



The Fort Bend Boys Choir of Texas Vocal Notes

Volume 15, Issue 1

Our 24th Concert Season

January 2006

From the Artistic Director ...

Abracadabra! The Tour Choir recently performed at a gala function honoring the YMCA and their theme for the evening was "magic." Preparing to go on stage, as I looked at each boy in their straight line formation, I thought of the "magic" that occurs each time we meet with our choristers. This is more than just "pulling a rabbit out of a hat." We engage the powers of our core values: respect, responsibility, hard work, honesty and integrity. Then presto! You see a young boy transformed into an empowered, character-filled and self-assured young man right before your eyes!

I am also reminded that this "magic" happens without them even knowing it. We started our Music Magic program for six and seven year old boys in 1998 and at the end of that first rehearsal, one particularly bright seven year old asked me, "... but when does the 'magic' happen?" I replied that the "magic" was him ... as he learned to stand still, focus and sing beautifully. I'm sure that was NOT the answer he expected!

Boys develop an appreciation for the importance of learning at an early age. Walk into any of our rehearsals and you will see the

choristers laughing, singing and having fun. We recognize that boys have a power to imagine that is almost "magical," and we encourage our singers to dream big. The poet **Carl Sandburg** captured that sentiment when he wrote, "Nothing happens unless first there is a dream."

And boys need to believe in their own self-worth, especially in these days and times. During each rehearsal, camp or concert, directors lead boys through musical experiences that foster self-confidence, encourage success and empowerment. At the Fort Bend Boys Choir, "magic" is found in choristers who believe in themselves and their power to effect change.

Since 1982, the Fort Bend Boys Choir has been a part of the fabric that makes our community and indeed the world a better place to work and live. We believe in every family and every boy that audition for us.

These "magic" moments are created daily in our organization ... and we invite **you** to experience this "magic" with us. Recommend a boy for an audition, attend a concert or become a sponsor. You truly can help us make a difference...one boy at a time and help us all create some "magic."

Until we meet again ... may God hold you in the palm of his hand. ♪



"Music is . . . a labyrinth with no beginning and no end, full of new paths to discover, where mystery remains eternal."

~ Pierre Boulez (1925-)

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My Thank You Letter to Choir Parents by Shelley Hannes, Board President

You would think that writing a brief newsletter article would be easy, especially if you are writing about something that you are passionate and enthusiastic about. For me however, it is not an easy task. The problem I have is that there are many things to say about the Fort Bend Boys Choir, so I have problems narrowing them down to a single topic. In newsletters past, I have talked about the importance of volunteering, Tour choir trips and fundraising. Volunteerism is a really BIG thing for me. I believe in giving back, helping out and making a difference wherever I can. But, writing about it each and every time can be repetitive. So, I decided to take a different approach with this article - I should title it "My Thank You Letter to Choir Parents."

To all the Parents of Fort Bend Boys Choir members: THANK YOU!

I don't know if you hear this often enough, so I thought I would use my space in the newsletter to say it. I admire your dedication to your son. How wonderful it is when a parent sacrifices their time and energy to allow their child to explore and experience an activity that they are passionate about. Your commitment to juggling rehearsals, concert schedules and uniform purchases, in addition to your other life commitments, is to be admired.

You brought your son to his first audition and waited anxiously for the results. You watch with pride as he sings in concerts. You negotiate areas of town that you have never seen before in order to get to a concert on time. You carpool, wait, encourage, volunteer (I had to say it!), and, in general, are the backbone of the Choir organization. While the boys provide the music, each of you helps make it happen.

The most wonderful part about your support is how it affects your son. By volunteering and helping out whenever you can, you are making a positive impact, not only for the organization, but also for your own son's experiences. By seeing your commitment and dedication, your boy will realize for himself how special his time with the choir truly is. Parents, what you do is important. Your participation definitely *makes a difference, one boy at a time.* ♪



2005 Winter Audition Results



It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas! At least, that is what 19 boys were singing when they found out about being accepted into the Fort Bend Boys Choir! Those boys who received their choir Christmas present early are:

Justin Chia	Landry Hand	TJ Petrosewicz	Benjamin Tu
Luke Dorman	Peyton Hoover	Jason Sattler	Zachary Tu
Erik Felty	Eugene Lam	Zachary Smith	Jonathan Vandenberg
Jackson Felty	Jordan Longoria	David Stevenson	Gabriel Walker
Nicholas Felty	Brandon McDonald	Harrison Townsend	

We have also had some promotions within the ranks too. The following boys have been accepted into the Town Choir for the new semester:

Marcus Levine John Ayroso Tommy Settlemyre

Moving from Town Choir to Tour Choir are: **Cody Kenner** and **Dylan Lischau**.

Congratulations choristers! You worked hard to get where you are. We hope you are ready for an exciting Spring season! ♪



Joshua Levine is our Tour Choirboy in the spotlight. He is now a teenager, having turned 13 recently, and is in the 8th grade at The Honor Roll School. **Josh** is a great student who enjoys his literature class, thanks to a very nice teacher. However, the best grades he receives are in French class.

Spring 2001 is when **Josh** auditioned for the Choir, thanks to guidance from his music teacher **Mr. Smith**. **Josh's** mom also provided encouragement as she knew a former Fort Bend Boys Choir member from years past who benefited greatly from the experiences he had. **Josh** spends his spare time listening to music on his iPod or shooting

some hoops. He also plays electric guitar. And he has this to say about his future plans: "I want to be a pediatrician because I want to help people, and by working with children, I can better reflect back to the memories I am making now."

Choir has taught **Josh** some valuable life lessons, thanks to **Mr. A**. **Josh** says, "Discipline, teamwork and generosity are but a few of these life lessons I've learned, thanks to being in choir." Two of **Mr. A's** sayings have also stuck with **Josh**: "If you're on time, you're late" and "perfect practice makes perfect." **Mr. A** also ties in to **Josh's** favorite memory of choir so far. He says, "My favorite memory of choir happened very recently. It was during a rehearsal when **Mr. A** asked me

to conduct the choir. There was that initial awkward moment, but when I was in front of all the boys and **Ms. Ward**, knowing that they were following me, it was just awesome. My mom taught me the music beats a long time ago and since then, I liked to just think about how I'd conduct almost any piece I heard. I got my chance!"

Josh shared some advice for other choirboys. He says, "Make friends with the older choirboys now because a) they're the ones who can teach you what you need to know and b) they ain't gonna be there much longer." And to wrap things up **Josh** said, "I've wanted to be in the *Choirboy Beat* for so long and now I finally am! I'm so happy!" We're happy for you too, **Josh**! Keep on singing! ♪

Nathan Hoelker is a 10 year old Town Choirboy in the 4th grade at St. Laurence Catholic School. **Nathan** says that Math is his favorite subject, but it is his Spelling class where he gets the best grades.

Nathan auditioned, thanks to the encouragement of his parents. They read about the choir in a local magazine. **Nathan's** grandfather was also a member of a boy choir in his own youth!

Playing with friends and his X-Box are just a few hobbies that take up **Nathan's** spare time. He also takes piano lessons. And when he grows up, **Nathan** wants to be a policeman. Helping people is just part of his nature and singing with the Choir allows **Nathan** an avenue to do so. In fact, he has this to say about what the choir has taught him so far: "Singing can make people happy!"

One of **Nathan's** favorite memories stems from his main lesson learned from the choir. He says that singing in the retirement homes is a great joy and the residents love having the choir there to sing.

When **Nathan** was asked about what advice he would give other choirboys, his response was short and sweet. "Stay focused!" It sounds like **Nathan** definitely takes his own advice, wouldn't you say? Thanks **Nathan** for your help with this edition of *Choirboy Beat*. May there always be music in your life! ♪

James LeBlanc is 8 years old and in the Training Choir. He is no stranger to the Fort Bend Boys Choir because he was in Music Magic first! **James** auditioned last Spring and is in 3rd grade at Southminster School. He enjoys his Science class, even though his best grades are in Bible Memory class.

When **James** is not going to school or singing in the Training Choir, he enjoys playing the drums and guitar. Target shooting is another favorite hobby too. All that singing and drum and guitar playing should serve him well in his dream of becoming a Rock Star when he grows up!

So far, **James** has learned a few things in choir like, "When your voice is blended with the voices of other boys, it sounds fantastic!" In his short choir career thus far, he has said that singing at the Christmas Musicales was his favorite memory. **James** says this about the experience: "I think all the choirs sounded great at the Musicales and I really enjoyed singing with all of you!"

Before we close, **James** had this advice to impart to other choirboys: "Always remember to keep singing as part of your life." Well said **James**! We all wish you luck with your Fort Bend Boys Choir career! ♪

Counting Down to California, Part One

Twenty-one Tour choirboys. **Mr. Adams**. Two parent chaperones. What happens when you put them all together? A trip to San Francisco, California! From Friday, February 10 - Sunday, February 12, 2006, this crew will be in earthquake country to take part in a boychoir clinic. For the 3rd year, **Mr. Adams** will lead a boychoir clinic called "Boys Can Sing" offered by the San Francisco Catholic Archdiocese.

Our choirboys, along with the **Golden Gate Boys Choir** directed by **Steve Meyer**, will be working with **Mr. Adams** and serve as examples and demonstrate the various techniques and musical concepts taught at the clinic. This "Boys Can Sing" clinic was started as an encouragement to boys to let them know that it is an o.k. thing to sing and provide them an outlet to perform with other boys just like themselves. ♪



Counting Down to California, Part Two

Summer 2006 will almost seem like déjà vu for some of our Tour choirboys. In February 2006, half of the choir will have traveled to San Francisco for the "Boys Can Sing" boychoir clinic and now the entire Tour Choir is returning to San Francisco to kick off their two-week summer performance tour on June 3, 2006! There are a lot of exciting things planned for this trip.

Among the many performances the Tour Choir has scheduled, they will sing with several other boychoirs. Some of those boychoirs are: **Ragazzi Boys Choir**, **San Francisco Boys Chorus**, **Golden Gate Boys Choir** and the **All-American Boys Chorus**. Our boys will also sing for a worship service at the famous Crystal Cathedral in Garden Grove, California, which is televised to millions of viewers all over the world!

Interspersed amongst the collaborative performances with other boychoirs and the Crystal Cathedral are church concert series and school performances. Our choirboys will also visit several theme parks and marvel at the famous and majestic sequoias in the Redwood Forest. They will pack a lot of singing and sightseeing into those two weeks before flying home out of Los Angeles on June 17, 2006. ♪



Reflections of music...through a boy's eyes Spring Concert Information



The Spring Concert is a tradition with the Fort Bend Boys Choir. Why not make it your tradition too? Attend the Spring Concert on Saturday, May 20, 2006 at 7:00 p.m. at the First United Methodist Church of Sugar Land. We sincerely appreciate our wonderful relationship with the Church. Their support of the choirboys and the use of their church facilities definitely help us make a difference! We greatly anticipate singing in their beautiful sanctuary.

All four performing choirs - Training, Town, Tour and Cantabilé - will take the stage and entertain a crowd of hundreds of people. The Outstanding Choirboy of the Year award will be announced this evening too. Plan to arrive early! Seating is open on a first come, first serve basis and to allow fairness for everyone, saving seats is discouraged. Ushers will be available for your seating convenience. We look forward to seeing you all at the concert! ♪

Saturday, May 20, 2006 at 7:00 p.m.
First United Methodist Church of Sugar Land
431 Eldridge Road, Sugar Land

Eric Moon is our alumnus in the hot seat. He was with the Fort Bend Boys Choir for 5½ years and graduated to Alumni Land after the summer tour of 1999. **Eric** graduated from Foster High School in 2003 and is currently attending the University of North Texas majoring in Radio, Television and Film and minoring in Music. While he doesn't perform with a group or choir anymore, he still sings every single day.

Where Are They Now?

life. I learned good manners, respect, and responsibility. And although those are good things to know, the biggest impact the choir had on my life was the musical aspect. Because of **Mr. A**, I will never look at music the same way. He helped develop my ear, which is the most important tool in learning music today. Also, while in the choir, I learned some of the most amazing music that exists. I can still get chills listening to some of those songs." **Eric** also had some sage advice for current and future choirboys: "Stay with the choir as long as possible. You will learn a lot from **Mr. A** and from the program in general. Not only will you learn things that are important now, but also life lessons that'll stay with you forever."

Eric has had many great experiences with the Choir. His favorite tour was to Austria in 1998. He says, "Just going to all the places that Mozart, Beethoven and Hayden wrote and performed in was amazing. The country itself was beautiful and the cathedrals were spectacular. Singing with the Vienna Boys Choir and in the masses in the cathedrals was also an unforgettable experience."

The entire choir experience was memorable for **Eric**. He says, "Camps were a blast and the tours were fun no matter what. However, I think my favorite moments were singing these incredible songs with my best friends. And believe it or not, rehearsals were a lot of fun too. I can still sing along to every piece of music I ever sang with the Tour Choir to this very day."

Eric gives **Mr. Adams** a lot of credit for the impact that the choir had on his life. He says, "For one thing, I will never forget that chapter of my

choir had on my life was the musical aspect. Because of **Mr. A**, I will never look at music the same way. He helped develop my ear, which is the most important tool in learning music today. Also, while in the choir, I learned some of the most amazing music that exists. I can still get chills listening to some of those songs." **Eric** also had some sage advice for current and future choirboys: "Stay with the choir as long as possible. You will learn a lot from **Mr. A** and from the program in general. Not only will you learn things that are important now, but also life lessons that'll stay with you forever."

As for what is in store for **Eric's** future, he has some definite opinions about it: "I plan to use my degree and experience and change the way the radio industry plays music. Radio stations today basically tell everyone what songs and bands to listen to and it is all about money. I know for a fact that there are tons of extremely talented bands out there that do not get any air play while the talentless hacks hog the limelight. My plan is to get the real music makers on the radio."

It sounds like **Eric** is really focused on his future. No matter what though **Eric**, just make sure you continue to keep music and singing in your life. Best wishes and Good luck! ♪

Cantabilé Sing into Spring! Rehearsals Starting Soon

You know it is Spring when Cantabilé rehearsals roll around. And to ring in the spring season on the right note (pun intended), come to Cantabilé rehearsals starting on Tuesday, March 14, 2006 from 7:00 p.m. - 8:00 pm. The First United Methodist Church of Sugar Land is the place to be, so bring an Alumni friend and get ready to sing! Be sure to give your Alumni Coordinator, **Mrs. Kayser**, a call at (281) 341-5502 for additional details.

Alumni—We Want Updates!

Give us the scoop on what is going on in your life Alumni? How's school? In college? Still singing? Married with kids? Parents - you can let us know what's happening too! Just call, write or email to: ♪

Send updates through the choir via snail mail or email to:
Mail: P.O. Box 2042 Email: wra@fbbctx.org
Stafford, TX 77497-2042 Phone: (281) 240-3800

Town & Training Choirs Feeling Festive

Participation in two choir festivals in the spring season is practically a tradition for the Town and Training Choirs. The Training Choir has been attending the East Texas Children's Choral Festival in Huntsville for years. The Training Choirboys do a great job and always bring back excellent comments from the judges. This year's festival will be held on Saturday, April 22, 2006.

The Town Choir consistently sweeps their competition at the Soundwaves Choir Festival at the Schlitterbahn Water Resort in New Braunfels. They sing in the morning, then eat lunch and spend the day at the water park, under the watchful eye of parent chaperones of course! There is an evening awards ceremony where the Town Choir, in past years, has consistently won the "Best in Class" trophy. They are scheduled to attend on Saturday, May 6th. Let us all wish our Training and Town Choirs the best of luck for this year's festivals! ♪

Of A Particular Note Thank You!

The Fort Bend Boys Choir is blessed to have many friends and supporters who not only give generously through time and donations, but also of the heart. Our choirboys excel, thanks to your kindness! ♪

First United Methodist Church of Sugar Land
Rehearsal space and use of their facilities for our five choirs

DigiTec Office Solutions
Donation of a digital copier to replace the old dinosaur model we had for almost ten years

Mr. Mike Coberley (Roomie)
Website administration and technical assistance

Williams Trace Baptist Church
Use of their beautiful church and facilities for our Christmas Musicale

Glenn Wheeler Productions
Mr. Glenn Wheeler, Owner
CD Recording at the Christmas Musicale

Lojo Brother's Kwik Kopy
Copier paper as well as copier services



**Buy Online? Use
Buyforcharity.com
and earn some
money for the Choir**

Are you computer savvy? Do you shop or do any type of ordering online? Consider making www.BuyForCharity.com your first stop. You can order flowers for your sweetheart, plan a vacation, buy a computer, order office supplies and much more from one of the many stores on the website and we will earn a percentage of each sale, at no cost to you! In fact, with their Coupons and Specials page, you can probably save money!

All you have to do is visit the BuyForCharity website and create a personal account (no private or financial information is asked). Then choose "The Fort Bend Boys Choir" listed under Children and Youth Causes as your charity of choice, then start shopping! There are many stores to choose from like Office Depot, Wal-Mart, Barnes and Noble, Sharper Image and Bass Pro Shop, just to name a few. So make www.BuyForCharity.com your first stop to see if there is a merchant to suit your needs. You can also visit the Fort Bend Boys Choir website at www.fbbctx.org for a direct link. ♪

**Our
Guardian Angel
Strikes Again!**



Mrs. Wanda L. Adams,
the Fort Bend Boys

Choir's Guardian Angel, strikes again. Thanks to her support and the **William L. Adams Memorial Endowment**, our building fund is \$25,000 richer. Every year, this annual gift goes towards our dream of a permanent home for the choirboys. With this year's gift, our Guardian Angel has donated a total of \$200,000!

If anyone has information about upcoming buildings for sale (approximately 3,000 - 5,000 sq. ft.) or may know of someone we can contact personally, please call the choir office at (281) 240-3800. We are seeking help in identifying land and/or an existing structure for a permanent home for the choirboys. Thanks for your support! ♪

"Music has a power of forming the character, and should therefore be introduced into the education of the young."

~ Aristotle (384-322 BC)

Of A Particular Note More Choir News

Bag Some Free Money for the Choir Shop For Groceries



When you stock up on goodies for the Super Bowl game, be sure to shop **Randall's** or **Kroger**! You can earn free money for the Fort Bend Boys Choir. It's easy to do and there's no extra cost to you! Just use your **Randall's** card (rebate #4032) or our personalized **Kroger** card (available through the choir office) when you make purchases and we receive a percentage of every sale.

At **Randall's**, you will provide the cashier the rebate #4032 just once, then every purchase thereafter is automatically recorded. At **Kroger**, just present your personalized **Kroger** card at the beginning of the grocery transaction. Need a personalized **Kroger** card? Just call the choir office at (281) 240-3800. Quick tip: Tape your personalized **Kroger** card on one side of your **Kroger** Store Share Card - that way, you will never forget about it! ♪

We Give Thanks to our Valued Volunteers

Parent volunteers are the glue that holds our organization together. Without parents, things like our fundraisers and getting boys to rehearsals and performances just don't get done! The Fort Bend Boys Choir is volunteer-driven and we would like to give thanks to all of the parents who help out in so many ways. We appreciate each and one of you and wish we could name everyone. Please know that you all have our thanks! ♪

Gold C Fundraiser

Co-Chairs **Gladys Zamora** and **Joanne Gerst**

Christmas Musicale

Co-Chairs **Marcia Smith** and **Cindy Ahn**



Running a successful boychoir program takes a lot of work and there are items that will always be needed that would make our organization run more smoothly. Unfortunately, the budget does not always allow for certain "extras," so we hope that you can help us with one of the items listed below. Please know that all donations are subject to fair market value as a tax donation. ♪

- * Scholarship for one boy for one year - \$500
- * 15 passenger van - New or used
- * Copier paper
- * HP Printer Cartridges for HP722C and HP3745

Six and Seven Year Olds Love Making Music Magic

Boys who love music and singing should have an outlet to channel that enthusiasm. Luckily, the Fort Bend Boys Choir's Music Magic program for six and seven year old boys fits the bill! Music Magic is an enrichment program that brings music alive through the use of movement, singing, musical games, instruments and other child-centered activities. Director **Sara Ward** leads the class into its ninth year.

The next class for Music Magic begins on Tuesday, January 10, 2006 and ends on Tuesday, February 28, 2006. The classes run for eight weeks, meeting every Tuesday evening from 6:30 p.m. - 7:15 p.m. at the First United Methodist Church of Sugar Land. The final class showcases the boys' new music skills with a mini-concert for the parents.

Boys will receive a free Music Magic t-shirt when they attend the first class. But you better hurry; class size is limited, so call today at (281) 240-3800 to pre-register. ♪

Sugar Land Mayor David Wallace to MC our 2006 Gala Dinner and Auction

The Fort Bend Boys Choir is still a local part of the "wild"life, thanks to the next Gala Dinner and Auction. Set at the rustic Safari Texas Lodge at Safari Texas Ranch on Saturday March 4, 2006 at 6:30 p.m., this Gala event will have a Rainforest theme and the dress will be casual. Any ideas on what exactly you would wear on a trek through the rainforest?

This Gala Dinner and Auction celebrating our theme, "Reflections of music ... through a boy's eyes" will be an exciting one. **Sugar Land Mayor David Wallace** is our Master of Ceremonies for the event. But that's not all! **Mayor Wallace** will sing a special musical tribute to Irving Berlin with the accompanying voices of our Tour Choir! You won't want to miss this!

Festivities for the evening include a Live Auction, Silent Auction and Big Board. Every taste and price range will be represented in the auctions: a beach trip to Destin, Florida, jewelry, theme baskets, spa packages, sporting events and much more! On hand will be Auctioneer-extraordinaire **Mr. James Patterson, Fort Bend County Commissioner**. **Alltel Communications** will again loan us the use of a wonderful sound system for the event.

This year, we are honoring a special choir volunteer. She has been with us for five years, serving in various capacities as Board President, Board Member, Uniform Coordinator, Chaperone and most of all, a friend. Everyone knows her because she is always ready with a smile and a helping hand. This year's choir volunteer of the year is **Jeannine Hillis**. She is amazing with her enthusiasm for the Choir and anyone can tell at first meeting what the choir organization means to her and her family. After all, her son **Alex** is in Tour Choir! She truly has a special gift - the gift of love and hugs!

And speaking of volunteers, the Gala Dinner and Auction would not be successful without the many volunteers orchestrating their time and efforts. Your hard work is definitely appreciated! **RETURNING AND NEW CHOIR PARENTS** - There are still plenty of opportunities to volunteer and participate in this event. Volunteering is a great way to learn more about the many ins and outs of the largest boychoir organization program in the country - the Fort Bend Boys Choir! Call one of the co-chairs below to find out about the different volunteer opportunities:

Event Chair

Tiana Mortimer,
Executive Director

(281) 240-3800 office or (832) 285-1183 home

Auction Co-Chairs

Debbie Jamison and Maureen Coleman
(281) 778-4121 (281) 494-7984

Sponsorships are still available for this event. Platinum Sponsors (\$2,500 level) receive preferential seating and a table for 10, special recognition and an exclusive concert by the Tour Choir (subject to availability, of course). Gold sponsors (\$1,000) receive special recognition and a table of 10 for the event. Silver Sponsors (\$500 level) receive four tickets to the event along with recognition and Bronze Sponsors (\$250 level) receive two tickets to the event along with recognition.

PARENTS - Ask your company or place of employment if they support or sponsor any nonprofit charitable organizations. They would receive acknowledgement through our 2006 Spring and Christmas Concert printed programs, our biannual newsletter, auction printed program and media releases. In addition, sponsors are recognized through signage at the Gala as well as various promotional photo opportunities in the local media. ♪





Good Tidings and Joy Reign'd at the Musicale



The Fort Bend Boys Choir started what will hopefully be a new tradition for the Christmas Musicale. Not only was the Christmas Musicale on a Saturday night this year, but also in a new venue as well. **Williams Trace Baptist Church** opened their new 2,700 seat home to us and were gracious, giving and supportive hosts. Their church was beautiful and really showcased the talents of our choirboys. Many concertgoers commented on how lovely the church looked and how festive the evening was.

Part of that festive feel can be attributed to the Christmas Musicale Co-Chairs **Marcia Smith** and **Cindy Ahn**. These ladies did an awesome job coordinating the many parent volunteers that are necessary to ensure an event of this magnitude went off without a hitch. It was a flawless evening, thanks to not only **Williams Trace Baptist Church**, but also to all of those parent volunteers who gave

their time. Special recognition also goes to Town Choirboy **Rickie Bradshaw** for the winning design that graced the covers of the Christmas Musicale invitation and concert program.

A reverent silence reigned as **Mr. William R. Adams**, Founder and Artistic Director, and **Mr. John Holiday Jr.**, our 1999 Outstanding Choirboy, sang *O Holy Night*. This special song kicked off the Christmas Musicale. The Training Choir took to the stage with several pieces including *Child of Peace* with **Michelle Vanegas** playing the flute and the cute song *Choc'late in My Stocking*. Town Choir entertained the crowd with several holiday pieces including the fun *Cool Yule!* Tour Choir processed to the stage singing *Non, nobis Domine* then kicked off a list of holiday favorites like *Sing Joy*, where the audience got to sing on cue. *The Most Fattening Time of the Year* showed concert goers a comedic side of the

choirboys. When Cantabilé had their turn, all of their songs like *Farewell Blessing*, captured the hearts of the audience with their beautiful, mature voices.

The Christmas Musicale could not come to an end without the traditional closing piece, *Christmas Is A Feeling*. Former Fort Bend Boys Choir staff member **Susan Chiboroski** played the flute and quite a few Alumni boys in the attendance also joined the choirs on stage. Following the concert, many people stuck around to spread some good holiday cheer. Special thanks go to **Mr. Glenn Wheeler** for recording the concert and to the many music teachers who refer boys to our music programs. Because without the boys, there would be no Fort Bend Boys Choir! Best Wishes to everyone and Happy New Year! 🎵



Fort Bend Boys Choir Hitting a High Note

This Christmas season has the Fort Bend Boys Choir singing for joy. It has been a busy and successful time of year, not only in our musical endeavors but also in funding. We recently received two grants totaling \$9,000! The first grant was from the **Sugar Land Rotary Club** for \$5,000. The Tour Choir recently sang at their Christmas luncheon. After a beautiful performance, the **Sugar Land Rotary Club President Steve Varney** presented the check to **Mr. Adams**, with a standing ovation amongst the **Sugar Land Rotary Club** members in attendance.

The second grant was for \$4,000 from the **Wynn and Mary Geiger Foundation**. They are a private foundation that supports local causes in the Fort Bend County area. We would like to thank both the **Sugar Land Rotary Club** and the **Wynn and Mary Geiger Foundation** for their support of our music programs! 🎵

Music is Magic for Boys

by Tiana Mortimer, Executive Director

When it comes to writing about the Choir organization, I usually have no shortage of words. Think of all the talented choirboys we have! That, in itself, is a wealth of articles just waiting to be written. However, when it came to my own article this time, I found myself in a quandary, actually a bit of writer's block. What do I write about? What can I say that will relate to the organization, yet be a reflection of my own views and life? The answer? A certain little seven year old boy in the Music Magic program.

That seven year old boy I am referring to is my son **Bryce**. I was so excited for him when he expressed interest in the Music Magic class. I had tried the previous year when he first turned six, but he was in a stubborn "anything my mom wants me to do is icky" phase. Just by casually talking about the Fort Bend Boys Choir and meeting **Mr. Adams** a few times at the choir office changed his mind.

I already knew the wonders that **Ms. Ward** worked with these six and seven year old boys, however, I had never observed a class nor attended the mini-concert that the boys put on for parents at the end of the eight weeks. Finally, this past fall season, I got to witness this "Music Magic" for myself. Besides having a chuckle or two at just how cute these boys were, I saw how much they really loved music. They were enthusiastic and a bit rambunctious ... in other words, they were boys! These boys loved the music and singing and weren't afraid to let anyone know about it.



The boys who came to Music Magic were just like any other boys around. They loved baseball and cars; some were boy scouts and some were athletes. They had a variety of different interests, yet one common goal: learning about music and having fun with it. And that my friends, is what the Fort Bend Boys Choir is all about. The boys in our music programs are as diverse as the world around us. They worship in different ways and observe different holidays. They speak a variety of languages and are active in a multitude of activities. The amazing thing is that with all these differences, they are all the same. They are boys and they love music and singing. Being a football player or a boy scout doesn't change that fact. Music and singing doesn't make them any less of a boy. Actually, it is the other way around!

In regards to my son's "music career," I have no aspirations other than instilling in him a love of music. Of course, I would absolutely love for **Bryce** to audition for the Fort Bend Boys Choir. However, if that does not happen, I would still continue to foster his love of music in other ways. I think that is the biggest job any parent can do - support their children in what they love doing. So my advice to all the boys in the Fort Bend Boys Choir organization is: Keep on singing and share your love of music with others around you. ♪

A New Face in "Town"

Due of the impending birth of her third child, **Mrs. Kirsten Jordon** regretfully resigned as Town Choir Director. She felt that with two little girls at home and a baby on the way, she would not be able to keep up with our many talented boys in the Town Choir. **Mrs. Jordon** has done a remarkable job and we all wish her the best with her family.

Joining the Fort Bend Boys Choir organization is a lady with 35 years of experience teaching choral music, voice and piano. **Mrs. Peggy Moritz** received her Bachelor of Science degree in Music Education and Music Performance from the University of Indianapolis. She belongs to the Texas Choral Director's Association, the American Choral Director's Association as well as the Texas Music Educator's Association. **Mrs. Moritz** has directed several award-winning choirs and has competed in national competitions. Recently retired from the public schools, she has her own studio and continues private instruction for piano and voice. Let us all give **Mrs. Peggy Moritz** a warm welcome to the Fort Bend Boys Choir family! ♪

Upcoming Events

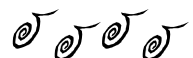
**** Current as of January 1, 2006 ****

Saturday, January 7, 2006	Tour Choir -Private Wedding	7:30 PM
Sunday, January 8, 2006	Tour Choir—First UMC West Campus	9:00 AM
Tuesday, January 10, 2006	Music Magic, an eight-week program for 6 and 7 year old boys	Every Tuesday 6:30-7:15 PM
Friday-Monday, January 13-16, 2006	Tour Choir Winter Camp	5:00 PM Start 12:00 noon End
Friday-Sunday, February 10-12, 2006	Tour Choir—San Francisco "Boys Can Sing" Festival	TBD
Saturday, March 4, 2006	Tour Choir—FBBC Gala Dinner & Auction	6:30 PM
Saturday, March 11, 2006	Tour Choir—Private wedding	7:00 PM
Tuesday, March 14, 2006	Cantabile rehearsals begin	7:00-8:00 PM
Saturday, March 18, 2006	Tour Choir—Private wedding	4:00 PM
Friday, March 24, 2006	Tour Choir—Private wedding	7:30 PM
Saturday, March 25, 2006	Tour Choir—Private wedding	11:00 AM
Saturday, April 22, 2006	Training Choir—East Texas Children's Festival in Huntsville, TX	TBA
Saturday, April 22, 2006	Tour Choir—private wedding	7:00 PM
Saturday, April 29, 2006	Tour Choir—Private wedding	3:00 PM
Saturday, May 6, 2006	Town Choir—Schlitterbahn Sound Waves Festival	TBA
Saturday, May 13, 2006	Tour Choir—Private wedding	7:00 PM
Thursday, May 17, 2006	All Choirs—Tech Rehearsal	TBA
Saturday, May 20, 2006	All Choirs—Spring Concert	7:00 PM
Tuesday, May 30, 2006	Tour Choir—First UMC Houston	7:00 PM
Saturday-Saturday, June 3-17, 2006	Tour Choir—California Tour	TBA
Tuesday, July 25 through Sunday, July 31, 2006	Tour Choir—Summer Camp	9:00 AM Start 12:00 Noon End



Be sure to check our web site periodically for event updates!

www.fbbctx.org



DID YOU KNOW?

Mozart wrote the nursery rhyme "Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star" at the age of 5.



DID YOU KNOW?

In Florida, it is illegal to sing in a public place while wearing a swimsuit.





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In This Issue... News, Stories, Highlights, Upcoming Events, Concert Schedules and much more.....

"It is the mission of the Fort Bend Boys Choir of Texas to provide the skills and training essential for lifelong learning through the finest music education in the ancient boychoir tradition"

For More Information about our organization

Visit us on the Web:
www.fbbctx.org

or

Send us an e-mail:
wra@fbbctx.org



Scenes from our the *Walk in Concert with the Fort Bend Boys Choir* walk-a-thon benefiting our organization as well as Fort Bend Community Partners Rainbow Room on November 5, 2005 at Oyster Creek Park.

©2006 Vocal Notes is published twice a year for choristers, alumni and friends, by The Fort Bend Boys Choir of Texas, Inc: a non-profit, tax exempt organization incorporated by the State of Texas. Inquiries or address changes should be sent to: Editor • P.O. Box 2042 • Stafford, Texas 77497-2042 • (281) 240-3800.

William R. Adams - Founder/Artistic Director
 Peggy Moritz - Town Choir Director
 Janice Vanegas - Training Choir Director

Sara Ward - Tour Choir Accompanist and Music Magic Director
 Wendy Ostien - Town Choir Accompanist
 Kathy Aaron - Training Choir Accompanist

Tiana Mortimer - Executive Director
 Katie Brown - Administrator