the summer offerings, and these students were invited to attend camp on scholarships. We had more than 130 campers representing each of the schools in Cabarrus County and many in the surrounding area.

Campers also participated in the Rose of Thanks project by decorating cards for overseas military personnel. *The Independent Tribune* wrote a feature story about our camp and the effort to boost troop morale. Check it out at www.ArtsExperience.org/troops2.html.

We want to extend special thanks to our superb camp staff including fine arts teachers Linda Smith, Jenny Franz, David Nickel and Heather Connell; our leaders Cathy Lapish, Patsy Floyd, JoAnn Ashworth, Shirley Childress, Dorinda Cannon and Carolyn Ruth.



LOVE TO SING, MAKE NEW FRIENDS, BE PART OF A FUN GROUP?

Join the Fun! TAE Children's Choirs & Youth Oratorio, celebrating 13 seasons, will hold auditions for new singers January 8, 9, 15 and 16 by appointment at our administrative office in downtown Concord. Singers ages 6 to 19 are eligible to participate through a simple audition process.

Our national and state award-winning choirs give two formal concerts annually, perform throughout the greater Charlotte region at corporate and civic events and travel each spring. Choir highlights include a shared concert with the Charlotte Symphony, singing at St. Patrick's Cathedral, the Statue of Liberty, the Biltmore House Candlelight Christmas tour and a national composer's residency awarded through the National Endowment for the Arts. TAE Choirs have routinely won top honors at national choral competitions along the east coast.

TAE Choirs are conducted by Artistic Director Dr. Jacqueline Yost and Associate Conductor Matthew Hinson. For more information, please contact us at 704.795.ARTS (2787) or programs@ArtsExperience.org.

NEW ART ON DISPLAY IN STUDENT GALLERY

TAE's Student Art Gallery is currently showcasing art from students of Aimee Mills, art teacher at Winecuff Elementary School in Concord. TAE showcases student art from Cabarrus and Kannapolis City Schools

throughout the year. The exhibit located at 11 Union Street in downtown Concord and is free and open to the general public. Slow down and check out the local student talent next time you dine at "Emma's."

ALL COUNTY CHORAL FESTIVAL SINGING SUCCESS!

More than 300 advanced choral students from Cabarrus County gathered in October at Jay M. Robinson High School for TAE's annual All County Choral Festival. We were pleased to be able to present this opportunity for the 8th year to deserving students representing every Cabarrus County high school and middle school choral program. The singers were led by Dr. Scott Jarrett and Julia Hubbard, and performed to a standing room only crowd on the last night of the festival.

Jarrett was recently lauded by the Boston Globe as "the most promising young figure to emerge on the local choral scene." The Virginia native earned his doctorate in conducting at Boston University, and served as director of music and chapel organist and choirmaster at Boston University's Marsh Chapel. This fall he begins his 4th season as music director and conductor for the Oratorio Singers of Charlotte. Julia Hubbard serves as Associate Minister of Music at St. Stephen United Methodist Church in Charlotte. Hubbard directs a program that includes four children's choirs, children's chimes, two youth handbell choirs, youth choir, the annual children's choir camp and youth musical. She



taught for six years at Northwest School of the Arts where she was a district finalist for the Sallie Mae First Year Teacher and Ben Craig Young Educator awards.

A highlight of the festival was a special presentation to Dr. "Butch" Winkler, retiring Superintendent of Cabarrus County Schools. In recognition of his support of The Arts Experience and in honor of his retirement, TAE President Quincy Foil presented Dr. Winkler, an avid collector of Native American art, with "The Elders and Teachers Staff." This special Native American walking/dance staff signifies the knowledge, wisdom and caring that an individual has gained and shared with those around them through their lifetime.

The festival was born eight years ago out of a national residency awarded to TAE through the NEA and ACF. Representing each of the county's public and private high school and



middle schools, singers are nominated for this exclusive opportunity by their teachers based on their academic achievement and performance skills. TAE pays for substitute teachers so that the schools' music specialists may also participate without the school incurring any costs. In addition, TAE offers free professional development training for these teachers through which they receive state required continuing education credits.





BRAVO & THANKS

TAE was recently honored with a \$20,000 grant from Philip Morris USA which will help support TAE After-School Music Programs, including TAE Choirs & TAE All County Choral Festival. The Arts Experience greatly appreciates the Philip Morris family for their generous spirit and for helping children in our region enjoy the benefits of a quality arts education.

TAE extends its sincere appreciation to Tuscarora Yarns, Embassy Suites of Concord, Enterprise Rent-A-Car, Carolina Pizza Huts, Sun-Drop Bottling,

Crown Productions, Cabarrus County Schools, Kannapolis City Schools, Cannon School, Tony Dreamwalker and Jay M. Robinson High School staff for their support of TAE 8th All County Choral Festival; and to Concord Standard & Mt. Pleasant Times, Mark & Lynn Russell, Let's Dance Studio, Sun-Drop and Tuscarora Yarns for their support of TAE 2007 Summer Experience. Kudos to Jeff Whittington, Barbara Locklear, dance students of Jenny Franz, HL Ruth and Will Ruth for your support of camp as well.

Billy Kluttz, 11 year TAE Choirs veteran and Concord

High senior, was recently selected to participate in the prestigious North Carolina State Honors Chorus. Billy plans to study music in college and eventually teach. He serves as TAE's office intern throughout the school year and head intern at our summer performing and visual arts day camp. Way to go Billy! Special thanks go to our terrific summer interns: Heath Ashworth, Danielle Hutchison, David Joseph, Charlie Kluttz, Jeremy Lea, Caitlyn McGinnis, Paul Norwich, Connor Reed, Kaitlyn Reissing and Will Ruth. You're awesome!

SCHOLARSHIP OUTREACH

With more than \$30,000 in scholarship funds needed annually, TAE's Scholarship Outreach Program plays a vital role in ensuring our success as a program for the whole community. We award full and partial scholarships and collaborate with area agencies, teachers and churches to identify interested youth with economic challenges. Annually, one-third of the youth requiring scholarships are minorities, and as many as fifty percent of summer program participants require tuition assistance.

**VISIT US
ONLINE AT**
www.ArtsExperience.org
to see our updated
photo gallery and
event recaps!



SHAPE TOMORROW'S LEADERS – SHARE THE ARTS EXPERIENCE

Individual and corporate donations are crucial for the continuation of The Arts Experience and its programs which serve more than 700 youth annually. The ability to provide this assistance plays a vital role in ensuring our success as a program for the whole community. No participant is turned away for the inability to pay thanks to your generosity.

“Without financial help through your scholarship fund, my daughter would not have attended, and I know her memories will last for years to come. Thank you!”

TAE does not currently receive funding from the Cabarrus Arts Council or the Arts and Science Council, and is not a United Way agency. For more information on how you can help Share The Arts Experience, visit us at www.ArtsExperience.org.

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