

The Renaissance Chorus Association Summer eNewsletter, August 2012

Dear members and friends,

We report irregularly to our alumni, most often when in the throes of working on a project. This being the case, most of you are aware by now of our first major recording project since the Esoteric and Baroque LPs of the '60s. Unlike our storied Renaissance performances, we have paid tribute to Harold Brown's chamber music by producing the Albany TROY1352 with performances by the Tessera Quartet with Louise Schulman, viola.

Board members: Sig Rosen, president; John Hetland, vice-president; Dorrie Rosen, treasurer, and Ruth Horowitz, corresponding secretary, led the team that raised awareness and funding. We collaborated with eminent Elite Recordings Engineer Marc Aubort and Juilliard affiliated artists to accomplish this significant contribution to our American cultural heritage.

If you have not done so recently, we recommend you visit our website www.renaissancechorus.org, and follow the links to the memoirs of fellow chorus members and former students of Harold Brown. We are grateful to John Hetland for maintaining and constantly updating what has become an essential research and cultural portal.

Harold Brown's family and chorus members, and most heartening, many not in our singing circles, were staunch financial supporters. Others contributed essential skills and advice.

IN MEMORIAM

Those in our circle who sadly did not live to see this release:

Rae "Jeep" Anderson, Sept. 2, 2010

Mary Calder Rower, Oct. 2011

Louis Lantz, Feb. 25, 2012. (As one of his last acts, Louis sent us his copies of Harold's scores and expressed happiness with the final CD performance edit)

Esthi (Esther) Aubort, July 30, 2011 (Marc's wife expressed her gratitude in getting to know Tessera Quartet members and the music)

Elizabeth Stone, March 27, 2011

Laurie Sucher-Gaster, May 26, 2009

We are honored to list all donors who generously gave financially and otherwise supported this project. Several gave multiple times as our project needs increased and as we clarified what was required for a state-of-the art

professional production. (Please notify us if you were a post 11/09 supporter and you do not see your name listed.)

DONORS

The Copland Recording Fund for their grant to Albany Records
The Barbara Bell Cummings Foundation per Michael Insel
All members of the Brown and Horowitz families also noted below:

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Zeev and Alisa Zamir

Donations will always be appreciated as we access the 'marketing' opportunities and needs. We were given funds for this purpose but with additional funding, we can increase our visibility and our CD donations to media and libraries. (Kudos to Ruth Horowitz for creating an amazing media and academia database!)

Attached is the official Albany Press Release to share with your friends.

We are happy to have submitted our production, specifically the wonderful Tessera performance, to the National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences (NARAS) for Grammy consideration. We are grateful to work with Albany Records which itself is a great cultural institution for American music and we thank Susan Bush for her encouragement.

Several people have expressed interest in scores/parts which are available at the libraries noted on the website (www.RenaissanceChorus/Music). We encourage assistance in digitally republishing them to the chamber music community. A professionally prepared musicological monograph is also needed to further develop this initiative. Your interest and assistance is welcome as are your comments and reviews which can be shared at the following forum: www.RenaissanceChorus.org/CDcomments

We will strive to consider future releases, or at least, to research the performers and foundations who, stimulated by this release, wish to explore more of Harold's oeuvre. The first step, already taken, is to clarify the availability of orchestral scores and parts, and convey them to experts who provide estimates

for recordings, mainly in Europe. This is part of an on-going process, for which you may also like to participate at some point.

We ask ourselves continually, what is the vision of the Renaissance Chorus Association, and especially now as we seem to have digressed into chamber music and possibly in future into orchestral music! We are, however, still deeply involved in learning and performing Early Music and supporting our colleagues who do the same by performing and serving on boards throughout ever-widening circles.

Of prime importance to our organization is the legacy of the composers Harold loved. To this end, the Renaissance Chorus Association has a Facebook Group which presents everything from events and links to papers we enjoy and wish to share. We welcome your participation.

Harold had great interest in Heinrich Finck (c.1444-1527). He is now represented as a Facebook page. Subsequently, our whole circle has developed interest in performance of the works of this great master.

John Hetland's Renaissance Street Singers have taken the challenge of editing and performing the entire 6/7-voice. Missa in Summis (1511) for their upcoming 2013 Loft Concerts! As far as we know, it has not been performed or recorded. (Please check www.StreetSingers.org for details of this and of all their events.) This is important for us in part as the only other group consistently offering Finck, Steve Bonime's Music Divine, has suspended their concerts.

Our own next event will be the CD launch party! This celebration will include music reprised from the recording played by the Tessera Quartet with Louise Schulman, and will happen on Sunday September 23, 2012 at 3pm, after which there will be an open sing until 10pm.

If you missed the 2009 Centennial, here is your opportunity to party with these wonderful Juilliard artists and many old friends. Admission is free to all on the above donor list or with a donation (RSVP) by those who would like to donate now. We expect a large turnout at The Hudson View Gardens Lounge, 128 Pinehurst Avenue at 183rd Street, Manhattan, New York. Therefore, please RSVP as soon as possible!

Yours Truly,

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The Renaissance Chorus Association is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization.