

Renaissance Chorus Association eNewsletter Summer 2016

The 2015 Summer Musicale and Monteverdi “Orfeo” reading:

As in 2005 and 2010, the Association invited many of our musician friends and colleagues to participate in a full day of music-making, celebration and partying. Reports and photos, and some recording or videos of these have been placed on our Facebook pages, and many musicians have returned, repeated and expanded their roles. Fuller descriptions are at our wonderful website:

www.RenaissanceChorus.org under Events.

The planning commenced 2014, and required reserving our wonderful Hudson View Gardens Lounge, and several other rehearsal venues, reserving catering and kitchen assistance and ensuring that the word got out to old friends, family and ever-widening musical circles. Volunteers, as always, allowed us to perform what amounts to a social and artistic miracle: re-creation of masterworks out of sheer love.

This was an old tradition with Harold Brown, Stephen Bonime, and Jennifer Quinn, and the Renaissance chorus of New York, which did pioneering early music presentation without regard to great resources or ability to pay. Our 501(c)(3) status from 1960 has been utilized to good effect, for which we thank John Graziano and our Association predecessors. Our estimable website (www.RenaissanceChorus.org) and its webmaster John Hetland played vital roles in gathering interest and participants, among them from the Renaissance Street Singers (www.StreetSingers.org).

Leading up to the July 19, 2015 Orfeo + Musicale, Darrell Lauer suggested we present completely uncut, so as to give more singers a chance to solo. Several of the 2010 cast and orchestra were unavailable so we met many more fine singers from the area who readily worked to make this our best effort. Among our participants were wonderful trumpeters we met in the Jazz world. So much support is owed to the Hudson View Gardens – as many great musicians reside and perform here.

Alan Aurelia, the director of the Riverside Opera Company (www.facebook.com/riversideoperacompany) and the Richmond Symphony, volunteered to rehearse and conduct our 2015 Orfeo. He made us really hang together dramatically!

Here is the program and cast, with libretto prepared by Dorrie Rosen:
www.renaissancechorus.org/orfeoprogram.

This beautiful performance was recorded on 2 CDs by Craig Slon (aracu recordings). Inquiries?

(As a personal note: the appreciation I've for my friends and family, who made this occasion a giant Birthday Party, may sway my judgment, but they are tops. Anyway!) -SR

Looking Back on the 2005 “Orfeo”:

In 2005, we had asked the noted tenor Darrell Lauer if would he take on the role of Orfeo. His agreement was a turning point for us, because since the 12/9/79 Harold Brown Memorial, we had produced no extended vocal and instrumental events. Darrell's bio, as are others noted, is found under “Who's Who” at the EVENTS page of our website: www.renaissancechorus.org/orfeo.

We asked and received full assistance from neighbors and friends from all of our groups and their directors. Even quite a few RCNY alumni surfaced. We hadn't the time to prepare the whole Favola for our all-genre Musicale, but a significant portion was sung. We asked Lucy Cross* to lead, which she did, singing La Musica in addition. Marge Naughton and John Hetland also led open sings. Joel Meltz played Beethoven, Carol Freeman sang Balkan & Yiddish, and Laurie Sucher* played and sang Yiddish songs, some she later recorded on CD Baby. That was alas, the last time we saw her. Rae Anderson* also attended, again our last meeting. Evelyn Simon sang Lieder, and Tony Elitcher brought a contingent of Continuo Collective experts. Some of the Canby Singers attended as well; they, under Sheila Schonbrun, were later, on 11/1/09, to grace our Harold Brown Centennial.

And in 2010 too:

When Darrell suggested for our 7/17/10 Orfeo that we present more of the Favola, we were happy to oblige, and most was in addition video taped. The noted soprano Jolle Greenleaf, of TENET and the Green Mountain Project, presented a memorable La Musica, and Peter Daniel Walker presented three roles. Marty Morell of www.ItalianMadrigal.com contributed expertise. We were happy that John-Mark Rozendaal led with his bass gamba. William Lyon Lee contributed continuo. Many photos are displayed on our Renaissance Chorus Association Facebook page.

Darrell and Louis Calvano in addition presented the memorable Benjamin Britten “Abraham and Isaac”, and the preceding Musicale featured Lawrence Harris and Renee Guerrero in a preview of his CD: Romanze-Songs of Tosti (Pipestone). John Hetland (www.StreetSingers.org) and John Bradley (www.PolyhymniaNY.org) led

Renaissance open singing. Our accountant Alec Spencer and his late wife Karen also presented, as in 2005. The degree of collaboration with Early Music and Classical specialists was remarked by many of our friends. Our most happy experience was, and is, combining our a-vocational circles with professionals.

The 2012 CD of Harold's Music for Strings:

Since we have posted the 2009 Harold Brown Centenary material on the website with the reports of the amazing reunion, concerts and family+ party (also on Facebook), we had to follow up with a more permanent production: the Albany TROY1352 Tessera Quartet studio recording of 2011, "Harold Brown: Music for Strings," released in 2012. I expect all will want this essential, historic recording! You can read about it, and purchase it, at the Albany Records website:

http://www.albanyrecords.com/mm5/merchant.mvc?Screen=PROD&Store_Code=AR&Product_Code=TROY1352&Category_Code=a-Chamber

If you have not already have seen the eNewsletter report of the wonderful CD release party in The Renaissance Chorus Association Fall eNewsletter, October 2012, we shall be happy to resend!

Our Recent Status:

Because of the generosity of family and alumni donors to the Centenary and recording/publishing projects, we can continue to develop programs and events that enhance the culture of all. In addition, a significant resource was received in early 2015 from a 2014 Auction sale of an important manuscript from our library.

The ongoing association concern for the publishing legacy of Mr. Brown has been stated at each of our annual meetings and discussion amongst the officers, friends and the Estate represented by Chelanne Brown. This will be reviewed regularly until the Estate finalizes its role and activity.

Coming November 5, 2016: "Il Pastor Fido":

This year's performance event will lead back from Monteverdi's Orfeo to his teacher Giaches de Wert, and the Guarini poetic drama "Il Pastor Fido", which many of their great generation of artists participated in by creating vocal settings, stagings, and – controversy. Among the composers represented: Marenzio, Pallavicino, Gastoldi, Rossi and of course Monteverdi.

The incredible Mantuan Palazzo del Te of the Gonzaga was the scene of Giulio Romano's and Andrea Mantegna's greatest flights of architecture and neo-pagan Mannerism. www.palazzote.it/pte.

The elder Duke Guglielmo Gonzago amidst all this supported the Counter Reformation, engaging Jachet (Colebault) of Mantua and later Giaches de Wert, both Flemings, with most of the great musicians of the era, served the succeeding Dukes in creating dramatic motets as part of the chapel services. These de Wert Motets will be featured:

Adesto Dolori meo `6
Ascendente Jesu `6
Egressus Jesus `7
O Altitudo divitiarum `6
O sacrum convivium `5
Peccavi super numerum `6
Quiescat vox Tua `6
Vox in Rama `5

We will do a Hebrew Psalm ‘Odecha ki anitani’ `6 from "the other side of the tracks" by Salamone Rossi, again a Gonzaga string player-conductor and part of the Mantuan Jewish theatre & dance scene.

Martin is planning an extravagant 8vv Gastoldi festive madrigal finale.

We have already started “Pastori...” rehearsals under the knowing direction and with the scholarly editions of Marty Morell and many of our 2015 Orfeo soloists.

The 2015 ‘Pastori’ and recorder player Claude Levy will conduct the Wert and Rossi 5-7vv Chapel/Synagogue works, utilizing the wonderful editions by John Hetland.

These cappella rehearsals will commence on Wednesdays in the months preceding our NOVEMBER 5, 2016 CONCERT.

The venue again is the Hudson View Gardens Lounge, 128 Pinehurst Avenue, corner of 183rd Street, Manhattan. We welcome audition inquiries!

Posters, Program Notes, and updates will be shared online and on Facebook as soon as possible. Additional venues are also under negotiation. We have ‘updated’ our Facebook face to: RenChorNY!

DO NOT MISS THIS WONDERFUL EVENT!

Have you visited our website lately?

It's www.RenaissanceChorus.org. Links at the top take you to:

HOME: An introduction and a "Donate" button – bank card or PayPal.

Harold Brown: Biography, pictures, CD of Harold's Music for Strings.

The Chorus: Brief history, Memories by members, links to "Chorus People" (with pictures of many, indicating (*) those departed), "Performances," articles, reviews, pictures.

Music: How to get sheet music of Harold's compositions and choral editions; listenable tracks of Harold's music and performances by the Chorus.

Events: Descriptions, pictures, programs, recordings of special RCA-sponsored events, such as those described above.

Links: Links to useful, relevant or interesting websites.

Guestbook: A place to post and view news, memories, greetings.

NEWS of those in our circles:

Among those departed among our members, supporters and associates circles since our last newsletter we must add:

*Ted Grudzinski, Karen Spencer, Joseph Surace, William Salchow, Edward Simpson, Patrick O'Brien, Michael Hesse, Arnold Rosner, Roger Boxill, Allen Kerew, Lucy Cross, Jerry Epstein, Eliane Reinhold, Murray Berman, and tragically in fire: Miriam Brickman and Ronald Senator. RIP

If you had not known and wish further information about these please contact us personally at sigrosen@earthlink.net.

A Happy Note: Meredith Huvener, our 2015 "Ninfa" is a new mother- Welcome Franklin!

The 2010 Orfeo cast star the amazing Peter Daniel Walker has just been appointed to replace the equally amazing Elliot Levine from our 2015 cast, as the bass of the ever-young Western Wind vocal ensemble. Elliot is starting anew-WEST- in California. Best wishes to both!

2015 “La Messaggera” Suzanne Lorge has her new CD release coming out soon amongst her next 12 gigs!

John Mark Rozendaal, 2010 Orfeo leader & gambist extraordinaire added to his amazing CD discography one by Cranford. His moving tribute to Lucy is on the 2015 CDs. www.jmrozendaal.com/music

We are honored that Darrell Lauer has joined the Association board and anticipate many interesting seasons!

Alec Spencer, our accountant, has offered to help update our corporate procedures and by-laws to conform to our current status, needs and the vast changes in communications and media.

Do not hesitate to share other relevant news. We continue to hear via Facebook the many, mostly happy changes amongst our associates: moves, jobs, gigs and degrees!

Please let us know the what and whys of your lives. Some may find inspiration and renewal therefrom.

Sigmund Rosen
John Hetland
Dorrie Rosen
Ruth Horowitz
Darrell Lauer

August 14, 2016