

THE HIGH NOTE

BANGOR AREA

Children's Choir

Join us for our Spring Concert - *Building Bridges*

On Friday, May 4 at 7:00 pm at St. John's Episcopal Church, 225 French Street in Bangor, our talented BACC singers will present a concert on the theme of building bridges. The program includes a poignant composition by Swedish composer Jan Sandström, *Across the Bridge of Hope*, a touching piece about the bridge between generations – *The Bridge Builder*, by Canadian Eleanor Daley, the hilarious *Mom-isms* about the bridge between mothers and their children, and of course, Paul Simon's great *Bridge Over Trouble Water*.

WORLD PREMIERE OF DAN FORREST LUMBER CAMP SONG

One very special part of our 2018 spring concert will be the world premiere of a choral work by South Carolina composer, Dan Forrest.

Dr. Forrest's composition for BACC is a part of his "Folksongs of America" which is a series capturing the unique heritage of various regions of the country. His setting for BACC comes from the Maine lumber camp tradition, and has been very generously supported by a grant from the Bangor Rotary Club. Dr. Forrest has selected the song, "The Shanty Boys," for his composition for BACC. This traditional folksong was popular in the seasonal lumber camps throughout the north from Maine to Michigan and Wisconsin.

The word "shanty" refers to the rustic camps that were built deep in the woods for lumbermen. The opening of the lyrics are –

Now, boys, if you will listen, I will sing to you a song,
It's all about the shanty-boys and how they get along;
They are a jovial set of boys, so merry and so fine,
They spend a pleasant winter in cutting down the pine.

Dan Forrest (b. 1978) has been described as having "an undoubted gift for writing beautiful music...that is truly magical" (*NY Concert Review*) and for "superb writing...full of spine-tingling moments" (*Salt Lake Tribune*). His music has sold millions of copies and is well-established in the repertoire of choirs world-wide.



Composer Dan Forrest



BACC in Concert at Notre-Dame Basilica, Montreal

MONTREAL TRIP

Our BACC singers had a fantastic performance trip to Montreal, Quebec in April of 2017. They represented BACC, Bangor, Maine, and the U.S. with great artistry, exceptional behavior, and good humor. Thank you to our chaperones and supporters who made the trip possible and congratulations to the singers on a job well done!



It wasn't all work...our singers on an aerial obstacle course!



Dr. Patrick Wedd, Choirmaster at Montreal's Christ Church Cathedral, working with our BACC singers in a choral workshop.



BACC singing the National Anthem at the Rotary Club Gala

ROTARY CLUB CENTENNIAL GALA

BACC was honored to be a part of the Bangor Rotary Club's centennial gala in October at the Cross Center.

HOMES FOR THE HOLIDAYS

BACC shared the music of the season with participants in Bangor's *Homes for the Holidays* house tour in early December.



This group of festive carolers at Homes for the Holidays was conducted by Singer's Council member Alex Creaser

CAROLING AT EMMC

A large group of our singers were delighted to share the season's music with patients at Eastern Maine Medical Center, the second largest hospital in Maine. It

was especially touching that in the pediatric ward our singing almost immediately calmed an infant who had been crying uncontrollably.



Mr. and Mrs. Claus helped guide us around the hospital



In the lobby of the Pediatric Ward

RECRUITMENT

BACC is beginning its registration for the 2018-2019 season on May 7, and we would appreciate your help in getting the word out about the wonderful musical and educational opportunity we provide. We are again offering a 25% Early Bird discount for the fall semester for new registrations we receive before July 1, as well as a 20% discount for younger siblings. As always, we are fortunate to be able to offer substantial scholarship support, so that no young singer is prevented from participating because of finances. If you know of any prospective candidates for BACC, please email Director@bangorareachildrenschoir.com. If we have contact information, we can send them a personal letter plus a copy of this newsletter and a brochure to hopefully pique their interest. Often all it takes is the personal touch to make the difference between someone thinking "that looks like an interesting activity" and taking them to the point where they think "Wow! They really want me to be a part of their group." Auditions will be arranged in coordination with our new Artistic Director.

ROBERT LUDWIG RETIREMENT

BACC's Artistic Director, Robert Ludwig, has been at the helm of our choirs since 2013 and has overseen an expansion of our community offerings and performance trips as well as challenging the choirs with ambitious repertoire. He has announced his upcoming retirement effective in June of 2018. He and his wife, Nancy, will be moving full-time to their house in Rangeley where he hopes to devote more time to composing, harpsichord building, hiking, and canoeing. Our BACC Board has a hard-working search committee established and will announce the appointment of our next Artistic Director in the late spring.



Our singers at the 2017 Winter Concert conducted by retiring Artistic Director, Robert Ludwig

Join our efforts with a tax deductible donation through our website or mail to:

BACC, PO Box 2732, Bangor, ME 04402-2732

www.bangorareachildrenschoir.com

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ZACHARY FISHER, OUR NEW ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

Zachary Fisher, a double degree candidate at UMaine (B.M. in Music Education and B.M. in Music Performance), joined our artistic staff in September. A talented singer as well as conductor, Mr. Fisher's friendly manner and musical excellence has quickly established him as a valued part of our team.

Zachary Fisher, Assistant Director of BACC

THANKS TO OUR BOARD

We thank the hard-working board of directors for their continued hard work on behalf of BACC. Our current board includes: Eric Boberg, Chair; Rick Fraser, Vice-Chair; Jill Hoelzer, Recording Secretary; Jim Paton, Treasurer; Robert Ludwig, Artistic Director; and Board Members at Large—Jeff Ferrell, Mary Kilbride, April O'Grady, Emma Perry, Caroline Phillips, Heather Salib, and George Wright. The Board has formed a search committee, and is hard at work to find the next Artistic Director of BACC. It is their goal to make a final announcement at our Spring concert.

Our last newsletter had a reflection from Board member George Wright. The newsletter continues the series with a reflection by April O'Grady, who is the Director of Psychological Services at UMaine and has a daughter in the choir.

REFLECTIONS FROM BOARD MEMBER, APRIL O'GRADY

Before being asked last year to be a board member, I had the opportunity to be a BACC parent for two years. I witnessed firsthand the professionalism, organization, and thoroughness with which this organization was run, as well as the joy being a BACC singer brought to my daughter. Although I have always loved choral singing, I am notorious in my family as being a terrible singer and one who needs to lip sync even Happy Birthday. Needless to say, when my daughter began singing with BACC I was delighted for her to benefit from the excellent vocal training and the exposure our family would gain to beautiful choral music. Equally important, I believed, were the many lessons in professionalism and performance given both purposefully and perhaps, less intentionally, by Mr. Ludwig and those who support his teaching. I was impressed by how serious the training of children's voices was treated, equally, I believed, to that of an adult choir. I was also struck by how opportunities were taken to teach important life lessons about patience, perspective-taking, and thoughtfulness to others.

So, I jumped at the invitation to be a BACC board member last year and to witness more directly how this organization was run. I wanted to contribute as a parent but also as a community member. As children grow into adolescence there seem to be fewer opportunities for parents to be involved in their extracurricular activities. Being a board member has allowed me to be more present and involved as a parent. I have also been conscious of how BACC contributes to the community at large and I have been glad to be involved in working with community partners. The comradery and commitment among members makes being a part of this board fun as well as rewarding.



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