

## From the Artistic Director

by Peter Frewen



Our 2010-2011 concert season once again banishes enervating routine.

The most obviously exciting feature is our chance to perform Ravel's *Daphnis et Chloé* in May with the Portland Symphony Orchestra in Merrill Auditorium and under the direction of Robert Moody. The work is a sensuous magic carpet of impressionistic orchestration that thrills your every nerve fiber as you glide above the emotive terrain of that ancient love story. Our part is as one more color in the orchestra's tonal palette. The notes are neither difficult nor many, with a good deal of repetition and no text, so we can arrive at the orchestra rehearsal feeling fully prepared and confident. Shannon Chase's chorus, Vox Nova Chamber Choir, will join us to ensure maximal projection.

Our own magical event will be the November performances of Maurice Duruflé's *Requiem*. This intensely expressive work, now demonstrative, now withdrawn, increasingly resonates with me as few works do. In structure and sonority it uniquely traverses the landscape of loss—the dull ache, the grievous tears, the exhausted pleadings, the glimmer of solace—in an ancient language newly fitted.

Please see **Director**, page 3

## From the President

by Fred Cichocki



"...haul away, strongly haul!"

And that we did in our epic performance of Dominick Argento's *Jonah and the Whale* last May, thus ending our 34th concert season with a flourish not soon to be matched.

Last season, 2009-2010, was a memorable year for the Chorale. The kickoff concert drew standing room only crowds to hear an eclectic blend of some rarely heard seasonal music, including a performance by the hand bell choir of First Parish Church, Brunswick, directed by Ray Cornils. In February, we threw an opera gala, with lavish scenes, choruses, arias and ensembles in a cabaret setting, complete with wine. And, of course there was the grand finale, the Maine premiere of Argento's *Jonah and the Whale* narrated by Suzanne Nance of Maine Public Radio fame, with Daniel Cole as the one and only (for the moment, anyway) Voice of God, and Timothy Neill Johnson as Jonah. An engaging pre-concert symposium, "Jonah and the Whale in Story, Science, Art and Music" held at the Maine Maritime Museum in Bath helped promote the concert.

Please see **President**, page 2

## Welcome to Jesse Feinberg

Jesse Feinberg, an accomplished jazz pianist and accompanist for various choral, theater, and dance groups, is to serve as the Oratorio Chorale's accompanist for the coming season.

After receiving an Associate Degree in Music from Holyoke Community College, Jesse enrolled in the jazz and contemporary music program at the New School for Social Research in New York. There, he studied with Joanne Brakeen, Kenny Barron,



Danilo Perez, Gary Dial and Phil Markowitz. Following a stint as lounge pianist with the Royal Caribbean Lines, he worked as primary dance accompanist and piano teacher at the Nutmeg Conservatory for the Arts in Torrington, Connecticut, where he also founded Nutmeg's jazz department and accompanied choruses at The Wooster School in nearby Danbury.

Subsequently, he served as primary accompanist for the Five College Dance Departments, the Amherst Ballet and Theatre Company, the Boston Ballet School, Boston Conservatory, Dean College, and Walnut Hill School.

Recently, Feinberg moved to Bath, Maine and has taken up a varied career in the mid-coast region. He directs pit orchestras and accompanies musical productions by The New England Youth Theater at the Chocolate Church, accompanies the Portland based Longfellow Chorus, and appears in the mid-coast region as a jazz musician.

This fall, Jesse Feinberg will pursue a bachelor's degree in music education at UMA. If not performing, composing, or orchestrating music for various groups, he takes regular hiking expeditions and enjoys sunny days at the beach.

**President**, continued from page 1

Cutting edge programming like this is not possible without dedicated, behind the scenes efforts of the Chorale's members and the Board of Directors. In particular, Board Vice President Ms. Lucie Teagarden quite single handedly secured over \$7000 in grants for the 2009-2010 season. Now on to our 35th season, and the 25th under the eminently capable direction of Peter Frewen, whose message elsewhere in this newsletter previews the music and programs we may eagerly anticipate.

I can't emphasize enough that the *raison d'être* of the Oratorio Chorale is to creatively program the finest choral music and perform it to the highest standards of excellence, all for the sheer joy of it. With this as our guiding star, all else falls into place, including the financial wherewithal to make it so. This is not to say that money will simply land in our laps, but that a focus on musical art along with dedicated efforts to market our programs helps bring the requisite fiscal resources. To that end, the Marketing Committee of the Board has developed a slick new "Marketing/Media Kit". Because we do what we do so well, and thanks to John Todd, John and Nancy Evans of Legacy Properties/Sothebys International Realty will sponsor our performance of Gilbert & Sullivan's *Trial by Jury* in February. And likewise, Lucie Teegarden continues to bring in the grant money. Of course, we all do our part through the dues we pay, our special gifts to the Chorale, and selling tickets and program ads. However, our financial sufficiency continues to derive from the wonderful music we bring to the people of Maine.

This year the Chorale numbers a few more than thirty singers, a much leaner, but definitely not meaner, ensemble. So on that note, I extend my sincere welcome to all returning and new singers.

But enough! Let the singing begin.

—Fred Cichocki

## "How Can I Help?" You Ask!

As Fred points out, this season's membership numbers under 40 singers, down somewhat from past years. While we are



confident that we will make beautiful music together, it falls on fewer of us to raise the funds necessary to sustain the Chorale and our productions. One way we can all contribute is by selling ads in the Chorale concert program.

**All Chorale members are strongly encouraged to sell at least one ad in the concert program.** I will have extra copies of last season's program, beginning with the first rehearsal on September 12, so those of you who don't have a copy can get one (or more). Give me a call (725-1420) or email me at [gwynpalmer@comcast.maine.net](mailto:gwynpalmer@comcast.maine.net).

We've uploaded the current rate card/contract, "Dear business leader" letter and some pointers in the Members Only section of the website. Here's a link.

[www.oratoriochorale.org/membersonly/webmaster.htm](http://www.oratoriochorale.org/membersonly/webmaster.htm)

— Gwyn Palmer

As emotional balance in the fall program, we will engage J. S. Bach's most triumphal music—the brilliant and majestic affirmation of *A Mighty Fortress*, (*Ein' feste Burg ist unser Gott*, Cantata #80,) and the pulsing joy of *Thou very God and David's Son* (*Du wahrer Gott und Davids Sohn*, Cantata # 23). The Maine Chamber Ensemble will collaborate on this program.

And then “for something completely different,” in March we'll give unstaged concert performances of Gilbert and Sullivan's first big success, *Trial by Jury*, a perpetually relevant satire on the foibles of the heart and the law. John Adams, Devin Dukes, and young Jason Phillips will be among the featured soloists. All on our own, we'll perform slightly more serious fare by Ivor Davies (“Prayers From the Ark”), Hugo Wolf (“Six Sacred Songs”), and Arthur Sullivan himself (“The Long Day Closes”).

Because Ravel's score will not constitute even half a program, and because the PSO concerts fall at the beginning of May, we'll round out our season in yet another unusual event. With Songs of Spring by Britten, Elgar, Finzi, Ireland, and Thompson, the full chorus will crash the party formerly known as The Recital to mount the stage and join the fun.

You will be glad to welcome several fine new singers into various sections and our new accompanist, Jesse Feinberg. One curious and happy aspect of this year's entering class is that its members will exert a noticeable, statistical shift downward of the median age of the chorus.

—Peter Frewen

*Notes* is published 2-3 times a year for Oratorio Chorale members.

Editors: Burke Long, Gwyn Palmer  
Contributors: Peter Frewen, Fred Cichocki

The editors invite members to let us know about newsworthy activities--things that you've accomplished or activities you've been involved in that might be of interest to other members of the Chorale.

If there is anything you'd like us to include, please let us know. Contact Burke Long at [blong@bowdoin.edu](mailto:blong@bowdoin.edu), or Gwyn Palmer at [gwynpalmer@comcast.net](mailto:gwynpalmer@comcast.net).

## Welcome New Singers



Jennifer Bradeen  
Bath  
Soprano



Vivien Chinnapogse  
Soprano  
Topsham



Sarah Rogers  
Bath  
Alto



Tim Badgley  
Round Pond  
Bass

## Returning after a brief absence.....



Rachael Bairstow  
Auburn  
Soprano



Andy Bertocci  
Yarmouth  
Tenor

## Welcome New Members Party at Marian Dalton's Before First Rehearsal!



**When :** Sunday, 9/12, 4pm

**Where:** 16 Quarry Road, Brunswick

**What to bring:** A beverage and something to share.

(New members need only bring themselves!)