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Many generous donors have supported the Guild's mission of bringing fine choral music to our community this season.

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May 2009



Upcoming DCG Concerts and Events

2009 Georgia Young Composers Festival Concert Saturday, May 16, 7:30 PM

Hear the latest compositions by Georgia's student composers. Be the first to hear Georgia's next Mozart!

Florence Kopleff Recital Hall
Georgia State University
Atlanta, Georgia

\$15 adults, \$5 students & seniors

Auditions for Season 32!

The Guild would love to count you among its ranks for next season's slate of exciting concerts and events. We currently seek talented singers in all sections. To schedule an audition appointment, please e-mail us or leave a voice message at our telephone number below.

Embry Hills United Methodist Church
Auditions—Early August, 2009
First Rehearsal—August 17

Contact Us

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Guild Presents 2009 Georgia Young Composer Festival at Georgia State University — May 16

The DeKalb Choral Guild is proud to announce a new choral event for the Georgia music scene, the Georgia Young Composers Festival. The festival will recognize the wealth of musical talent among Georgia's high school and college students and introduce you to tomorrow's composers today!

Last fall, the Guild invited student composers from high schools and colleges across the state to submit original works for judging. During the winter, a selection committee winnowed the compositions down to five finalists representing the best of the state. The Guild will premiere the finalist's works in concert and give you a chance to meet these amazing musicians. Inside you will find background information about the composers so you can see the impressive résumés they have already built up. At the concert, a Judges Panel will select the best high school and collegiate works and award a \$1,000 scholarship to each winner. Feel free to join the cheering section for your favorite student.

The works the students have produced are remarkable in their diversity of subjects, styles and structures. One student chose to set an ancient Latin hymn in a "neo-Renaissance" style, while another chose a different ancient hymn set in a modern style. Another chose to intertwine a Robert Louis Stevenson poem with text from the requiem mass. And, we have two very different treatments of a poem by Edgar Allan Poe.

Adding to the excitement of the evening, the Guild will perform Bernstein's "Chichester Psalms" with organ, harp and percussion accompaniment. Bernstein was often considered ahead of his time as a young composer, providing a perfect pairing for the works by our student composers.

Concert Information

The concert takes place Saturday, May 16, 8 PM, at the Florence Kopleff Recital Hall on the campus of Georgia State University. The hall is located at the corner of Gilmer St. and Peachtree Center Ave. in downtown Atlanta. Free parking is available in the "I" parking lot. The entrance to the I lot is on Peachtree Center Ave between Decatur Street and Hurt Plaza underneath the Sciences Annex Building. Overflow parking is also available for a fee in lots on surrounding streets.

Tickets for the concert are \$15 for adults and \$5 for students and seniors. The Guild now has convenient on-line ticketing on our website. For more information and directions, please visit www.dekalbchoralguild.org.

We look forward to seeing you at the inauguration of an exciting new choral event!

Special Thanks to our Signature and Producing Sponsors

Several generous people and organizations have provided the funding and expertise to make the Georgia Young Composers Festival possible. The GYCF is supported in part by the Georgia Council for the Arts (GCA) through the appropriations of the Georgia General Assembly. GCA also receives support from its partner agency, the National Endowment for the Arts. Mr. & Mrs. Roger and Vivian Hill are also Signature Sponsors for the Event, underwriting a significant portion of the costs to produce the event. AT&T of Georgia is sponsoring the scholarship for the collegiate division. The Guild also received considerable in-kind donations of services from the Andersen Law Firm and Star-Tech.com.

Meet Our GYCF Finalists



Justin Johns
Collegiate Finalist
Covenant College
Lookout Mountain

Justin Johns is currently a junior at Covenant College on top of Lookout Mountain, Georgia, where he is majoring in Music Theory and Composition. He began studying music when he started taking piano lessons at age four. He is originally from Cape Coral, Florida, where he studied piano for ten years and voice for four. In Florida, Justin had the opportunity to participate in the Florida All State Choir for four years, two of those years in the Florida All State Reading Choir.

Justin enjoys many other disciplines as well, currently working toward minors in Physics, Math, and Theatre. He had the opportunity to blend all of these areas of study by recently directing Michael Frayn's play "Copenhagen." Justin has been involved in many theatre productions at Covenant College doing everything from acting to directing and technical work. He also will be writing incidental music for Bertolt Brecht's play "The Caucasian Chalk Circle," which will be

performed at Covenant College in the fall under the direction of Prof. Claire Slavovskiy.

Justin is a student member of the Southeastern Composers League, and his Mass for the Brokenhearted was recently performed at their annual forum. He is currently studying composition under Dr. Brandon Kreuze at Covenant College, where numerous pieces of his have been performed at the college's annual Composition Exhibitions. Justin has also continued his studies in vocal performance and has participated in multiple vocal ensembles during his time at Covenant College.

Justin's work "Requiem" intersperses the Latin text from opening movement of a traditional requiem mass with the words of Robert Louis Stevenson's poem "Requiem" sung by a baritone solo. The music is set in an evocative modern style with piano accompaniment that enriches the emotional texture.



Chris Owenby
Collegiate Finalist
Georgia State Univ.
Atlanta

Chris Owenby's work has been performed by members of the Atlanta, Columbus, and LaGrange Symphony Orchestras, the Goliard ensemble, the LaGrange College Singers, and the Sons of Lafayette. His work has been published by Emerson Music Publishing and is currently being played on the Immanuel Broadcasting Network, White Dove Radio, and Bigloo Christian Radio among other stations.

Chris received his B.M. from LaGrange College and currently pursues a M.M. in composition at Georgia State University. He serves as Minister of Music at Wesley Chapel UMC in Marietta and teaches piano and composition lessons at the Harmony House in Kennesaw. He also holds a position as pianist with the LaGrange Symphony Orchestra.

He interned with the distinguished Atlanta Symphony Chorus, and is a member of several music societies, including ASCAP, SCI, the American Composer's Forum, the College Music Society, ACDA, and the Nashville Songwriter's Association. Chris's current projects include a multi-movement piece for Brass Quintet and a multi-movement piece for solo soprano, SSA chorus, and piano based on the poetry of Steven Crane, commissioned by the LaGrange College Singers.

Chris's work "O Magnum Mysterium" sets the ancient Latin text that marvels on the "great mystery" of the animals surrounding the manger being the first to see the baby Jesus. The lush, divisi choral writing is underscored with a piano part that enhances the sense of mystery evoked by his setting of the text.

Daniel Elder is in his junior year studying music composition at the University of Georgia, where he has studied with Drs. Adrian Childs and Roger Vogel. His music career began with playing the trumpet in high school, where he was a member of the advanced concert and jazz ensembles, as well as the Athens Youth Symphony. He graduated in 2004 with an intended major in Physics.

When he entered the University of Georgia, however, he became immersed in the choral arts, as he shifted his involvement from band to choir. He began composing choral music individually in his freshman year, when he sang in the Men's Glee Club. After his first year he changed majors from Physics to Music in order to further study choral composition.

In his two years of study at UGA, Daniel has written two song cycles (*Ballades* of Guillaume de Machaut, *Cinco Sonetos de*

Amor of Pablo Neruda), a cycle for trumpet and piano entitled *Revolutions*, two anthems that have been performed at his home church, the First Presbyterian Church of Athens, and numerous hymn tunes, art songs, and choral motets. His influences include Morten Lauridsen, John Ness Beck, Ralph Vaughan Williams, Eric Whitacre, and others.

Daniel currently studies both voice and composition at UGA, and sings in the Concert Choir under the direction of Dr. Allen Crowell. He hopes to further his study at the masters and doctoral levels after graduation, and aspires to one day enter the sacred choral market as a church music composer.

Daniel chooses as his subject Edgar Allan Poe's "A Dream Within a Dream," which laments the transitory nature of life. Daniel's work for a *capella* chorus uses a variety of compositional techniques and beautiful part-writing to express the poet's emotions.



Daniel Elder
Collegiate Finalist
University of Georgia
Athens

Thomas Morris is a young composer from Atlanta, Georgia. His works experiment with strong melodic lines, rhythmic diversity and wide range of harmonic language. A pianist of over twelve years, Thomas currently studies with Karin Banks. As a junior at the Paideia School, Thomas plays trumpet in the concert band and jazz ensemble, under the direction of John Abert. He also sings in Paideia's madrigal choir under the direction of Kate Murray. He frequently accompanies the student-run musicals at Paideia, recently playing in "Little Shop of Horrors" and "Grease."

In the summer of 2008, Thomas at-

Unfortunately, Evelyn's picture and biographical details were not available at the time the "DCG News and Notes" went to press.

Her work, "Jesu Dulcis Memoria" is a

tended the Interlochen Center for the Arts, where he premiered three of his pieces under his teachers John Boyle and Roshanne Etezady. In the spring of 2009, Thomas began studying with Dr. Steve Everett of Emory University. This summer he will attend Interlochen again where he plans to continue his study of composition, preparing himself to enter college in music composition.

Thomas also chose Poe's "A Dream Within a Dream" as the text for his work, set for a *capella* chorus and soprano solo. The piece has extended use of divisi parts to enhance the harmonic textures and lay bare the poem's deep emotional content.

setting of an ancient Latin hymn of the same name. Befitting the text, she uses stylistic techniques showing a progression from plainchant through the Baroque era, adding polyphonic elements with each verse.



Thomas Morris
High School Finalist
The Paideia School
Atlanta

Evelyn Petcher
Collegiate Finalist
Covenant College
Lookout Mountain