



Schola Cantorum

Gregory Wait, *Music Director*

MARCH 2015 NEWSLETTER

Upcoming Events

MARCH 14 AND 15

Lift every Voice
A tribute to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.



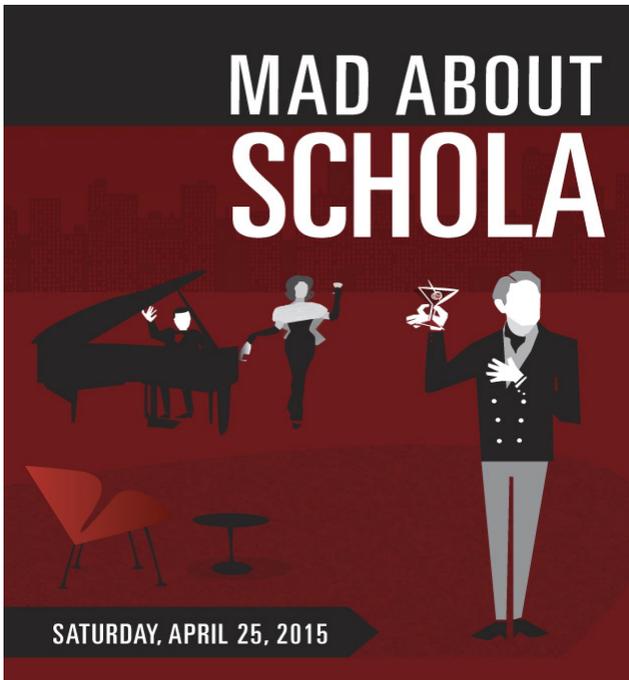
SATURDAY, APRIL 25

2015 Gala
Mad About Schola



MAY 16 AND 17

The Gift of Music
Choral Inspirations from John Rutter



Schola Cantorum presents its 2015 Gala

MAD ABOUT SCHOLA

AN EVENING OF RETRO FUN, GOURMET DINING,
AND ENTERTAINMENT CIRCA 1960

Saturday, April 25 • 6:00 -10:00 PM
Palo Alto Hills Golf and Country Club,
3000 Alexis Drive, Palo Alto

Ticket: \$160

Co-chairs Karla Valente and Marie Alberry-Hawkins are madly preparing Schola's annual gala, a retro affair that will have you singing, dancing and dining Mad Men style. Join us for a no-host cocktail hour featuring Michael Levine on the piano, followed by dinner, an all-girl Doo-wop group, a 60's sing-along, and dance lessons – be prepared to twist and shout! As you celebrate the past, you'll have two opportunities to keep Schola alive in the future: through the silent auction with retro-themed prizes, and the popular Fund-a-Need auction.

You'd be mad to miss this party!

So don your vintage attire or come in evening wear – black tie optional. But act fast, tickets are limited!

Deadline for tickets and food choices: April 4.
Go to www.scholacantorum.org to reserve or call 650-254-1700.

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LIFT EVERY VOICE

At a time when race relations are once again making headlines, and the movie *Selma* hits the big screen, it's serendipitous that we present a tribute to Martin Luther King, Jr. The members of Schola will *Lift Every Voice* to sing and speak the message of justice, freedom, and peace on March 14 & 15. From spirituals by Moses Hogan, to new and original works by two Schola members, the event promises to be uplifting and thought-provoking.

Schola vocalist Marjorie Halloran has composed an original work titled *Behind the Dim Unknown*, the centerpiece of the concert. This work is a layering of patriotic melodies sung by the chorus, and spoken word solos inspired by Dr. King's writings and abolitionist texts. We are honored to feature Judge Luckey as narrator for the piece. Luckey is the managing artistic director for the Palo Alto Children's Theatre. Dawn Reyen, Schola's assistant conductor and piano accompanist, has arranged two popular spirituals to close the concert: an a cappella version of *Free at Last*, followed by the inspiring *We Shall Overcome*.

Tickets \$25 at the door. Students 25 years of age and under free. Visit our website at www.scholacantorum.org for locations and ticket prices.

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Notes from the Executive Director



It is with great pleasure that we restart the Schola Voice designed to provide you with an intimate glimpse of our activities, people behind the scenes, and news. It is my hope that you will not only enjoy reading each issue, but will share it with family and friends to help increase community awareness of this extraordinarily talented group of Singers led by our gifted Music Director, Gregory Wait. Be part of the design of future content by letting me know what you would like to see featured. Let us know how Schola is doing, what you'd like to see us perform, and where. I end by thanking our editor Diane Holcomb and designer Susi Merhar for their good work in creating this first issue.

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MARJORIE HALLORAN, RESIDENT COMPOSER

A grad student in residence at the Vermont College of Fine Arts, with a decade of experience writing for choirs, **Marjorie Halloran** approached Schola's Music Director Greg Wait, asking if she could write a piece for an upcoming concert. He gave her free rein, requesting that it include a spoken word element. "*I had fun arranging the melody,*" Halloran says, "*and then taking it apart to make it unsettling.*" For tension, she added atonal chords, wrote pieces for higher registers, and scored portions where the choir holds long notes as soloists speak Dr. King's words. The 12-minute composition ends with an unresolved chord, "*to represent how far we've come, but how far we have left to go.*" The overall effect, from joyous to triumphant to bittersweet, "*should be hopeful and thoughtful.*"



MEET OUR 2014 NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER CONCERT SPONSORS

It takes many contributors and concert attendees to keep Schola Cantorum singing, and we appreciate each and every one. Featured here are two of our concert sponsors.



Those of you who caught Jon Nakamatsu backed by our 90-voice choir performing Petite Messe Solonnelle can thank **Cathy and Steve Combs** for making the concert a reality. Seven years ago, Cathy and former Schola Board Chair Candy Pelissero met with Jon, and together they began discussing the concept of a joint Schola/Nakamatsu concert. Nakamatsu, a long-time personal friend of the Combs', was their son's high school German teacher before becoming a renowned pianist. *"It was a good way to marry the fact that we knew Jon so well, and to do something to benefit Schola,"* says Cathy.

Cathy originally joined Schola nearly 40 years ago, after she and her husband were strolling through the DeAnza College campus one evening. Cathy said she heard *"this glorious sound coming from one of the classrooms"* and, taking advantage of the rehearsal break, walked up to Schola founder and director Royal Stanton, asking about the group. With his encouragement, she auditioned and has been singing with Schola ever since.

"It's a community treasure," she says of the organization. *"As individuals, we choose to become a part of Schola, and therefore we are also responsible for helping it to thrive."* While there are many choral groups in the area, it's the caliber of Schola, she feels, that sets it apart, mainly thanks to Greg Wait. *"He pushes us to be better,"* she says, *"and every rehearsal is a voice lesson in itself."*



Anneka and Stephen Bear sponsored the December holiday concert, Joyeux Noel. When Anneka and Stephen received an inheritance from an unfortunate loss, they turned it into a blessing by donating to Schola's 2014 Fund-A-Need auction. *"There have been times when I couldn't make a large contribution in the past,"* says Anneka. *"It's not easy for choral groups to be funded with grants. We rely on members and non-members to make donations."*

A graduate in Vocal Music from San Jose State, Anneka had toured Europe and Australia with the college choir and appeared in numerous musical theater productions, but wanted an outlet for her singing on a regular basis. She was impressed by the broad spectrum of music that Schola performs – from spirituals to masses to Broadway show tunes. *"They're up to different challenges,"* Anneka says. And for a woman whose forte is music, she was game. Anneka joined the choir in 1998, and is now a frequent soloist. She also coordinates the six-week Summer Sings program.

Inside: 2015 Gala, Mad about Schola

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

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Gregory Wait, Music Director

