

# CHORAL ARTS NEW ENGLAND Chorus!

May 2013

Encouraging Choral Excellence through Alfred Nash Patterson Grants

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## SUMMER CHORAL PROGRAMS

Summer is a perfect time for getting out of old routines and devoting time to music. New England holds some special retreats that offer programs where choral singers can get away for a week or more to focus and learn; elsewhere, singers take advantage of summer freedom to rehearse and perform a special choral work. Many choruses open their doors to the public to host “summer sings,” where participants sing a masterwork in a single session under expert direction, and often with professional soloists—a perfect way to participate in great music with a minimum commitment. Not all of the summer programs would fit here; see them all at [news.choralarts-newengland.org](http://news.choralarts-newengland.org). This printed list does not include the many music camps or other programs for young students, but we link to many of those online.

### **Berkshire Choral Festival ([www.choralfest.org](http://www.choralfest.org))**

July 7–August 4

Sheffield, Massachusetts (also programs outside N.E.)

Provides choral singers with the opportunity to rehearse and perform choral masterpieces under the direction of world-class conductors and with the help of a professional musical staff. Participants arrive on a Sunday afternoon, rehearse twice a day all week, and perform with a full symphony orchestra and soloists the following Saturday. There are classes in such subjects as musical history, theory, how to audition, and how to care for your voice. Private voice, theory, ear training and conducting lessons are available on a fee basis.

**Repertoire:** Bach: Mass in B Minor, Vaughan Williams and Lauridsen; Britten and Vivaldi; Sweet Honey in the Rock.

### **Great Waters ([www.greatwaters.org](http://www.greatwaters.org))**

July 18–20

Kingswood Arts Center, Wolfeboro, NH

Brings together over 100 selected singers for an exciting musical weekend rehearsing and performing choral masterpieces. Participants must have extensive choral and musical training and learn all music

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## BAGADUCE MUSIC LENDING LIBRARY

The Bagaduce Music Lending Library ([www.bagaducemusic.org](http://www.bagaducemusic.org)) received one of the first Alfred Nash Patterson grants, in 1985 (together with a large donation of choral scores), and was awarded many grants in later years; its eight grants (most recent in 1996) are far more than any other recipient. The Library offers New England choruses affordable access to scores. Anyone may borrow for the cost of an annual membership and a nominal fee.

by Nancy Chittim  
Farrand

The Bagaduce Music Lending Library first came across my consciousness twenty years ago.

My father had died a year before, leaving many shelves of piano music. Where else should it go but to this amazing place that exists so that people may be able to experience more music than they own? We drove up and were helped by young people with strong backs who walked the many boxes of music up a steep staircase. Our brief tour included a glimpse of a small army of volunteers who were cleaning up scores with electric erasers! And more music in one place than I had ever seen before.

On a recent unseasonably warm February day I again found my way to Blue Hill, Maine, where Bagaduce has made its home since 1983. The brainchild of Mary Cheyney Gould, Marcia Chapman and Fritz Jahoda, the library began in a garage in Brooksville, on the shores of the Bagaduce River in Penobscot Bay (Bagaduce is thought to mean “Where your daughter floats out with the tide”). Ms. Gould is still there most days and spoke with me, giving generously of her time, knowledge and humor.

(continued inside)



## Summer choral programs (cont'd)

before arriving. Rehearsals are intensive and designed to provide an in-depth musical experience.

**Repertoire:** Leonard Bernstein's *Mass* (abridged version, commissioned in 2008); the five spirituals from Sir Michael Tippett's *A Child of Our Time*; three Verdi opera choruses: "Brindisi" from *La Traviata*, "The Chorus of the Hebrew Slaves" from *Nabucco* and the "Anvil Chorus" from *Il Trovatore*. Conducted by Christopher Shepard.

### Ogontz ([www.chorusofwesterly.org](http://www.chorusofwesterly.org))

August 11–17 (*Children's camp August 17–23*)  
Ogontz (near Littleton, NH)

Now in its 24<sup>th</sup> season, the Chorus of Westerly's Summer Choral Workshop offers opportunities for singers, church musicians, and choral conductors to work on repertoire and choral interpretation with some of the world's leading choral directors. Open to anyone without audition. At Ogontz, participants learn together, rehearse, relax, and sing in an intimate and unspoiled retreat in the White Mountains of New Hampshire. Individuals may attend as resident or non-resident participants; non-singing family members may attend as "Camp Followers."

**Repertoire:** Morten Lauridsen's *Lux Aeterna*, Josef Rheinberger's *Mass in E Flat*, and William Walton's *Belshazzar's Feast*. Directed by David Hill (director of the Bach Choir, London, and the BBC Singers).

### Saratoga Choral Festival ([www.saratogachoralfest.org](http://www.saratogachoralfest.org))

July 9–28  
Saratoga Springs, NY

Singers meet for rehearsals over a three-week period and perform in a concert open to the public on Sunday, July 28. Now in its 13<sup>th</sup> season; previous seasons have featured the music of Karl Jenkins (2012), the Bloch *Sacred Service* with Cantor Robert Abelson (2011), and a premiere of a new edition of Gretchaninov's *Liturgia Domestica*.

**Repertoire:** The choral music of Dave Brubeck, including the *Pange Lingua Variations* and the unpublished *Canticles of Mary*. Music Director: Andrea Goodman.

## CHORUS! NEWSLETTER

Published by Choral Arts New England, this newsletter is printed biannually and published online year-round. Read the latest at [news.choralarts-newengland.org](http://news.choralarts-newengland.org).

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## Programs that focus on a single concert

### Litchfield County Choral Union ([www.lccu-us.org](http://www.lccu-us.org))

Monday evenings, May 6–July 28  
*The Ellen Battell-Stoeckel Estate, Norfolk, Connecticut*

**Giuseppe Verdi: Requiem.** Each year since 1951 the Litchfield County Choral Union has presented a major choral work with orchestra in the Music Shed the Battell-Stoeckel estate. The building, lined with California redwood, is a concert hall of remarkably fine acoustic quality. No auditions required.

### CONCORA Summer Festival ([www.concora.org](http://www.concora.org))

July 21–27  
*Bethany Covenant Church in Berlin, Connecticut*

**Johannes Brahms: Ein Deutches Requiem** (sung in German), in Brahms's version for piano/four-hands with organ, harp, and timpani. For the 15<sup>th</sup> consecutive summer, more than one hundred voices will gather the choral art in intense rehearsal, study, and performance, all laced with laughter, camaraderie, and good food. CONCORA's professional singers will provide musical support and vocal leadership.

### Woods Hole Cantata Consort ([www.woodsholecantata.org](http://www.woodsholecantata.org))

Thursday evenings, June 20–August 1  
*Church of the Messiah, Woods Hole, Massachusetts*

A summer community chorale and chamber orchestra founded in 1973 that performs a program of classical music. Adult singers of all ages and voices rehearse for six weeks and present a performance. No formal auditions, but singers should be proficient.

### Summer Chorus of RI and SE Mass. ([www.summerchorus.org](http://www.summerchorus.org))

Monday evenings, June 10–August 10  
*Tiverton and Bristol, RI; Fall River, Massachusetts*

Music TBD (will be water themed). Weekly rehearsals in Tiverton, RI leading to concerts in Fall River, MA and Bristol, RI. All singers are welcome.

### Harvard Summer Chorus

([www.hcs.harvard.edu/~summerchorus](http://www.hcs.harvard.edu/~summerchorus))  
Tuesdays & Thursdays, June 25–August 2  
*Cambridge, Massachusetts*

Performs masterworks with full orchestral accompaniment. Open by audition to students and community singers. The concert is tentatively scheduled for Friday, August 2, in Sanders Theatre.

### Mount Desert Summer Chorale

([mountdesertsummerchorale.org](http://mountdesertsummerchorale.org))  
June 26–August 3  
*Bar Harbor, Maine*

**Giuseppe Verdi: Requiem.** Join singers from Maine and from around the world on beautiful Mount Desert Island. The performance is in historic St. Saviour's Episcopal Church.

### **The Schoodic Summer Chorus**

May 21–July 30, August 22

Winter Harbor, Maine

*Simple Gifts*—from “Complications” to “Transformations” to “Simple Gifts.” Performances on July 29 and August 22. A multi-generational a capella community chorus directed by Anna Dembska, sponsored by Schoodic Arts for All.

### **Summer Sings Programs**

#### **Cappella Cantorum ([www.cappellacantorum.org](http://www.cappellacantorum.org)) and the Con Brio Chorale Society ([www.conbrio.org](http://www.conbrio.org))**

Mon. evenings, June 11–25, July 30–August 13

St. Paul’s Lutheran Church, Old Saybrook, CT

Scores provided; fee \$8 per person.

#### **Farmington Valley Chorale ([farmingtonvalleychorale.org](http://farmingtonvalleychorale.org))**

August 18, 3:00

Valley Community Baptist Church, 590 West Avon Road, Route 167, Avon, CT

**Brahms Requiem Sing In**, under the direction of Dr. Ellen Gilson Voth. Scores and refreshments provided; suggested donation \$5.

#### **Chorus pro Musica ([www.choruspromusica.org](http://www.choruspromusica.org))**

Monday evenings, August 5–26

Old South Church, Boston, MA

Scores provided, fee \$8.

#### **Masterworks Chorale ([MasterworksChorale.org](http://MasterworksChorale.org))**

Tuesday evenings, June 11–August 6

Noble and Greenough School, Dedham, Massachusetts

44<sup>th</sup> annual season. Informal, air-conditioned, with accomplished soloists and expert piano accompaniment. Bring your own score or borrow one. Fee \$10.

#### **Vineyard Spirituals Choir**

May 20–Sept 8

Oak Bluffs Senior Center, Oak Bluffs, MA

The Martha’s Vineyard Spirituals Choir rehearses weekly for an hour. New members are welcome. The choir is directed by Jim Thomas, the founder and director of the U.S. Slave Song Project.

#### **The Paul Madore Chorale ([www.paulmadorechorale.org](http://www.paulmadorechorale.org))**

Mid-July to mid-August (four sessions)

Salem, MA

Annual SummerSings; repertoire TBD.

#### **The Choral Art Society of Portland ([www.choralart.org](http://www.choralart.org))**

June 24, 2013 (7 pm workshop, 7:30 sing-along)

Catherine McAuley High School, Portland, ME

Fauré Requiem and Schubert Mass in G, with vocal soloists from the Choral Art Society. Scores available to borrow. Fee \$5 (students free); refreshments available.

### **Bagaduce (cont’d)**

After years of love and hard work, Bagaduce now houses the world’s largest widely-available printed music collection—more than 250,000 titles, given by more than 3,000 donors. The collection includes multiple copies of over 2,000 major choral works and one of the world’s largest collections of vintage popular American vocal sheet music, as well as keyboard and instrumental music and the official state collection of music about Maine and by Maine composers.

The Library lends to people in 27 foreign countries, all 50 U.S. states, and more than 180 communities in Maine. There are other similar institutions, notably the Chatfield Music Lending Library in Minnesota, which has a large collection of band music. Some others lend primarily orchestral or choral music; Bagaduce doesn’t have orchestral music, other than conductor’s scores, and keeps no band music.

There are two employees and a small army of volunteers who catalog the music, shelve it, preserve it and send it out (cleaning is no longer done with electric erasers, as they tended to crumble; cleaners now use the old pink ones we all know). The annual budget is about \$200,000. Bagaduce keeps afloat with the help of membership fees that range from \$10 for students to \$75 for large musical organizations. Donations, of both music and money, are their life-blood. The Library has several fundraisers each year, including a summer sheet music and book sale. They sponsor the annual Blue Hill Pops Concert, a Young Composers Competition and festival for Maine students 8-18 years old, and a New York City benefit.

They are bursting at the seams. After much thought and discussion and a myriad of ideas, the decision was made to renovate and rebuild on the existing footprint. They even plan to include an elevator, saving many backs! Support is urgently needed to face this challenge for their future.

It is clear to a visitor that the building, the music and the people there are infused with love for the task they are doing. Smiles were on every face; my several helpful informants, including a young person delivering some boxes of music and a woman who was at the computer cataloguing the whole time we were there. I got the clear feeling that visitors and browsers are welcome. The more, the merrier, and thus the greater the world’s knowledge of Bagaduce Music Lending Library!

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## MIDDLETOWN CHORAL SOCIETY'S "LETTER FROM ITALY"

On April 28, a sold-out crowd at the Middletown (CT) High School Performing Arts Center witnessed the world premiere of *Letter from Italy, 1944*, a dramatic oratorio with orchestra commissioned by the Greater Middletown Chorale from composer Sarah Meneely-Kyder, with lyrics by her sister, Nancy Fitz-Hugh Meneely. The work, based on the story of their father's service in World War II and the disastrous effects it had on his life and his family, speaks to the trauma of all wars and the far-reaching effects of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). The performance was semi-staged, with costumes, interaction among the soloists and chorus, and remarkably creative dramatic lighting and projections.

For the Chorale, the composition was more than just a performance—it was a community event reaching well beyond the concert hall. They sponsored a series of public events, including

historical presentations, poetry readings, and exhibitions. They reached out to local veterans of all wars and compiled a "Veterans' Honor Roll" that was distributed with the programs. A web site ([letterfromitaly.com](http://letterfromitaly.com)) points to more information and resources for PTSD. Emmy Award winner Karyl Evans is making a documentary film about the project.



Artistic Director Joseph D'Eugenio acknowledges Nancy Fitz-Hugh Meneely and Sarah Meneely-Kyder (photo by Axie Breen)

The project attracted extensive community support, and received an Alfred Nash Patterson grant from Choral Arts New England.

### ONLINE CHORAL CALENDAR

The new Choral Arts New England events calendar lists concerts and other events in all New England states—and you can search for events near you. It's easy to use, and easy to list your own events so others can discover them. Just visit:

[www.choralarts-newengland.org/Calendar](http://www.choralarts-newengland.org/Calendar)