

The Renaissance Chorus Association  
Fall eNewsletter, October 2012

Dear Members and Friends,

On Sunday September 23, the Tessera Quartet and friends gathered at Hudson View Gardens' newly refurbished Lounge to celebrate the CD launch of Harold Brown's "Music for Strings." Below are some of the highlights of this celebratory day.

We were honored to introduce Harold's daughter Chelanne Brown, who flew in from Walla-Walla and spent a few days visiting New York and sharing some family history with us. Also introduced were Harold's colleague Rosalie Calabrese, a noted poet and former manager at his music publisher, American Composers Alliance; Joseph Surace, Harold's colleague from Columbia; our esteemed Producer Marc Aubort, who shared his legendary experiences; and our own Joel Meltz, who arrived from Boston with his associate Brian. Contemporary composers in attendance were Dr. Hampson Sisler, Aaron and Mrs. (Evelyne Luest) Kernis, Thomas Cabaniss from Juilliard, Joseph (with Linda) Pehrson, and our own David Kuperman and John Hetland. Of the approximately 65 attendees, 28 sang, played, conducted or spoke in the four ensembles, some in several, and others remained for the open sing conducted after dinner by John Hetland and Joel Meltz.

The program began with an ensemble performance, presented by a few of John Hetland's Renaissance Street Singers and friends, who performed the exciting Gloria "In Summis" from 1511, by one of Harold's favorite composers, Heinrich Finck. Singers included sopranos Janet Pascal and Anne Poston; altos Barbara Rosen and Holly Weiss; tenors Alan Marsh and Drew Levitt; baritones Andras Vig, David Kuperman and Leo Tolkin; and basses Sig Rosen and Dick Hadsell.

Mauro Giuliani's Grand Duo Concertante in A Major op. 85 received virtuoso treatment from the amazing Bill Zito, guitar, and Louise Schulman, viola. Afterwards, Louise happily shared the story of her c.1530 Zanetto viola! Imagine! Copies of their CD, "An Italian In Vienna" (Sono-Luminus DSL-92138) went to thrilled buyers.

Our honored guests of the day were the Tessera Quartet: Emily Daggett Smith and Cordelia Paw, violins; Edward Klorman, viola; and Karen Ouzounian, cello; joined by Louise Schulman, viola. They performed the following set:

The first selection was Harold Brown's 1940 "Choral Setting No. 1" in a new arrangement for string quintet by Joel Meltz. The setting is of the Gerard Manley Hopkins poem "No worst, there is none," which noted author Patricia Eakins, director of our Sunday Best series, read for us before the performance. Joel wrote the arrangement especially for Tessera and Louise while recovering in the hospital, and we are beyond grateful. The arrangement was immediately

recognized as a truly wonderful work, and its premier performance was deeply moving. We are hopeful for more performances.

The five artists completed the set by performing the featured work, Harold's moving and passionate three-movement 1935 Quintet, one of the three pieces included on the CD. There were none present who were not moved by the superb performance. The CD (Albany TROY1352) is an album you MUST obtain, as it belongs with the finest of the genre: Mozart, Schubert et al.

This part of the concert came to a delightful conclusion with Edward Klorman introducing his Juilliard colleague, the composer Thomas Cabaniss, who spoke modestly of three of his "discarded left-over" pieces. He combined them for a tongue-in-cheek quartet as "dessert" to the great Brown work. Performed by Tessera, it was charming and meaty, and looked fiendishly difficult, in part for all the octave writings and positions needed, but was perfectly realized. Tessera will have recorded it by now.

As dinner was announced, the star was Dorrie, whose salmon a la Miram Stix and ratatouille a la Julia Child shone. Ancillary fare for the taking included salads, turkey wraps, dips accompanied by delicious breads made by our own Drew Levitt, my "hummus sapiens", and numerous goodies gone too quickly to catalog. Thanks to our friends Anita Finkle-Guerrero for designing and carving the Watermelon fruit salad; to Miriam Stix for help in planning and shopping; to Chelanne for her work in the kitchen and choosing wines; to my sister Shelli Adani and Cynthia Parker, both of whom came from New Haven, for help in the kitchen and at the front door.

The penultimate event of the evening was William Lyons Lee's Solstice Singers' Fort Tryon Park Medieval Festival preview set. We were happy to "draft" Dr. Nancy Regalado, Emerita French medieval literature at NYU, for help with our Machaut/Dufay pronunciation, something she seemed not inclined to offer. Perhaps we were fine at it, or perhaps irredeemably incorrect?

Bill atavistically had us sing mostly Guillaume works: Guillaume Du Fay's "Gloria ad modum Tubae" and "Nuper rosarum flores" and Guillaume de Machaut's "Douze amis"; also Perotin's "Beata viscera Marie virginis" and the anonymous "Gross Sehnen" and "Alas Departynge". Thanks to sopranos, Miriam Eusebio, Cricket Giese, Pamela Procia, Nanci Cone; alto, Elizabeth Thorne; tenors, Eric Benjamin Gordon, Alan Marsh; basses, Alan Ravage, Sig Rosen, Rich Putter.

The event was recorded in photographs by Norman Trabulus, in video by Shelli, and in sound by John. We have yet to view and listen to these records and we thank Norman, Shelli and John in advance.

Laid out on display over three tables were our Centennial photos, posters and other memorabilia and, thanks to Lyssa and John Blair, their reissued

Renaissance Chorus CDs, along with our original LPs, and of course, the new Albany CD. One table was artfully set with Harold's mass and motet editions.

After a long enjoyable afternoon and evening of music, food and drink, the event drew to its end with the sight-reading of some of Harold's Renaissance favorites, led by John, whose editions were greatly enjoyed.

Footnotes to this event:

Cordelia Paw will be notifying us of an upcoming Boston Event at the Conservatory including the 1932+ Quartet. Watch for details on our website.

Edward Klorman is stepping up to help lead the Theory Department at Juilliard, so we look forward to future news from those quarters. We have established a contact for the sale of CDs at the Juilliard bookshop and recommend it as a good place to shop!

Meanwhile it is wonderful to see the news, pictures, and sound files displayed so artfully in our website. Thanks to John! I have also added some to our new Facebook page.

Please send us your news so we may share with our circles.

Finally, putting together this event entailed a great deal of work on the part of many people. It was a labor of love. The artists' performances were deeply appreciated by everyone in attendance and the artists, in turn, were pleased to share their talents. Some beautiful music was made!

Best Regards from The Board,

Sigmund Rosen, President  
Renaissance Chorus Assn Inc  
116 Pinehurst Avenue #B61  
New York, NY 10033  
212 740 4050

Our website is [www.RenaissanceChorus.org](http://www.RenaissanceChorus.org). Click on "Harold Brown" for all the CD news.