



Peter Robb
Artistic Director

A Rare Privilege, a Lifetime Experience

At the end of May came our 9th Spring concert. The performances by all of OFC's ensembles were inspiring and a clear indication of how much each group has grown during the season. The audience, which filled the performance space at Central Presbyterian Church, gave an enthusiastic response to each ensemble. It was a wonderful end to the season for our local choirs...

Except that it isn't

...not for our touring choirs and a cappella ensembles. Instead, the Spring Concert marked the beginning of an eight-week adventure of final preparations for singing with four hundred amazing musicians from across north America and around the world, working with two world-renowned conductors, and appearances at two of the great choral festivals on the planet.

Beginning with PICCFEST, our singers will present several programs of their own music, spend many hours in rehearsal with the 325-voice PICCFEST Chorus, sing at the U.S. Olympic Trials, all leading up to the 11th PICCFEST Gala Concert on June 29th, 7:30 pm in the Hult Center's Silva Hall. Conductor and composer Bob Chilcott returns for his second PICCFEST appearance having continued his meteoric rise in the choral world since his last visit in 2005. This year we've reached a new level of prestige as an official co-presentation with the Oregon Bach Festival.

After PICCFEST, the singers of our Fiero Boychoir and Lyrica Girlchoir fine-tune their focus on the final prize

of the season as part of the Oregon Bach Festival's final concert: The St. Matthew Passion, conducted by Maestro Helmuth Rilling. Until 2004, the Bach Festival had always reached outside of our community to fill the treble choir position in this towering masterwork by Bach. That year, Fiero and Lyrica were tapped to appear with the Bach Festival Chorus and Orchestra. OBF chorumaster Kathy Romey enthused, "This is a wonderful day for choral music in our community – to have our own young singers take their place alongside the Bach Festival musicians."

Only four current members of Fiero and Lyrica were old enough to sing in the 2004 St. Matthew Passion performance. The other 36 singers will be a part of the experience for the first time.

Throughout our preparations it has been important to build anticipation appropriate to the rare privilege these two experiences provide. For many it will be a once-in-a-lifetime collaboration with other musicians of this caliber. We have talked about the fact that every moment, in rehearsal, personal practice and performance has the potential to be a high point of beauty that they will remember forever. And we marvel that these opportunities rival those of singers in any major city on the continent.

As we near the end of the one concert season and prepare for the next, I am humbled by the challenge and blessing of our work with these young singers: Helping them create and recognize moments of beauty and community that they will remember the rest of their lives.

Last year at this time I was happily reporting the end of the choir season: News of tours completed, concerts given and intensified focus on the approaching 10th anniversary of our Pacific International Children's Choir Festival (PICCFEST).

This year is similar in many ways. We had two Spring tours in Oregon. In April, EXIT 194 made its first tour. Ten guys of the twelve member male a cappella ensemble spent three days singing in schools, public places and at the Ashland United Methodist Church. Their joyful music-making was an inspiration wherever they sang, and they returned home having deepened their commitment to excellence as singers and as a community to each other.

In May, the training choirs Allegro and Cantilena embarked on their annual 36 hour tour, including performances at four local schools, a concert with the Heart of the Valley Children's Chorus in Corvallis, a trip to Newport and Florence, and some impromptu performances along the way. The thirty-two singers, ages 8-11, shared the results of their hard work this season with several hundred students, demonstrating that singing can be both fun and fulfilling.

Choristers' Birthdays



June

Amanda Mortimore
 Ian Boyd-Mitcheltree
 Gabriel Wihtol
 Ingrid Brandt
 Peyton Brazell
 Maya Phillips

July

Edwin Farley
 Eric Lee
 Ian Anderson
 Angela Agnew
 Colleen Peterson
 Kiri Phillips
 Mackenzie Vignoul
 Marissa Robb
 McKenzie Anderson

August

Kobi Berning-Anderson
 Taylor LaPrairie
 Brian Carpenter
 Sam Brandt
 Lucy Geller
 Jordon Salazar

OFC's Wish List

Carpet cleaning service
 for the office

Office supplies – all kinds!
 Digital camera
 LED Projector

**If you can help with any of
 these items please call the
 OFC office at 465-9600.**

VOLUNTEERS ARE WONDERFUL

The support of OFC parents and the community whenever there is a call for volunteers is amazing! We've started a "Volunteer Corner" in our weekly notice, and parents now contact me to ask, "How can I help," instead of me calling them.

We need help throughout the year with concerts, the Nutcracker, and PICCFEST, along with smaller jobs like making phone calls, getting music together and putting packets together for schools. We ask parents to donate 5 hours of time each year but many put in 20 hours or more. Their help is invaluable in making Oregon Festival Choirs a success.

More than 20 parents signed on to help at our Spring concert, which was a huge success thanks to all that support. We have 5 volunteers who will spend 6 days, or 150 hours, with the choristers at PICCFEST. They are JoVone Kettwig, Veronica Rodriguez, Kari Hardre, Julie Vignoul, and Ben Kelso.

Currently we need help with PICCFEST and organizing the music library. We also have the honor of hosting a choir at the end of PICCFEST and need host homes.

Thanks to all of you. We couldn't succeed without your help.

Sherri Phillips
 Volunteer Coordinator

ABOUT OUR DONOR VOLUNTEERS

OFC Donor/Volunteers have been growing, both in number of volunteers and in activities. Our biggest need remains this newsletter. Yes, it takes a crew to assemble Quarter Notes and prepare it for mailing. A big thank you to the following people who have helped:

Jane Germani	Patsy Watts
Anne Woeste	Maggie Wells
JoAnn Bates	Linda Ague
Carol Thibeau	Jay Thibeau
Penny Berkold	

Please contact Connie Burden if you want to know more, at 465-9600.

Chorister Profiles

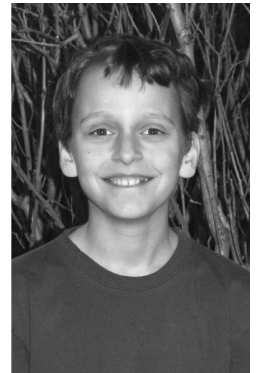
Sam Brandt

Sam Brandt (16) is a junior in high school. His sister, Ingrid, is in Lyrica. When he isn't singing in Exit 194 or in his school choir, Sam likes to read, travel, play cricket and compete in geography competitions, in which he won first place at a National contest. This summer Sam will sing in the Bach Festival but other than that says his summer is pretty open. His future plans for music are to sing "whenever and wherever I can."



Anthony Carter

Anthony Carter (10) has been involved with Oregon Festival Choirs for three years and currently sings in the Allegro Boychoir. He hopes to continue his involvement with OFC, as well as with many other activities. Anthony has been learning to play the cello, he recently took up ballet and likes listening to classical music. In his spare time enjoys reading, "any book off the shelf."



Cloe Rice

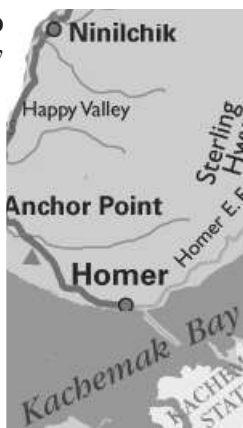
Cloe Rice (12) is in middle school. Her favorite color is black and her favorite food is pizza. Cloe got into OFC when she saw an audition poster during one of her school choir classes. Cloe is in band at school and says it's her favorite subject. Cloe enjoys hanging out with her friends, reading, and listening to rock. The song Cloe enjoyed most from the spring concert was, "Can You Hear?" Of her summer and future plans for music, Cloe says she is pretty open, but would like to continue doing music for a long time.



Changes in the OFC Team

by Matthew Svoboda, Director of Operations

All roads lead to Homer...or away from Homer...In either case, there's only one road.



After four-plus years as a beloved OFC employee, Sheryl Ohlsen has moved with her family (including Buck Curry, Tonia Curry-Ohlsen, and Chelsea Curry Ohlsen), to Homer, on the southern tip of the Kenai Peninsula in Alaska. They will be missed and we wish them a wonderful transition to their new life in Homer.

While at OFC, Sheryl wore many hats and was indispensable in helping organize the many nuts and bolts of OFC operations. Tonia and Chelsea sang with the choirs for a number of years and Buck managed the yearly fall barbecue grill and moved many-a-riser for seasonal concerts.

OFC is very fortunate to have some wonderful new team members this year: Jennifer d'Fonseca, Sherri Phillips and Leslie Renken. I caught up with each of them recently for a short interview. Here are the questions and their respective answers.

NINE DETAILS OUR READERS ARE DYING TO KNOW

1. What is your official job title?
2. What are your primary duties?
3. What's best about working here?
4. What do you do in your spare time?
5. If you were given \$10,000, how would you spend it?
6. What's in your refrigerator that you can't live without?
7. A world without music would be like a salad without (what?)
8. (What) makes you go weak in the knees.
9. If you were a superhero, your special power would be (what?)

JENNIFER D'FONSECA

My official job title is "Financial & Enrollment Coordinator." I'm also the Rehearsal Manager and Coffee Sales Coordinator.

The short answer is that I pay the bills, handle enrollment, set up accounts for choristers, take payments and set up accounts for donors and PICCFEST.

Before coming to OFC I hadn't worked in a place that felt like family. A constant stream of jokes creates a light feeling with much less stress than in other jobs. I also love knowing that I am working for an organization that is helping children learn what I feel is the color and spice of life— music.

Spare time? Hah! On those rare occasions I go to the coast. Long hikes around hidden lakes or beautiful rivers is also very peaceful. And I'm learning a new love: Weeding my garden and weeding in the warm air or in the rain.

If I was given \$10,000 today I would pay bills, take a much needed trip to Alaska to visit my sister and help my parents get ahead of their bills so that Dad can retire this year.

Food allergies have taught me a lot about foods I thought I couldn't live without. But don't take away my ground chicken-chili verde enchiladas...absolutely my favorite dish.

It goes without saying, a world without music would be like a salad without dressing.

After eight years my husband still makes me go weak in the knees.

If I were a superhero my special power would be breathing underwater.

SHERRI PHILLIPS

I'm the Volunteer Coordinator. My job is to help parents make the choir successful in all of its endeavors.

The best thing about OFC is watching kids grow musically and socially.

In my spare time I enjoy reading, caving, camping and boating.

Show me the money! I would pay off one of our two new cars.

The only food I can't live without is coffee and it's not in the fridge, it's on the counter.

A world without music would be like a salad without lettuce.

Babies smiles make me go weak in the knees.

If I were a superhero, my special power would be teleportation (I'm tired of traffic).

LESLIE RENKEN

I'm the Wardrobe Coordinator. My job entails putting together the wardrobe for all choristers, including sewing, altering or hemming before any performances.

I believe that music is an important aspect of life, which is missing in the lives of most people. Music plays an important part in a person's mental health, outlook, motivation, and purpose in life.

Spare time? I read.

I would like to say I would do something charitable with a spare \$10 thousand, but chances are I would buy a car that gets better gas mileage than my Suburban.

Who could live without tomato juice?

A world without music would be like a salad without the dressing—dull, with nothing to spice up the flavor.

Sunsets make my knees go weak.

My special power would be the ability to move from one location to another with the snap of my fingers—no more running around trying to get from place to place to get things done!

Pacific International Children's Choir Festival

I DREAM A WORLD

Guest Conductor BOB CHILCOTT

Gala Concert
June 29, 7:30 pm
Silva Concert Hall

With 9 Choirs From Across the U.S.
 And Members of the
 Eugene Youth Symphony

*Tickets Available Only at
 The Hult Center Box Office - 682-5000*

A CHALLENGE TO OFC PARENTS AND FRIENDS

FILL THE HOUSE!

Please invite your entire family and all your friends to this year's PICCFEST Gala Concert. Help us show our friends at the Oregon Bach Festival that we can leave folks standing in the aisles, asking for more!

OFC Administrative and Music Team

Peter Robb	Founder/Artistic Director
Matthew Svoboda	Operations Director/Choir Director
Jeanie Neven	Director Training Choir Division/Recruitment Coordinator
Camilla Carter	Accompanist
Connie Burden	Development Coordinator
Jennifer D'Fonseca	Enrollment & Financial Coordinator
Sherri Phillips	Volunteer Coordinator
Leslie Renken	Wardrobe Coordinator
Hung-Yun Chu	Principal Accompanist (on leave 2007-2008)

PICCFEST BRUNCH

Saturday June 28
10 - 11 a.m.

**In the Atrium at the
 Lillis Business Complex**

**An Opportunity To Help
 Recruit New Supporters
 For OFC**

**CALL CONNIE BURDEN
 FOR DETAILS
 465-9600**

OREGON *festival* CHOIRS

110 West 6th Avenue, Ste. 4
 Post Office Box 207
 Eugene, OR 97440

Non-Profit
 U.S. Postage
 Paid
 Eugene, OR
 Permit #174

In This Issue

A Rare Privilege, A Lifetime
 Experience by Peter Robb Pg. 1

Chorister Birthdays Pg. 2

OFC Wish List Pg. 2

Focus on Volunteers Pg. 2

Chorister Profiles Pg. 2

Changes in the OFC Team
 by Matthew Svoboda Pg. 3

PICCFEST and a Challenge
 to Parents and Friends Pg. 4

www.oregonfestivalchoirs.org
 541-465-9600