



The Fort Bend Boys Choir of Texas

Vocal Notes



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Our 22nd Concert Season

August 2003

From the Artistic Director ...

"Of course I like boys ... it's just the individual ones that get to me!" Reportedly, so said **Mark Twain** about one of our nation's greatest assets - our boys. I take a more proactive approach in my thinking, "*making a difference ... one boy at a time.*" For you see, this organization from its very beginning has been about, because of and for each individual boy ... as a unique, gifted child **first**, then as a collective chorister in our program. A boy doesn't just get into our choir ... the choir gets into him!

It has been my privilege over these years to watch each one of our singers grow from a small, unsure choirboy into a confident, mature young man. And no matter what chosen field they end up pursuing ... that assurance and confidence **never** leaves them.

Many things have changed since we started ... presidents have come and gone, those dear to us have been born or taken away too soon and today our nation is at war with

something that shakes our very foundation of freedom. And yet, the boys keep coming to audition ... **they** have been the one constant in our ever changing world and environment. Their interest and enthusiasm to make this a better place for all of us to live is what keeps our program alive. And behind **every** angelic voice is a note of boyish energy and fun!

I asked God to bless our efforts twenty-one years ago ... and bless them he has! Now, as one of the largest boychoir programs in the world, boys of all ages, sizes, faiths and desires continue to have a safe place to come and share in a group experience that engages their hearts **as well as** their minds.

I believe Father Edward J. Flanagan, who founded Father Flanagan's Boy's Home on December 10, 1917 sums up best my feelings about all this: "There are no bad boys ... there are only bad environments, bad training, bad thinking and bad examples. Our young boys are our nation's greatest wealth ...

and no boy wants to be bad. Give them a chance with positive examples and they will give a good account of themselves."

I couldn't agree more!

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



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Appreciate Your Flaws *by Tiana Mortimer, Executive Director*

I'm not fond of the multitude of jokes and stories emailed to me at work from friends and acquaintances. In fact, I confess to deleting many without even reading them. However, I received a short story that I wanted to share with you, because it contains a powerful lesson all of us should always remember before we judge others for being different or worse, judging ourselves too harshly. The story is called "The Cracked Pot":

A water bearer in India had two large pots, each hung on the ends of a pole which he carried across his neck. One of the pots had a crack in it, while the other pot was perfect and always delivered a full portion of water. At the end of the long walk from the stream to the house, the cracked pot arrived only half full.

For a full two years this went on daily, with the bearer delivering

only one and a half pots full of water to his house. Of course, the perfect pot was proud of its accomplishments - perfect for which it was made. But the poor cracked pot was ashamed of its own imperfection, and miserable that it was able to accomplish only half of what it had been made to do.

After 2 years of what it perceived to be a bitter failure, it spoke to the water bearer one day by the stream. I am ashamed of myself, and I want to apologize to you. I have been able to deliver only half my load because this crack in my side causes water to leak out all the way back to your house. Because of my flaws, you have to do all of this work, and you don't get full value from your efforts, the pot said.

The bearer said to the pot, "Did you notice that there were flowers only on your side of the path, but not on the other pot's side? That's because I have always known about

your flaw, and I planted flower seeds on your side of the path, and every day while we walk back, you've watered them. For two years I have been able to pick these beautiful flowers to decorate the table. Without you being just the way you are, there would not be this beauty to grace the house."

We all are "cracked pots" ... each of us has unique flaws. Without those "cracked pots," our lives would not be so interesting or gratifying. Appreciate each person for what they are and always look for the good in them. It is such a simple lesson, but one that is not practiced often enough. At the Fort Bend Boys Choir, we hope that we are achieving this lesson every day. After all, with 200 active boys at any given time, there is definitely our share of "cracked pots!" 🎵



2003 Spring Audition Results



Many boys were singing for joy as they received their membership into the Fort Bend Boys Choir! Here they are listed below:

Rickie Bradshaw
Christopher Douglas
Garrett Jones
Adriano Pangelinan
Rhys Smook

Michael Breuer
Sawyer Foyle
Henry Lee
William Peng
Warren Theodore

Logan Collins
Austin Hatchett
E.J. Legita
Allen Penney
Austen Ware

Sahil Dawar
Connor Hervieux
Carlos Martinez
Andrew Singer
Nathan Wong

We've also had some promotions within the choir ranks as well. The following boys have been accepted into Town Choir:

David Behrmann
Travis Drews
Armando Ghinaglia
Ryan MacMillan
William Perreau
James Wang

Jared Castillo
John Elias
Jonathan Graham
Camden Ogier
Sebastian Rafizadeh

Henry Castner
Marc Estil
Garrett Gremminger
Richard Olivas
Crosby Smith

Lawrence Chang
Ciaran Finlayson
Brendan Hadfield
Reggie Peltier
Myron Tuazon

Moving from Town Choir to Tour Choir are:

Kyle Broussard
Justin Jones
Joshua Lueders
Stephen Sung

Stephen Doty
Allen Lee
Nicholas Novosad
Steven Thamaravelil

Kenneth Hannes
Joshua Levine
Ellis Reyes
Brandon Villarreal

Aaron Johnson
Nicholas Lombana
David Sung
Grant Walker

Congratulations everyone... We know you all are ready for the Fall Season! 🎵

Choirboy Beat

David Allan is 12 years old and a member of the Tour Choir. He will be in 7th grade this year at Dulles Middle School. Both his favorite and best subject is Science. He auditioned for the Fort Bend Boys Choir in 2001 when he was in 4th grade. David learned about the choir organization from a friend of his brother's. Of course, it didn't hurt that his older brother Michael was a choir member as well!

David is easy to recognize, as he always has a big smile on his face. His mother, Pam is active too as the head cook at the choir's summer and winter camps.

Being in the Tour Choir is a big

commitment, especially in time. However, David makes sure to indulge in some of his favorite hobbies. He loves inline speed skating, table tennis and soccer.

David mentioned that when he grows up he wants to be a teacher, although he isn't sure what kind yet. And if someone asked him about the Fort Bend Boys Choir, he would say, "I would tell them that it is the best experience in my life and it has taken me places you could not imagine!"

"First of all, I have learned how to sing at such a high level and secondly, to always try my best."

When David was asked about what he learned so far being a member of the Fort Bend Boys Choir he answered, "First of all, I have

learned how to sing at such a high level and secondly, to always try my best." Part of David's experience as a Tour Choir member is the summer and winter vocal camps, which just happens to be part of his favorite choir memories. He mentioned that every night after an intensive day of singing (and playing of course!) that all the choirboys gather around a campfire. They can talk and share things in their lives and know that they will not be judged or ridiculed. That sharing, David says, is his favorite memory of choir.

He also has some simple advice for all the younger choirboys just starting out: "Don't give up singing! And by the way ... Tour Choir rocks!" Such enthusiasm ... thank you David for sharing your gift of song with all of us. May music always be part of your life! 🎵

Sam Asthana, a member of the Town Choir, is 9 years old and going to the 5th grade this year at Commonwealth Elementary School. His favorite and best subject is Science because it teaches him a lot of fun stuff about the things around us like matter, plants, animals and forces. In fact, he would like to be a genetic scientist when he grows up.

Sam learned about the Fort Bend Boys Choir from his music teacher in 1st grade who suggested he try Music Magic. After two years of Music Magic, he was old enough to audition for the Choir itself. In Spring 2002, he became a Training choirboy.

Sam has all sorts of interests. He is a Star Wars fanatic and loves Harry Potter books and Yu-Gi-Oh cards. He also plays tennis, basketball, football and is on the First Colony Piranhas swim team in the summer. And ... he plays piano, reads a lot and is also active in scouting.

If someone asked Sam about the Fort Bend Boys Choir, he would say, "It's a great place to hang out, make friends and learn music with some really cool teachers." Being a member of the Fort Bend Boys Choir, he has learned that good singing and music makes him happy - both as a singer and a listener. He also says, "I am more attentive and disciplined due to choir training."

Sam counts the Sound Waves festival at Schlitterbahn among his favorite choir memories. There will be plenty of time to make more! Thank you for sharing your thoughts with us and good luck with the rest of your choir career! 🎵

Walker Lockard is 10 years old and in the Training Choir. He will be attending the 5th grade at Meadows Elementary. He earns the best grades in Reading, but Social Studies is his favorite. In fact, Walker is a Texas history buff and can quote all sorts of facts about the Lone Star State.

He auditioned for the Fort Bend Boys Choir in December 2002. Walker learned about the choir from his mom who saw an article in a local magazine. When his mom realized that he had a knack for singing, she talked with his elementary choir teacher who also suggested the Fort Bend Boys Choir!

Walker has a variety of hobbies that keep him busy. He is a singer in the school choir and takes guitar lessons. He enjoys building with Lego's, playing basketball and soccer, and raising animals. In fact, he is raising a Hampshire pig for FFA to show at the County Fair. With his love of animals, Walker says that he wants to be an Agricultural Vet and Ag Teacher when he grows up.

Being a member of the Fort Bend Boys Choir, Walker has learned many things. He says, "I've improved my music reading skills, have better control of my voice and most of all, have learned to focus." If someone were to ask him about the organization, he would say, "It's a great program and I like the fact that there are very few discipline problems to get in the way of the music."

Performing for the local retirement communities and meeting the residents is Walker's favorite choir memory to date. Thanks Walker for being a great representative of the Training Choir ... keep on singing! 🎵



New Spring Concert Venue a Success!



Saturday night on May 17, 2003 was a hot, humid evening, but it couldn't compete with the cool new Spring Concert venue in the beautiful sanctuary at the First United Methodist Church of Sugar Land. For the first time in a number of years, our annual Spring Concert was back home in Fort Bend County!

Spring Concert co-chairs **Nancy Holley** and **Kim Morrell** worked in tandem with many parent volunteers to ensure that the evening was a success. Red, white and blue was the theme for the evening, which was fitting because the choirboys paid special tribute to our wonderful country. In fact, because it was Armed Forces Day, Founder and Artistic Director **Mr. Bill Adams**, recognized those individuals who have served and are serving America so courageously. All branches of the armed forces were recognized and applauded for their service and dedication to the United States.

Our Training Choir kicked off the concert with several numbers including fun songs called *Pockets* and *Off to the Races!* Town Choir took to the stage starting with the beautiful *Alleluia* by J.S. Bach and included the campy song *I Bought Me a Cat. Show Me How* and

Dream A Dream, two of the Tour Choir's signature songs, pleased and touched the hearts of the audience. Cantabilé, our alumni choir, was remarkable in their performance, most notably the pieces *All That I Am* and *Farewell Blessing*.

Tour Choir returned to the stage to sing *Let Freedom Ring* with the mature voices of Cantabilé, then sang a patriotic medley in a special salute to America. The melodies included *God Bless the USA*, *Yankee Doodle Boy* and *God Bless America*. Finally, all four choirs, almost 200 boys, combined forces to sing *To Music*. And to close this magical evening was recognition of the Outstanding Choirboy of the Year, **Corey Chambers**.

The Fort Bend Boys Choir would like to personally thank each and everyone who contributed to the success of the evening and we would like to extend congratulations to these choirboys for being the top tickets sellers: Tour choirboy **Alex Hillis**, Town choirboy **George Sinclair**, Training choirboy **Myron Tuazon** and Cantabilé chorister **Sheldon Cortez**. Our sincerest appreciation goes to **Mr. Dan O'Rourke** for videotaping the evening, **Mr. Larry Barr** of the First United Methodist Church for technical sound and the **First United Methodist Church of Sugar Land** for sharing your home with all of us. 🎵



Taking Texas To The Midwest



What do twenty-seven boys; eight adults and a motor coach have in common? Plenty, if you're the Tour Choir of the Fort Bend Boys Choir of Texas, who recently returned from a thirteen-day tour of the upper Midwest.

The first five days were spent in the beautiful dairy state of Wisconsin where choirboys forged new friendships with five other boy choirs by participating in shared play activities, meals and concerts. They consistently wowed crowds by singing American and Texas medleys, receiving standing ovations and high praise for their choral excellence. Between concerts, the choirboys visited an indoor water park in the Wisconsin Dells, explored an underground cave, successfully challenged a rock wall at a summer camp and drove go carts!

Traveling on to Chicago, the boys delivered a stellar performance singing the National Anthem at U.S. Cellular Field, formerly Comisky Park. Even days later, as the choir

visited Chicago's magnificent museums, Navy Pier, and infamous Sears Tower, the boys continued to receive congratulatory praise from fellow tourists and Chicago citizens alike for their "wonderful and flawless rendition of the National Anthem". The boys concluded their tour with an exciting and adventurous trip to Six Flags Great American Theme Park near Chicago. After all, boys will be boys!

During the thirteen days of touring the Midwest, these Fort Bend choristers were continually complimented for their impeccable manners, consistent performance professionalism, and tremendous musical talent. Summed up by one twelve year old, "This tour was awesome!" 🎵



Where Are They Now?

Approximately 13 years ago this alumnus started his career in the Fort Bend Boys Choir and then graduated to Alumni Land after the 1993 summer performance tour to the Carolinas. This issue of *Vocal Notes* is spotlighting this soon-to-be Harvard senior, **Victor Ban**. Because **Victor** provided us with such eloquent answers to our questions, the transcript below is just a brief snapshot of his life since the Choir.

FBBC: Victor, did you get to travel during your tenure with the Fort Bend Boys Choir? And if so what was your favorite place?

Victor: During the 1993 summer tour, Asheville, NC was my favorite stop and the Blue Ridge Mountains were a spectacular site. Also, I will always remember sliding down this natural sliding rock waterslide somewhere in the woods of North Carolina and goofing off with my roommates Beau, Jamie and Zeke.

FBBC: What was your most memorable experience?

Victor: My most memorable experience was a recurring one rather than a single event: our singing the song "A Parting Blessing." The Tour choir would often close our concerts with this short but incredibly beautiful piece. Even today, I find myself humming the middle alto part in my more sentimental moments. **Mr. Adams** said that the choir hasn't sung the song in a while, though. Here are the lyrics, if my memory hasn't failed me:

*May the road rise to meet you/ May the wind be always at
your back/ May
the sun shine warm upon your face/ May the rain fall soft
upon your
fields/ And until we meet again/ May God hold you in the
palm of His hand.*

FBBC: What have you been doing since graduating to Alumni Land?

Victor: After FBBC, I entered Dulles Middle School. Middle school was an interesting time, I learned what it meant to be cool and, well, be me I guess. Looking back, I'm glad that I didn't change that much. ha ha...

I started playing trumpet and really enjoyed the marching band. Senior year, I started to look hard into Christianity, something that had fascinated me but I felt I hadn't fully "experienced." That year was definitely one of transition and transformation, spiritually and academically.

In the fall of 2000, I entered Harvard as a freshman. I joined the Christian Fellowship and also did some design for a student magazine called Diversity & Distinction. I didn't really know what I wanted to study but thought I'd figure that out sooner or later.

I chose to major in History, which was somewhat surprising to me, since I didn't find history that interesting in middle and high school, with a few exceptions. That summer, I

realized that I appreciated much of the history I had learned in a few classes I had taken freshman year and also spoke with some people who had studied history in college. I was drawn to learning about the past, about the struggles and ideas that transformed people and nations. In the fall, I joined the history department with a focus in intellectual history. Sophomore year flew by, as did this year... classes have been challenging but also quite interesting. This year, outside of class, I led a Bible study and played trumpet in a mariachi band. I also began thinking more about harder questions about the Christian faith that go beyond religious experience... how does history intersect with faith? How does a just God work in a seemingly unjust world? To what extent can I ask difficult questions and yet hold onto faith? St Anselm, an eleventh century theologian wrote: "For I do not seek to understand, in order that I may believe; but I believe, that I may understand." Can this belief be suspended when faith needs to be examined critically or when I enter into dialogue with people of other faiths? Some friends and I are about to start an online forum to explore the philosophy, theology, and history of Christianity... I'm very excited about that and hope it bears fruit over the summer and beyond.

In my spare time, I think about less weighty matters and enjoy going to choir concerts to hear my friends sing!

FBBC: What advice would you give our current choristers and potential choirboys?

Victor: Never stop singing! And go to bed early — this habit will serve you well in college, believe me. Try to be friends with your parents... they're less weird than you might think. Some words that have been an encouragement to me over the years: "Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths." (Proverbs 3:5-6)

FBBC: What impact did the Fort Bend Boys Choir have on you?

Victor: The choir gave me an appreciation and sense for musicality that has stayed with me over the years. On a more basic level, I learned how to work with others toward a wonderful end. As **Mr. A** used to say, "Perfect practice makes perfect." Also, I ALWAYS think about my FBBC years whenever I say "yes, ma'am" or "yes, sir."

FBBC: Anything else you want to share with our Choir readership? Hobbies, future plans, etc.?

Victor: I love school, so I'm just trying to enjoy what I'm doing now. I'd like to work for a few years after school, perhaps as a high school teacher or with the Peace Corps, before deciding if I want to study more history in grad school.

Thank you Victor for giving us an up close and personal look into your life today. We hope that you continue to have music in your life. **Martin Luther** once said, "Music is one of the fairest and most glorious gifts of God." We are pleased that you were able to use that gift. Good luck on your senior year at Harvard! 🎵

THANK YOU!

Our various choir activities and fundraisers would not be the success they are without the dedicated efforts of our parent volunteers and friends of the choir. Thank you for your generosity - in time, talent and in-kind donations. We extend our gratitude to:

Nessosi Photography
Geoff Nessosi, Owner
For capturing the spirit and meaning of our choirboys on film

Mr. Mike Coberley
For your Website Design Services and being an awesome, fun Chaperone

Lojo Brother's Kwik Kopy
For paper supplies, friendship and support

Ms. Becky Walker
*Mom of Tour Choirboy - Grant Walker
 For your continued graphic design services*

Teresa Griesenbeck and Linda Kaspar
For Co-Chairing the Candy Sale fundraiser

Nancy Holley and Kim Morrell
For Co-Chairing our beautiful Spring Concert

First United Methodist Church of Sugar Land
For generously providing rehearsal space for our five ensembles and hosting our Spring Concert

Our Wish List

Like any nonprofit organization, there are items on our "wish" list needed to ensure the continued success and support of our choristers. We make every penny count in the operations of the organization, so there are often no spare resources to purchase the "extras." We hope that you can help us this year! Donations are subject to fair market value as a tax donation. ♪

- * 15 passenger van - \$30,000 new
- * Digital Camera (2 MP or more) - \$200
- * A Computer System (Pentium 4 preferred) - \$799
- * Ft. Bend and Harris County Key maps -\$25
- * Copier paper in a 10 ream box - \$32
- * HP printer cartridges (black and color for HP 722 and 3820) - \$30-35 each
- * Electronic Metronome - \$25

**A Home at Last!
 Capital Building Campaign Update**



For those who are fairly new to the Fort Bend Boys Choir, we are in the midst of a capital campaign to raise funds for a permanent home for our boys. A building fund was actually established several years ago with our first donation of \$25,000 from **Mrs. Wanda L. Adams** and the **William L. Adams Memorial Endowment**. **Mrs. Adams** has continued to donate \$25,000 a year for the cause. Our goal is to raise \$500,000 and thus far we have raised approximately \$145,000.

In our new facility, there will be ample rehearsal, administrative and performance space for all five ensembles that make up our two hundred-member organization. There will also be the opportunity for all arts organizations in our area to utilize this space as well.

The Fort Bend Boys Choir of Texas is delighted to invite members of the community and others to share their dream of a permanent facility. Through collaborative efforts, you and many others will ensure the legacy of musical excellence and lifelong learning for young boys. Call the choir office at (281) 240-3800 and help make this dream a reality through a tax-deductible donation or pledge. Thanks for investing in the future of our choirboys! ♪


Of A Particular Note

CHOIR NEWS

**Shopping = Free Money
for the Choir!**

Did you know that if you purchased groceries at Randall's, Kroger or Gerland's, the Fort Bend Boys Choir will receive free money? By using our personalized Kroger card (available through the choir office), your Randall's card (rebate #4032) or Gerland's card (rebate #121730) every time you go grocery shopping, the Choir will receive a percentage of every sale. It really pays to shop ... we've earned a little over \$800 this past choir year, thanks to many of you!



When shopping at Randall's or Gerland's, give the cashier the rebate # just once when you give them your store card, then every transaction afterwards will be automatically recorded! For the Kroger personalized card, just remember to present it at the beginning of every grocery transaction.



Do you shop online for books, flowers, airline tickets, music, clothes or anything else? If so, start using www.buyforcharity.com and designate the Fort Bend Boys Choir as your charity of choice. You can shop online from over 350 stores like Amazon.com, Barnes & Noble, the Gap, Office Max, 1-800-Flowers, Dell, J.Crew, Toys R Us and more at Buy For Charity.com! Up to 35% of each purchase will benefit us anytime you buy online ... but only if you start at www.buyforcharity.com! You can also save money on your own purchases by using their great Coupons & Specials - all at no extra cost to you. Avoid the crowds and shop online at the Buy For Charity website. What an easy way to earn money for the Fort Bend Boys Choir! Check out our website (www.fbbctx.org) for a direct link. ♪



**Come Back and Face
the Music!!**



Alumni! Are you ready to come back and face the music? We hope so! Rehearsals for the Fall 2003 season start on **Tuesday, October 14, 2003, 7:00 p.m.**, at the usual place, First United Methodist Church of Sugar Land. Of course, no auditions are necessary and rehearsals are open to all alumni. So check your class schedules now and make plans to participate this season. You can call the choir office at (281) 240-3800 for details or your Alumni Coordinator **Mrs. Barbara Crane** at (281) 494-6481.

We also want to know how all of you Alumni have been doing. Contact the choir and give us the latest scoop on your life! Call us at (281) 240-3800 or email at wra@fbbctx.org. Also, hop on our website at www.fbbctx.org and say 'hi' in our guest book. ♪



**A "New" Face in the
Training Choir**



After ten years serving as our Piano Accompanist for the Training Choir, we bid a fond farewell to **Ms. Reba Crump**. After the Spring Concert in May, she left for earthquake country - California - to marry her high school sweetheart. She will be missed greatly.

Taking over **Ms. Crump's** duties as Piano Accompanist for the Training Choir is **Mrs. Kathy Aaron**. **Mrs. Aaron** is no stranger to the Fort Bend Boys Choir organization ... after all, her son **James** is in the Tour Choir! Originally from Philadelphia, she earned her Bachelor of Music in Piano from Pennsylvania's Mansfield University. She earned her Texas teaching certification and has taught both elementary and middle school in Alief for seven years. Currently, she is teaching keyboard to 7th and 8th graders at Killough Middle School in Alief ISD.

Mrs. Aaron has accompanied numerous student UIL solos and has been the church pianist and worship leader at Langham Creek Evangelical Friends Church for 14 years. She also works as a private accompanist and piano teacher. We are so pleased to have **Mrs. Aaron** join our staff! ♪

Of A Particular Note

CHOIR NEWS



Create A Lasting Holiday Tradition Attend Our Christmas Musicale!

The holiday season can be a stressful time ... from ensuring your house is spotless for family holiday gatherings to fighting for that last parking spot at the mall to finding the perfect gift for a loved one. However, the Fort Bend Boys Choir has the perfect solution for taking a break and spending time with your family and friends at the same time. Attending our annual Christmas Musicale!

Featuring four performing ensembles - our Training, Town, Tour and Cantabilé choirs - the Christmas Musicale will be held on **Friday, December 19, 2003 at 7:00 p.m.** at St. Laurence Catholic Church in Sugar Land. Tickets to the concert are \$10 for adults and \$2.50 for children under 12 years of age. An informal reception will be held after the concert to spread good tidings and cheer. For more information and to make reservations, please call the choir office at (281) 240-3800. ♪

Stand Up And Bless The Lord CD to Debut!



We have the perfect gift coming out in early September ... just in time for the holiday season! Our seventh CD, *Stand Up and Bless the Lord*, is a collection of timeless hymns that we all know and love. Prices for the CDs will be \$15 each. For the Christmas holidays, this newest CD will be available at Arc Dove, Barnes & Noble, First Place Bookstore in First United Methodist, Garden Bookstore in First Baptist Church of Houston, and Music & Sound.

However, you have a chance to win the CD! The first person to call or email the answer to the following trivia question will be the winner.

Question: What is the release year of our third CD?

Please note: Because we mail our newsletters locally and nationwide, mail delivery can differ greatly. So in all fairness to everyone, **the contest will officially start on August 14, 2003.** Any answers sent in before August 14th will be disqualified. Good luck! ♪

Music IS Magic with our Music Magic Program for Six and Seven year old boys!



There are no auditions needed for Music Magic, our music enrichment program for six and seven year old boys, just a love of music! The music takes a life of its own in this program through the use of movement, singing, musical games and other child-centered activities. Boys will develop better large muscle coordination, pitch matching, increased focus, rhythm awareness and musicianship. And because this class is so much fun, boys will learn a lot and make some new friends!

Ms. Sara Ward, a long-time staff member of the Fort Bend Boys Choir, directs Music Magic. Entering its seventh season, classes will start on Tuesday, September 9, 2003 from 6:30 p.m. - 7:15 p.m. at the First United Methodist Church of Sugar Land. Music Magic will be held every Tuesday for an eight-week period ending on Tuesday, October 28, 2003. Parents will be treated to an informal concert at the last class, showcasing their son's new music skills.

Boys receive a free Music Magic t-shirt after classes begin. Since class size is limited, call the choir office at (281) 240-3800 and pre-register today. ♪



Impact Study Supports the Choral Art



A recent study conducted by Chorus America, a nonprofit group that promotes choral singing, concluded what numerous choir directors have long suspected. Many significant facts were substantiated and the findings actively support their theories.

The study was conducted by two firms: Robinson & Muenster Associates, Inc. from Sioux Falls, South Dakota and GSC Communications, Inc. from Swarthmore, Pennsylvania. The sum effect of the study's itemized overall findings is that:

- * Interest in choral singing develops early in life and is influenced by school and family experiences. Over five million children perform publicly in choirs on a regular basis.
- * Early introduction is the key to lifelong interest in choral singing and sets the stage for many positive and personal benefits through that experience.
- * Choral singers are more highly involved in their communities, not only in the arts but in other positive social and civic activities as well.
- * Choral singers overwhelmingly report that choral participation improves their lives and their contributions to society in many ways.
- * More people (children and adults) participate in choral singing than in any other performing art - singing is by far the most popular public arts activity in America ♪

Exceeding Expectations by Jeannine Hillis, Board President



As we begin the 2003-2004-performance season, each of us has expectations of what the choir year will bring. We have our own opinions as to what comprises a successful year for our boys. I want to share with you a little of what I have recently witnessed first hand, that reflects the principles of the Fort Bend Boys Choir.

It was my honor and privilege to serve as a chaperone for the recent 2003 *Let Freedom Ring Tour*. I can attest that the young men of the Tour Choir represented the organization magnificently. The choirboys upheld the standard of professionalism, discipline, and exceptional performance that is a hallmark of the Fort Bend Boys Choir. These high standards make our choirboys special and set them apart from other choirs.

As a team, they were very impressive. The boys were up at 8 a.m. with bags packed, breakfast tackled, and then spent the days on the bus traveling to various activities and performances. This well-oiled machine only works if everyone does their part and our boys did their part! They showed a level of maturity and responsibility beyond their years, fully living the mission statement set forth by Mr. Adams, Founder and Artistic Director of the Fort Bend Boys Choir.

However, boys will be boys! Seeing the boys enjoying the pools, theme parks, museums and a Chicago White Sox baseball game was an important part of the tour. As good as they are as choristers, they are just as good at being boys!

As always, there was the music. The boys shared their gift of song using their wonderful God-given talent that reached out and touched the lives of the audience. I will never forget the woman who approached me after a performance in Rhinelander. She said, "I am not going to cry, but tonight an angel sang to me." I gave her a hug and we cried together. I know that she will always remember her angel.

Whether you are involved with Music Magic, Training, Town, Tour or Cantabilé choirs, you are a vital part of this awesome program. Your boys are being taught discipline, responsibility and accountability. They are being trained, not just to sing well, but also to seek excellence! They are learning not just to perform, but how to do so in a professional manner.

Thank you for encouraging your boys to excel in something that engages their hearts as well as their minds. We appreciate your support in helping us "make a difference ... one boy at a time." ♪

Choirboy Awards



At the Spring Concert, not only did we pay tribute to the men and women in the Armed Forces but we also recognized the many talented choristers who have served the Fort Bend Boys Choir so well during their tenure in the organization. Choristers who were marking their third and fifth anniversaries were awarded pins to mark this achievement. Receiving three year pins were:

Tour Choir

T.J. Adams, David Allan, David Canales, Kyle Cousino, Trevor Forsyth, Richie Heussner, Andrew Holley, Chris Maikranz, Benjamin Reed, Nathaniel Torres, John Velasco, and Russell Widger.

Town Choir

Aurelio Aguirre, Zachary Burke, Johanne Chaglasian, William Dunn, Albert Huang, Brian Huang, Reyce King, and Keith Trimble Jr.

Receiving a five-year diamond pin was **Matthew Rodriguez** of the Tour Choir.

The *Outstanding Choirboy Award* for 2003 was presented to **Corey Chambers**, a six-year member of the organization. He follows in the footsteps of his brother **Brian**, who was *Outstanding Choirboy* of 1997. **Corey** is a role model to all younger choristers, not only because of his musicianship and enthusiasm, but also in his dedication and leadership in the choir.

Congratulations to all of these remarkable boys! ♪

Dream A Dream ... The Legacy Continues Gala Dinner & Auction Highlights



February 22, 2003 proved to be a great evening for the Fort Bend Boys Choir. Many friends, family and supporters attended our Gala event, which netted approximately \$35,000.00. There were many memorable moments during this special evening including a beautiful performance by the Tour Choir and a wonderful speech by our Master of Ceremonies **Mr. Khambrel Marshall**, news anchor for NBC KPRC-Channel 2 News. Weeks later, guests were still talking about **Mr. Marshall** and complimenting us on our choice of Master of Ceremonies!

The live auction was also a success. From the jet fighter pilot package to our exclusive autographed basketball from Yao Ming, there was something for everyone to bid on. The highlight of the auction, of course, was the adorable AKC registered Golden Retriever puppy. We also owe a big thanks to **Mr. James Patterson**, Fort Bend County Commissioner, for providing his talents as Auctioneer.

An event of this magnitude could not be accomplished without the many parents and volunteers working so hard to ensure the evening's success. Listed below are the chairs of the different committees. There were so many parents working behind the scenes on various projects, but unfortunately we do not have adequate space to thank everyone. You know who you are and please know your efforts and dedication are greatly appreciated!

Event Co-Chairs - **Jeannine Hillis** and **Nancy Howles**

Auction Co-Chairs - **Debbie Villarreal** and **Sandra Francis**

Dinner and Decorations - **Sandra Babcock** and **Joyce Victory**

Brochure, Invitation and Program Design - **Becky Walker**, **Tricia Brown** and **Tiana Mortimer**

Cashier - **Kandice Maikranz**

We also give special thanks to our sponsors for supporting our efforts:

Platinum - **BMC Software** and **Republic Harley Davidson/Buell**

Gold - **Southern National Bank**

Silver - **Mrs. Wanda Adams**, **Burke Family**, **Mr. and Mrs. Kelly Crane**, **Lombana Family** and **Wells Fargo**.

Bronze - **Mr. and Mrs. William R. Adams**, **Deloitte and Touche**, **Mr. and Mrs. David Elias**, **Mr. and Mrs. Kirk Francis**, **Mr. and Mrs. Norman Lee**, **Mr. and Mrs. David Oliver**, **Tidewater Environmental** and **Mr. and Mrs. Bob Yack**. ♪



Mr. Khambrel Marshall with the Tour Choir at the 2003 Dream A Dream Gala Dinner and Auction.



Upcoming Events



** Current as of July 18, 2003 **

Tuesday, July 29 through Sunday, August 3, 2003	Tour Choir - Summer Camp	9:00 AM 12:00 Noon
Sunday, August 17, 2003	Tour Choir - Grace Presbyterian Church Church Services	9:00 AM and 11:15 AM
Tuesday, September 9 through Tuesday, October 28, 2003	Music Magic, an eight-week program for 6 and 7 year old boys	Every Tuesday 6:30-7:15 PM
Saturday, September 20, 2003	Tour Choir - CARMINA BURANA with the Houston Choral Society at Moores Opera House (U of H)	8:00 PM
Thursday, September 25, 2003	Tour Choir - First United Methodist Church Fundraiser	7:15 PM
Saturday, September 27, 2003	Tour Choir - Private Wedding	6:00 PM
Tuesday, October 14 through Tuesday, December 16, 2003	Cantabilé rehearses	Every Tuesday 7:30-8:30 PM
Saturday, October 25, 2003	Tour Choir - Private Wedding	7:00 PM
Saturday, November 8, 2003	Town Choir - Sugar Plum Market	TBA
Saturday, November 15, 2003	Tour Choir - War Requiem with Houston Symphony at Jones Hall	8:00 PM
Sunday, November 16, 2003	Tour Choir - War Requiem with Houston Symphony at Jones Hall	2:30 PM
Monday, November 17, 2003	Tour Choir - War Requiem with Houston Symphony at Jones Hall	8:00 PM
Tuesday, December 2, 2003	Town Choir - Private Performance	8:00 PM
Saturday, December 6, 2003	Tour Choir - Republic Harley Davidson/Buell	TBA
Sunday, December 7, 2003	Town Choir - Buckner Elder Care	3:30 PM
Saturday, December 13, 2003	Town Choir - Atria Communities	7:00 PM
Monday, December 15, 2003	All Choirs - Technical Rehearsal	TBA
Friday, December 19, 2003	All Choirs - Christmas Musicale	7:00 PM

The Voices of Boys ... In Tune with Texas

Imagine Texas way back when - cowboys, cattle drives, the Old West ... now picture the Fort Bend Boys Choir today celebrating our great state. With that in mind, we are pleased to present, The Voices of Boys ... In Tune with Texas, our theme for the 2003-2004-choir year.

This year's theme is a reflection of our new venue for the 2004 Gala Dinner and Auction, our biggest fundraiser of the year. We are departing from the traditional, formal setting of Sweetwater Country Club and trying something different. The Safari Lodge, located at Safari Texas Ranch, is a more casual location with a rustic, relaxed type atmosphere. It is a great place to celebrate all things Texan and what better way than through the voices of our boys!

Planning is already underway for this Gala event. If you wish to participate in some way, either through volunteering for a committee or donating an item to the auction, please email ptm@fbbctx.org or call the choir office at (281) 240-3800. We're "rounding up" support right now! 🎵



The Fort Bend Boys Choir of Texas
 P.O. Box 2042
 Stafford, Texas 77497-2042

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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



Singing the National Anthem at U.S. Cellular Field (Comisky Park) before a Chicago Whitesox game on

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William R. Adams - Founder/Artistic Director
 Kirsten Jordon - Town Choir Director
 Susan Chiboroski - Training Choir Director

Sara Ward - Accompanist Tour Choir & Music Magic Director
 Angela Schweer - Accompanist Town Choir
 Kathy Aaron - Accompanist Training Choir

Tiana Mortimer - Executive Director
 Tricia Robinson Brown - Administrator