



*Peter Robb*  
*Artistic Director*

Let me tell you about the most amazing six hours in my workweek: Rehearsal time. I haven't always been able to say that. In the early years, the choir's skill did not produce musical results equal to the effort put forth. Later, trying to balance administrative and artistic responsibilities often created stress that I carried into rehearsal. Whether it was obvious to the singers, it diminished my capacity to enjoy the process.

But things have been changing. The singers who have been with OFC for many years are having a cumulative effect on the entire choir's sound. Also, our increased focus on musicianship training under Matthew Svoboda's leadership is paying great dividends in the skill level of the choir. And I see growth in my own abilities to lead musically.

Many of you have commented about how well the choir is singing. All the factors above help to explain why. However, there is one more piece: An X-factor. Simply put...

## **WE HAVE MADE BUILDING COMMUNITY A HIGH PRIORITY**

These young singers come from 40 different schools. Most of them would probably never have chosen each other as friends without the connection and trust required to express themselves musically.

# **B**uilding community: A key to success!

If only you could have been there to observe our recent Pizza Rehearsal Social, a new monthly event for our touring division. The goal: Spend two hours together on a Friday night, singing, sharing a meal, and creating opportunities to deepen relationships.

It was wonderful! The room was filled with laughter and smiles as this unlikely gathering of 11 - 16 year olds demonstrated the power of their choral connection to create a place of belonging and pride. Ultimately the music-making is more heartfelt and passionate. I overheard one new chorister say to another, "Have I thanked-you for inviting me to be in OFC, because I love it!"

Although OFC is creating elite musical ensembles, it is not an elite social club. We are proud to have a choir as diverse as our community, representing most demographic sectors. And our numbers are continuing to grow. Our board is committed to ensuring access to the choir for any interested singer regardless of ability to pay. For some, a

modest scholarship; for others, a significant amount of aid; and in rare situations, when warranted, a complete tuition waiver.

Getting back to the most amazing six hours of my workweek: After each encounter with OFC singers, when I consider the miracle of community that is an outgrowth of our musical growth, I feel my heart grow.

As we continue to extend this experience to more young people, we need your help. Perhaps you can make a one-time gift toward scholarships. Some of you might consider sponsoring one chorister tuition a year. Some of you may be choir parents who want to ensure that other deserving singers benefit from the community of OFC that enriches your child's life.

Thank you for joining us in our vision to create a singing community.



*OFC Choristers jazzed the crowd, singing for Kitty Piercy and other distinguished guests at the swearing-in of Eugene's newly reelected Mayor*

# Choristers' Birthdays

# Chorister Profiles



March

Leila Weatherly  
Ian Rankins  
Alicia Berning-Anderson  
Janae Teige  
Tristan Grimes

April

Justin Nichols  
Jane Boggs  
Moya Moses  
Kade Puls  
Brianna Ireland  
Chelsea Blair  
Mara Peasley  
Tayler LeBlanc  
Madison Kettwig

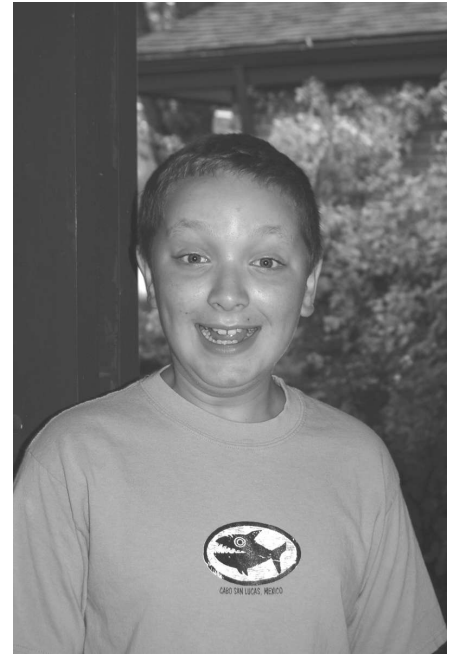
May

Casha Walsh  
Souvagani Paul  
Courtney LaFranchi

Jordan Claybaugh is a 6th grader at Middle School. Her favorite school subjects are math and science, and she also enjoys playing basketball, volleyball, and the piano. She has three sisters, and three cats, as well as chickens. She got into OFC because Mr. Robb goes to her church and told her mom about the choirs. Jordan's favorite song from last season was Hope for Resolution.



**Jordan Claybaugh**



**Taylor LaPraire**

Taylor LaPraire is 12 years old and is in 7th grade. His favorite school subjects are Social Studies and Science. His hobbies, other than singing of course, include reading and playing basketball. He has two beagles and a sister, Tayia, who is ten. Taylor got into OFC when his friend Quincy told him how awesome it was to sing with people as cool as us. Taylor says his favorite from last season is Hope For Resolution, because of the cool movements and harmonies.

## OFC ACCOMPANIST A WINNER!

the International Piano Sessions in Prague.

Caitlin Sugishita lived in Colorado for 13 years but returned to her hometown of Eugene to live closer to her extended family.

Caitlin attended the University of Colorado at Boulder, completing her B.M. and M.M. degrees in Piano Performance. During her time there she won numerous regional competitions including MTNA and the Nancy Clark Piano Competition. In 2000, she was a featured performer at the International Piano Festival in Houston, TX. In 2001 Caitlin was accepted as a student at the Ecole de Musique in Paris and also had an opportunity to study and perform at

In Colorado Caitlin worked as a teacher and accompanist, and performed with musical groups including the Colorado Opera, Boulder Chorale, Arvada Center Chorale, Resonance Women's Chorus, Boulder Messiah Chorale and Jefferson Unitarian Church. Caitlin has performed both solo and collaborative recitals throughout the United States and Europe and most recently gave a series of recitals in Japan with her husband, violinist Takanori Sugishita, who is a member of the Eugene Symphony.

Caitlin enjoys working with children and is excited to be a part of the Oregon Festival Choirs staff. In her



*OFC Accompanist, Caitlin Sugishita*

spare time she loves reading, hiking, running and rock climbing. She recently completed her first 50-mile trail race near Mt. Hood last July. She has a 2-year-old son named Kiryu.

# AN OFC ALUMNAE SPEAKS...

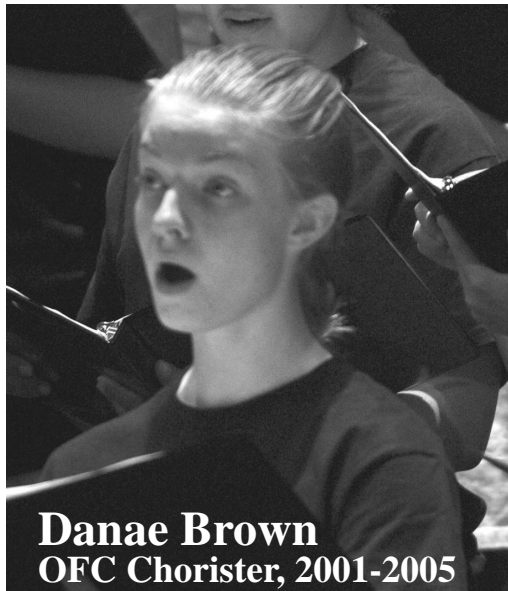
Danae Brown, OFC chorister from 2001-2005, is now a student at Lane Community College and plans to transfer to the UofO in fall where she is eager to study linguistics with an ultimate goal of teaching. While at Lane, Danae has had the opportunity to sing in Mr. Svoboda's Chamber Choir. Also, over the summer Danae had the privilege of singing the St. Matthew Passion with OFC conducted by Maestro Rilling at the Bach Festival.

Danae began singing with Lyrica as an eighth grader in fall 2001. This marked the achievement of Danae's life-long dream to sing in a choir. Although Danae had been in musicals and violin and piano concerts before, choir really helped her confidence start to grow both on and off the stage.

Some of her favorite choir memories are from a tour to San Francisco and singing at PICCFEST as both a chorister and serving as a guide. PICCFEST expanded Danae's love and appreciation for choir. "There is nothing quite like meeting people your age from all over the country and making beautiful music with them," she said.

All four years Danae was in choir, practice was the highlight of her week. "No matter what was going on in my life, choir was a safe, fun place to come to. Not only was I surrounded by friends, but also when we sang together everything seemed wonderful and right," she said, adding that great rehearsals with Mr. Robb lead to great performances, especially at retirement and nursing homes, that always brought to her an excitement like Christmas morning.

The joy of making music increased immensely for Danae with the choir's opportunity to sing the St. Matthew Passion at the Bach Festival in 2004,



**Danae Brown**  
OFC Chorister, 2001-2005

followed immediately by their trip to England.

Looking back, Danae has participated in some amazing experiences and musical opportunities. Her favorite year in choir was after the England tour; the year "The Big New Things" (a girl and guys high school choir) began. Danae remembers, "We didn't finish and polish many songs, maybe three or four the whole year, but we spent a lot of time singing, exploring, and experimenting with different sounds. I learned so much about singing and about myself that year. The first three years of choir were preparing me for that amazing breakthrough in growth, understanding and appreciation of music."

Although Danae is not currently involved in choir, music is still an important part of her life. She is

## The best kept secret in town?

Is OFC the best kept secret in town?

Some folks think we need to tell our story more—To make more noise about our achievements and surround the community with the sound of our choristers

How do we get the story out? Do we need an **"Introduction to OFC"** event where we present our vision and let visitors experience our chorister's rehearsal?

**YOU'RE IN LUCK!  
IT'S ALREADY HAPPENING!**

All we need is for you to attend and to bring someone along.

## Discover OFC Today

A new, improved presentation and VIP rehearsal visit

**April 2, from 5 - 6 p.m.**  
**Central Presbyterian Church**

Bring a friend. Bring a relative.  
(Bring both!)

Share what the excitement is about.

immensely thankful for the time she was a part of OFC, not only for the incredible music she was a part of, but also for the wonderful friendships she developed and life-changing experiences she had.

## CONTRIBUTORS CORNER...

### OFC Contributors Evelyn Matthews and Arolf Salo Speak Out

*Contributing to Oregon Festival Choirs is the best way we know to keep children and young people singing and performing in our community. As an educator I've seen first hand the vital importance of music in the lives of young people. In Eugene we are so fortunate to have Oregon Festival Choirs which serves "all-comers." We know the gift of music and song lives on and on in the lives of our young people. Supporting OFC has brought us great pleasure. We hope you will join us in providing generous support for OFC.*

# OREGON *festival* CHOIRS

## SPRING CALENDAR

**April 29 - May 3**

Fiero & Lyrica Tour Seattle 2009

**May 7 - 8**

Allegro & Cantilena Tour Portland 2009

**May 17, 2009**

10th Annual Spring Concert

**East West North & South**

Featuring all the choirs of OFC

2 PM at Central Presbyterian Church in Eugene

Tickets available at the door

May 29 and 30  
Open auditions for 2009-2010 season

Call 465-9600 to schedule a time

**June 27, 2009**

**Brunch at PICCFEST**

Annual Donor Event on UO campus

Call 465-9600 for details

**June 28, 2009**

**PICCFEST GALA**

Rediscovering the Americas: The Music  
of Two Continents

7:30 PM in Silva Hall at the Hult Center  
Tickets available at the Hult Center box office

## OFC Administrative and Music Team

|                           |                                      |
|---------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| <b>Peter Robb</b>         | Founder/Artistic Director            |
| <b>Matthew Svoboda</b>    | Director of Musicianship Advancement |
| <b>Camilla Carter</b>     | Principal Accompanist                |
| <b>Caitlin Sugishita</b>  | Accompanist                          |
| <b>Amy Adams</b>          | Training Division Vocal Coach        |
| <b>Connie Burden</b>      | Development Coordinator              |
| <b>Jennifer D'Fonseca</b> | Enrollment & Financial Coordinator   |
| <b>Sherri Phillips</b>    | Volunteer Coordinator                |
| <b>Leslie Renken</b>      | Wardrobe Coordinator                 |
| <b>JoVone Kettwig</b>     | Music Librarian                      |

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