

September Newsletter
Dear RCers,

The rush of summer all but past by now; up here in the North (where summer seems to disappear as it arrives), we had visitors, swimming, kayaking, gardening and getting our winter's firewood together. I am somewhat subdued by my cat's death this week. Large and bear-like, Grey Guy wandered into our driveway 14 years ago, flooding our lives with unbridled affection in the form of purring you could hear throughout the house and a blending of bodies, human and his, during all peaceful activities. So despite years of preparing myself for his demise, I am nonetheless left with a tremendous feeling of loss. I think of Harold, who had his own deep and abiding love for cats, who thought them more intelligent than dogs and always pointed out that you could never place a cat where you wanted - it wouldn't stay! He shared his Massapequa years with eight cats at one time and when last I spoke with Nancy many years ago now, she had 11, not all of whom got along with one another either...such devotion...

And so our summer news goes like this:

RCA Association Vice-President **Alec Spencer** Resigns

Sig advised us in a letter to the Board:

"Alec volunteered at a crucial phase in the history and rebirth of the moribund Renaissance Chorus Association, to assume the financial structuring of the Association, and tender the legal forms to ensure its non-profit and NY State charity status for the future. This was essential to the needs of the Centennial and to our future projects. He has maintained the updating of the bank statements for our two Apple accounts. He has also advised me on a wide range of organizational, musical, and editorial decisions.

"Alec and Karen Spencer too, were present, at key meetings in which decisions were made. These were most pleasant and informative sessions, as one easily relied upon Alec's experience as a musician as well as an accountant for his advice. Alec indicates he is prepared to continue an accounting role, but health issues have curtailed his involvement on the Board.

"We are grateful for all he has, without remuneration, accomplished.

"We are soon due for an official Board meeting, so we may determine the future status of our programs and official needs for the

organization. The agenda must now include strengthening our Board as well. It may be time to ask our friends and colleagues (particularly if they are chorus alumni) if they are interested.

Again, Alec, hearty thanks."

Sig's Birthday party way back in July was a huge success. Sig kindly gave me the following explanation of the day's major event.

"Ever since being exposed to Nadia Boulanger's early performance on 78s of Monteverdi (at 55 Gilbert Ave by a Yale grad student, Arthur Boatman) as a student in New Haven, I'd adored him. It was also understandable why Harold studied with Nadia. The first great "OPERA," called a FAVOLA, Monteverdi's ORFEO (1607) deals with the conceit that we mortal beings – or our art/music- can overcome death itself - fate & the Gods. In a sense, I must agree inasmuch as many artists/composers have dealt with the Orpheus myth.

"Since being fortunate in friends & family and blessed with a convenient available venue in my building - I conspired to mount a musicale, the excuse being my 75th Birthday. We are able to enjoy doing this, and our friends/network jumped to the possibility and went beyond their normal temporal and comfort levels to do opera! Many of them of course ARE professionals, as are all the players. This can only happen given the time & resources. There were many obstacles along the way so we learnt to persevere. I learned to accept and share my blessings with all. All who have been blessed with inspiring teachers know this.

"Apollo overcame Fortuna.

"Incidentally, **Alec Spencer's next project** here at the same venue- The HVG Lounge at 128 B Pinehurst Avenue at 183rd St - will be **Bach's B minor Mass - an open reading!** On Saturday October 16, 2010. This features post concert refreshments and a cash bar, suggested donation: \$5. This is sponsored by the Hudson View Gardens Performing Arts group.

"By the way, there were a hundred guests, including over 40 performers plus chorus. We wound up the evening with Joel leading the Josquin Planxit autem David, and John Bradley leading the Isaac Kaisermotette. One of the worlds best baritones: Larry Harris and family, and pianist Taka Kigawa joined the Musicale along with many friends. Dorrie & Theo both performed, I MC'd. Django Parx, for those with Facebook, will display the video.

Love and gratitude!"
Sigmund

Claudio Monteverdi (1567-1643)

Orfeo Favola in Musica (1607)

Libretto by Alessandro Striggio [condensed by Sig Rosen]

Cast (In order of Appearance)

Music - Jolle Greenleaf

Pastore 1- Louis Calvano*

Orpheus -Darrell Lauer

Eurydice-Johanna Bronk

Messenger-Margo Grib

Pastore 2- Louis Calvano

Pastore 3- Peter Walker

Hope- Elizabeth Thorne

Charon - Martin Morell*

Proserpina- Jennifer Hoyer

Plutone- Peter Walker*

Spirito 1- Louis Calvano*

Spirito 2- Peter Walker

Spirito 3- Peter Walker*

Echo- Lowell Accola

Apollo- Lowell Accola

*Spirit Chorus:

Marge Naughton- Chorus Preparation

Martin Morell- Italian Diction Consultant

Darrell Lauer- Vocal Coaching

Orfeo Instrumental Ensemble:

John Mark Rozendaal, Conductor

Violins:, Barbara Benary, David Wallace

Violas: Josh Mailman, Elisabeth Weinfield

Recorders: Laura Liben, Josh Mailman

Viola da Gamba- John Mark Rozendaal

Harp: Holly Mentzer

Cornetti/baroque trumpet- James Miller, Ravi Rajan

Dulcian- Ron Evans

Theorbo: Hank Heijink

Guitar: Charles Ramsey

Keyboard- William Lyon Lee

We thank Friday Night Group, Renaissance Street Singers Renaissance

Chorus alumni & Guests for singing the choruses.

THANKS AND CREDITS:

WE HONOR THE MEMORY OF OUR FATHER-IN-LAW, ARTIST JACOB ROSENBLATT, WHOSE TRIPS TO GREECE AND WRITINGS ON MYTHOLOGY, AND HIS OWN “LYRES” DISPLAYED HERE GRACE THIS EVENT.

WE OWED OUR START AND FRIENDSHIPS IN EARLY MUSIC TO HAROLD BROWN (1909-1979) AND HIS STUDENTS.

I THANK THE OFFICERS OF HIS GROUP THE RENAISSANCE CHORUS ASSOCIATION:

ALEC SPENCER, JOHN HETLAND, DORRIE ROSEN, AND RUTH HOROWITZ FOR THEIR MANY MATERIAL ASSISTANCES, AND TO DORRIE FOR THE FOOD SET-UP AND COUNTLESS IDEAS AND GRAPHICS.

I THANK OUR FRIENDS OF FOUR DECADES OF THE FRIDAY NIGHT GROUP, THE RENAISSANCE STREET SINGERS AND OTHER GROUPS FOR MANY STIMULATING FRIENDSHIPS AND PROJECTS, ESPECIALLY MARJORIE NAUGHTON AND JOHN HETLAND.

WE ARE RECENTLY HONORED TO SERVE ON THE BOARDS OF POLYHYMNIA & TENET AND THANK JOLLE GREENLEAF AND JOHN BRADLEY FOR THEIR INSPIRATION AND PARTICIPATION HERE.

MOST DIRECTLY I THANK JOHN-MARK ROZENDAAL FOR HIS TEACHINGS AND LEADERSHIP OF THIS EVENT, AND OUR NEW FRIENDS OF HIS VIOLA DA GAMBA DOJO. (I PROMISE TO RESUME PRACTICE!)

ALL THE SINGERS & PLAYERS: MANY NEW FRIENDS, VOLUNTEERED THEIR TIME & ENORMOUS SKILLS TO THIS ORFEO EVENT & ARE LISTED ON THE FRONT!

THE ENTIRE INCLUSIVE MUSICAL LIST OF OVER FORTY PERFORMERS IS APPENDED.

SPECIAL THANKS ARE OWED ALEC SPENCER TO WHOM OUR EVENT BECAME A PERSONAL PROJECT, DARRELL LAUER AND HIS STUDENTS MARGO AND LOWELL, AND ALSO JENNIFER AND PETER FOR COMING FROM ALBANY, AND MARTY FOR HIS HELP. STEADFAST FRIENDS: BETSY, ROB & LOU LEARNED NEW ROLES. HOLLY & JIM, THE GEIDELS, & THE ENTIRE LARRY & RENEE HARRIS FAMILIES SHOWED THEIR STUFF.

WE LOVE YOU ALL!

We heard from **Ray Rosenstock** back in June - he let us know that he is "in the final stages, perhaps, of producing the last two volumes of the sacred works of renaissance composer Jean Maillard (fl. 1538-1572), to be published by the trusty A-R Editions in Wisconsin, home of fine beers and cheeses, and perhaps the best ginseng farm in the world. This music is of fine quality as well, enjoyed immensely amongst friends in our living room these past several months. Their musica ficta will be immortalized, and I am forever grateful to them — and to my many friends associated with the RC of NY, who got me into this mess in the first place. Cheers!"

Raymond H. Rosenstock, PhD, PDQ, & BLT

Sig, generator of most of our news writes most recently:

"Friends, Please consider forwarding the following notice to your friends. If you were lucky enough to get in to Mary the Virgin for this amazing event then you will want this lifetime experience. If you missed it, then you now have the opportunity to rectify this! Please take my word for it, you will be thrilled with the performance & state of the art recording by Grammy-winning engineer Marc Aubort. I was proud to have a small role in that, and [full disclosure] serve on TENET Board so am prejudiced- but if you support these artist with this purchase, there will be other great free events! NO one in the world is doing better, more effective outreach for this art."

Forwarded Message

From: "TENET NYC, Inc." <TENET_NYC_Inc@mail.vresp.com>

Reply-To: "TENET NYC, Inc."

<reply-4c5973bb1d-8045e37545-7ec9@u.cts.vresp.com>

Date: Wed, 01 Sep 2010 13:49:27 +0000

To: <sigrosen@earthlink.net>

Subject: Green Mountain CD On Sale Now!

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Read Craig Zeicher's full review here.

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The Green Mountain Project is a special project of TENET NYC, Inc.

We are saddened by news of the passing of **Rae Anderson** on Thursday, September 2, 2010. Rae was a member of the Renaissance Chorus and also sang with Joel and Sig and the Friday Night Group. She had been living in San Francisco and re-located to Europe this spring where she learned she had a brain tumor. With financial help from friends, she remained in Cyprus and was planning to return home in November. As was her wish, she was buried in Polis, Cyprus. She was well loved and will be missed by all who knew her. Please visit our website, the Chorus People page to find remembrances of Rae and feel free to contribute your own.

Our very good news for the year comes from **Susan Bush of Albany Records**:

"I am pleased to inform you that the Copland Fund has awarded \$3,000 for our application to fund the string quartets of Harold Brown."

This means that the dream of producing a recording of Harold Brown's string quartets can now be realized. We are extremely happy to forward this great news to you. We thank you all for your support and inspired performances for the Centennial and your friendship which made this possible. Your support has left the Renaissance Chorus Association with \$5,171.41 as of our last statement which will help bring this project to fruition, but we ask that you consider a further donation to ensure its certainty. We have come so far, thanks to you all, and look forward with great anticipation to having some of Harold's work out in the public for listening pleasure and study. Til soon,

Peace and music,
Sig Rosen, John Hetland, Dorrie Rosen, Ruth Horowitz