



Peggy Dettwiler, Director of Choral Activities  
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The challenges of the Covid-19 Pandemic continue for all of us and especially for the singing community. It is hard to comprehend that we started facing this health crisis two years ago. I remember clearly as I was chairing a conference for the American Choral Directors Eastern Region, which was held March 4-7, 2020 in Rochester, NY. One week later, everything closed down!

Since then, many concerts have been cancelled, our European Tour has been postponed twice, and singing with masks has become the norm. But, somehow (and with the help of Jim Welch, Mansfield University's safety authority), we have found a way to keep making music, observing various protocols. All participants were asked to show vaccination status and/or a negative Covid test. And singers also had to wear masks for rehearsals and performances.

Our CD, "Masked Mansfield Choirs Make Music" (the title is intentionally full of alliterations) is proof that we kept singing at Mansfield University! (See the cover with titles later in this issue of *Hear the Voices*.) Performances from the past year, including our recent holiday concert *Sing for Joy!*, can be accessed on the Mansfield University Music YouTube channel at <https://www.youtube.com/c/MansfieldUniversityMusic/videos>.

Speaking of the holiday concert in December (a glorious picture of the event is shown on the next page), I have to mention a selection sung by the Concert Choir that was written with these trying times in mind (and many people commented on it after the performance). Every time we sing it, tears well up in my eyes. "Threads of Joy" by Tim Brent and Amanda Quist is set to a poem by Laura Foley. They state in the program notes that "it is a song of hope and revelation that, even in our worst moments, joy and light will illuminate the darkness."

I have noticed joy, how it threads below the darkness.  
Have you seen it too?  
And have you heard it,  
How it speaks the unspeakable, the bliss?  
A kind of silence,  
A light beneath pain.  
Have you noticed?  
It rises like fingers and then —look!  
It presses through.

*Choral Cues . . .*  
by Peggy Dettwiler





And so, we “press on” and plan for much music-making with the choirs this spring! In the following you find the Choral Calendar for the spring of 2022 and more detailed descriptions of what lies ahead:

- performances of the musical *Hello Dolly* (Sheryl Monkeliën’s, my dear colleague’s, farewell production as she prepares for retirement by the end of the academic year);
- a concert celebrating the birthday of J. S. Bach with the Chamber Singers and Father Erb (he made his somewhat ghoulish appearance in a Halloween Organ Recital in the fall, which is described in this issue as well);
- the Alumni Reunion of Concert Choir and Mansfieldians;
- the appearance of the Concert Choir at the PMEA Convention at the Kalahari Resort and Conference Center in the Poconos;
- the performance of Haydn’s *The Creation* (a most uplifting and joyful piece of music) by the Festival Chorus;
- the Ninth European Tour of the Concert Choir (the Mansfieldians will be on board as well).

Thus, the plans for choral music-making in the spring are in place. Now, with good luck and caution, we can turn them into reality and sing together with hope and joy.

## Choral Calendar

*All events take place in Steadman Theater unless noted otherwise.*

March 3-5, 7:30, March 6, 2:30pm  
 March 21, 7:30 pm  
 April 2, 7:30 pm  
 April 3, 2:30 pm  
 April 6-9  
  
 April 23, 7:30; April 24, 2:30 pm  
 April 28, 7:30 pm  
 April 30, 7:30 pm  
 May 2, 7 pm  
 May 15-27  
 July 24-30

Musical: *Hello Dolly!* (Straughn Auditorium)  
 Bach’s Birthday Concert with Organ & Chamber Singers  
 Mansfieldians Reunion Concert  
 Concert Choir Reunion Concert in Straughn  
 PA Music Educators State Convention in the Poconos  
 (Concert Choir performs on April 7 at 1:30 pm)  
 Festival Chorus: Haydn’s *Creation*  
 Vocal Jazz Festival with Vintage Vocal Quartet  
 Concert Choir & Chamber Singers Concert  
 Acting for Singers Performance  
 Concert Choir European Tour to Spain and France  
 Choral Academy for High School Students

## MU Production of *Hello Dolly!*

*Hello Dolly!*, book by Michael Stewart and music & lyrics by Jerry Herman is based on *The Matchmaker* by Thornton Wilder. This blockbuster Broadway hit is bursting with humor, romance, high-energy dancing, and some of the greatest songs in musical theater history. The musical follows the romantic and comic exploits of Dolly Gallagher Levi (a strong-willed matchmaker), as she travels to New York to find a match for the miserly “well-known, unmarried, half-a-millionaire” Horace Vandergelder. The show’s memorable songs include *Put On Your Sunday Clothes*, *Ribbons Down My Back*, *Before the Parade Passes By*, *Hello, Dolly!*, *Elegance*, and *It Only Takes a Moment*.



The Mansfield University cast includes Natalie Holsey (senior, music education) as Dolly Levi, Carson Witherite (junior, vocal performance) as Horace Vandergelder, Jay Falgo (senior, music education) as Cornelius Hackl, Emma Criswell (junior, music education) as Mrs. Malloy, Mat Thomas (sophomore, music education) as Barnaby Tucker, and Hanna Worthington (junior, music education) as Minnie Fay.

The production will be directed by both MU music professor Sheryl Monkeliën and MU Alum Peter Davis ('93). Isaac and Val Campbell will choreograph the show and Davis will serve as technical director. Keep the dates and times listed in the Choral Calendar in mind. (Tickets are \$16 for adults, \$12 for seniors/students, children (12 and under) \$6, and MU students are FREE with ID.) We hope to see you there!

## Celebrating Bach, Haydn’s *Creation*, and an End-of-the-Semester Concert

Father Edward Erb has brought renewed attention to the pipe organs on campus, particularly the Möller in Steadman. We are collaborating on a concert celebrating Bach’s birthday on March 21<sup>st</sup>. Among the repertoire chosen is Bach’s Cantata #147: “Herz und Mund und Tat und Leben,” which ends with the familiar “Jesu, Joy of Man’s Desiring.”

The Festival Chorus will prepare *The Creation* by Franz Joseph Haydn. This great oratorio was written between 1796 and 1798 after Haydn had visited England and heard the oratorios of George Frederic Handel. It shares with Handel’s *Messiah* a swift succession of recitatives, arias, and choruses along a dramatic theme. The text is based upon Milton’s *Paradise Lost* and the book of *Genesis* and tells the story of the creation with some of the most picturesque music of its time. It is an uplifting work featuring Soprano Alissa Rose, Tenor Jordan Schreiner, and Baritone Todd Ranney, all members of the voice faculty at Mansfield.

The final concert of the semester will be held on April 30 and will feature the music that the Concert Choir is taking to Europe (hopefully) on their tour to Spain and Southern France on May 15 to 27. We will participate in the World Choral Cup hosted by Interkultur in Calella, Spain. This is the same organization who sponsors the Choral Olympics in which we have taken part on four different occasions. The World Choral Cup is organized in a similar format. The Concert Choir will participate in two categories. The repertoire requirements follow certain formulas based upon historical, location, and time limitations (15 minutes max). Here are our selections for Adult Choirs and Musica Sacra. (The Mansfieldians are participating in the Pop/Jazz category.)

Adult Choirs	Cantemus	Lajos Bárdos (1899-1986)	1:40
	Abendständchen	Johannes Brahms (1833-1897)	1:50
	Threads of Joy	Tim Brent/Amanda Quist)	5:15
	Clap Praise –	Diane White	6'
			<u>14:45</u>
Musica Sacra a cappella	Exultate Deo –	Hans Leo Hassler (1564-1612)	3'
	Ehre sei Gott in der Höhe –	Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847)	3:55
	The Old Church –	Stephen Paulus (1949-2014)	3:25
	Elijah! –	Arr. Stacey V. Gibbs	4:30
			<u>14:50</u>

## Concert Choir Alumni Reunion – Celebrating 56 Years Mansfieldians Reunion

The Concert Choir Reunion should have taken place last year, like so many other events; but the opportunity to celebrate Sheryl Monkeliën's retirement this spring gives more gravitas to hold a wonderful reunion to include graduates who have participated in either Concert Choir or Mansfieldians or both!

We are planning the festivities for the first weekend in April: Friday, April 1, Saturday, April 2, and Sunday, April 3. (See the itinerary below for the details!)

Sheryl and I have developed programs for each alumni ensemble. Alumni can choose to sing in one or both groups. Note the finale, "Somewhere" from *West Side Story*! This will be a wonderful way to end our gathering in honor of the recent passing of Stephen Sondheim and the fabulous movie, where Rita Moreno gives us an even deeper interpretation of this profound song!

### *Music for Mansfieldians Reunion*

(Sheryl Monkeliën will send information to participants about getting the music.)

Blues in the Night, arr. Phil Mattson (a cappella)  
My Favorite Things, arr. Kelly Kunz (with rhythm section)  
On A Clear Day, arr. Darmon Meader (with MU Jazz Ensemble)  
I'll Be Seeing You, arr. Phil Mattson (a capella)

### *Music for the Reunion of the Concert Choir*

(Packets of the five published selections are available for purchase from Menchey Music Service:  
Lisa Livingston, Menchey Music Service, Inc., 717.637.2185 x232 or email: [llivingston@menchey.com](mailto:llivingston@menchey.com))

Richte mich Gott, Felix Mendelssohn (a cappella, CPDL) (Peggy will send a PDF file.)  
Johnny Has Gone for a Soldier, Rene Clausen, G Schirmer 50600086 (sax, piano)  
(featuring Joseph Murphy, Saxophone)  
Amazing Grace, arr. Stephen Hatfield, Boosey 4800480 (with bagpipes)  
(featuring Roderick Nevin, Bagpipes)  
Abide with me, arr. Bill Cutter, MorningStar 50-3165-E (piano)  
Walk Together Children, arr. Moses Hagan, Hal Leonard 0870332 (a cappella)

### *Music for Combined Ensembles*

Somewhere, Leonard Bernstein, arr. Edgerton (a cappella)



The 2016 Reunion Choir!

## Accommodations

Blocks have been secured at two Mansfield hotels:

Microtel 570-662-9300

Ask for Choir Reunion room block (\$102 plus tax)

Hampton Inn 570-662-7500

Ask for Choir Reunion room block (\$129 plus tax)

## The Program

### Friday, April 1

7:00 pm

Registration begins in Steadman Lobby

7:30-9:00 pm

Mansfieldians rehearsal

9:00 pm

Reception

### Saturday, April 2

9:00 am

Registration continues in Steadman Lobby

9:00 am

Attic Sale of CDs, DVDs, and more!  
(Steadman Lobby)

10 am-Noon:

Alumni Choir rehearsal

Noon: Lunch on own (Attic sale continues, Campus Bookstore visit)

1:15-2:45 pm

Mansfieldians rehearsal

3:00-4:30 pm

Concert Choir Alumni Choir rehearsal

5:30 pm

Reunion Banquet

6:45 pm

Sound Check

7:30 pm

Mansfieldians Concert in Steadman Theatre

9:30 pm

Reception (Butler 163)

### Sunday, April 3

10:30 am-Noon

Concert Choir and Alumni rehearsal (Straughn Auditorium)

2:30 pm

Concert Choir and Alumni Choir Performance



Program of the 50<sup>th</sup> Reunion of the Concert Choir, coinciding with the reopening of Straughn Hall in 2016

## **PMEA—Concert Choir Invitation**

Congratulations! It is our pleasure to invite your group to perform during the 2022 PMEA Annual Conference, April 7-9 at the Kalahari Resort & Conference Center in the Poconos. We are finalizing the schedule and will confirm the specific performance day and time for your group next week. It is an honor to have been accepted as more than 50 entries were submitted for evaluation.

In light of the continuing uncertainty surrounding Covid-19, PMEA will require directors of invited performing groups to confirm that all ensemble members are fully vaccinated or have received a negative PCR test 72 hours prior to the start of the conference.

Please keep in mind that your performance is an opportunity to showcase your group to your colleagues. We recommend scheduling a special concert in your community to highlight your groups' accomplishments prior to or following your 2022 PMEA Conference performance.

Please convey my congratulations to the members of your ensemble! We will be in touch soon with more information.

Best wishes for continued success!

Debbie Chrisman

2022 PMEA Annual In-service Conference Chair

## European Tour 2022

If everything goes according to plan, the Mansfield University Concert Choir and the Mansfieldians will lift off for their Ninth European Tour in May 2022. The tour, originally planned for July 2020 to culminate in participating in the World Choir Games in Antwerp and Ghent in Flanders, Belgium, was postponed to July 2021 because of the pandemic, but even 2021 was not a year of travel for the same reasons. There is a good chance that stars will look kindly at the choristers'

### Tour Details

May 15 - May 27, 2022

Group Leader

*Peggy Dettwiler*

Group ID

74678

Depart From

*New York*

### Included Features

- Round-Trip Airfare Booked on a Commercial Airline
- Superior 3-Star and Standard 4-Star Hotels, Double/Twin Occupancy with Private Bath
- Services of a Professional Tour Manager Throughout your Travel Program
- All Sightseeing and Entrances as Listed in the Itinerary
- Private Deluxe Air-Conditioned Motor Coach
- Basic Gratuities for Tour Manager and Bus Driver
- Group- and Repertoire-Appropriate Venue to Include Pre-Concert Rehearsal Time, Where Possible
- Guaranteed Audiences
- Liability Coverage Protection in Excess of \$50,000,000



## Mansfield University Concert Choir Europe Tour

*Mansfield University Concert Choir*

Madrid 3, Under Own Arrangements 4, Carcassonne 1, Avignon 3

**MAY 15, 2022: OVERNIGHT FLIGHT** Departure from the United States.

**MAY 16, 2022: MADRID** Meet your Encore Tour Manager upon arrival at the airport and transfer into Madrid to begin exploring the capital of Spain and the second-largest city in the European Union. Check in to your hotel and enjoy a welcome group dinner this evening. (D)

**MAY 17, 2022: MADRID** Today after breakfast, provided each morning at your hotel, you'll enjoy a half-day guided sightseeing tour of Madrid. Highlights include two of the city's best-known squares, the Plaza Mayor and Puerta del Sol, as well as the Royal Palace of Madrid, the official residence of the Spanish Royal Family and the largest functioning royal palace in Europe. Entrance will also be included to the Prado Museum, one of the finest art museums in the world containing the best collection of Spanish art including works by Francisco Goya, El Greco and Deigo Valazquez. Later today you will have your first performance of the tour and dinner tonight will be in a local restaurant. (B, D)

**MAY 18, 2022: MADRID** Today will feature a full-day excursion to the towns of Segovia and Avila, both of which have been declared UNESCO World Heritage sites. Segovia is famous for three main landmarks: its Roman aqueduct, cathedral (one of the last in Europe built in Gothic style) and castle, which served as one of the templates for Walt Disney's Cinderella castle.



travels in 2022. Europe is still the destination, but, instead of Flanders with stopovers in Germany and France, the itinerary now will take a more southerly trajectory with Madrid, Barcelona (participation in the World Choral Cup in Calella) and Southern France as highpoints. Encore Tours of Boston, Massachusetts is the tour company for most of the trip; Interkultur in Fernwald, Germany (near Frankfurt) is the organizer for the World Choral Cup segment of the tour.



## Mansfield University Concert Choir Europe Tour

*(continued)*

Nearby Avila, known for its medieval walls, is sometimes called the Town of Stones and Saints and claims the highest number of Romanesque and Gothic churches per capita in Spain. The city walls, built in the 12th century, completely surround the old town and Avila has been called the "finest medieval remnant in Spain." Today you will have an informal performance in either Segovia or Avila and a group dinner in a local restaurant. (B,D)

**MAY 19, 2022: UNDER OWN ARRANGEMENTS** Take the high-speed AVE train this morning from Madrid to Barcelona this morning and arrive at the World Choral Cup. Hotel, meal and World Choral Cup participation under arrangements through Interkultur.

**MAY 20, 2022: UNDER OWN ARRANGEMENTS** Hotel, meal, and World Choral Cup - participation under arrangements through Interkultur.

**MAY 21, 2022: UNDER OWN ARRANGEMENTS** Hotel, meal, and World Choral Cup - participation under arrangements through Interkultur.

**MAY 22, 2022: UNDER OWN ARRANGEMENTS** Hotel, meal and World Choral Cup - participation under arrangements through Interkultur. Award ceremonies take place today.

**MAY 23, 2022: CARCASSONNE** Depart Barcelona today for southern France. Your destination is the fascinating hilltop town of Carcassonne, famous for its medieval citadel with numerous watchtowers and double-walled fortifications. It was declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1997 and was historically of great strategic importance due to its location between trade routes connecting the Atlantic Ocean to the Mediterranean Sea. Wander through winding cobblestone alleys and passageways past old stone buildings and stroll along boulevards which are home to beautiful mansions from different centuries. Come together this evening for a group dinner in a local restaurant. (B,D)

**MAY 24, 2022: AVIGNON** Transfer to Avignon today with a stop en route in Nimes to see its famous Arena. Dubbed the most Roman city outside Italy, Nimes has a rich history dating back to the Roman Empire when it was a regional capital. The Arena of Nimes is a Roman Amphitheatre built around 70 AD, shortly after the Roman Coliseum. It is one of the best-preserved Roman amphitheatres in the world and could hold 24,000 spectators. It is still used today for two annual bullfights and concerts. Continue on to Avignon in the Provence region of France. Check in to your hotel and have dinner together this evening. (B,D).

**MAY 25, 2022: AVIGNON** Spend the day exploring Aix-en-Provence. Known as the "City of Counts" because the Counts of Provence once lived here, Aix-en-Provence has several impressive old palaces as well as hundreds of fountains. It is also called the "City of a Thousand Fountains." This evening, you'll have your final performance of the tour, a joint concert with a local choir at the Cathedrale Saint Sauveur. (B,D)

**MAY 26, 2022: AVIGNON** Visit the fairytale-like hilltop town of Les Baux. Then continue to Arles, a town where Vincent Van Gogh found artistic inspiration during his stay here from 1888 to 1889. This small town was also once a major Roman city, and this legacy is evident in impressively preserved Roman ruins that are still used for entertainment today. This evening, celebrate your successful performance tour with a farewell dinner. (B,D)

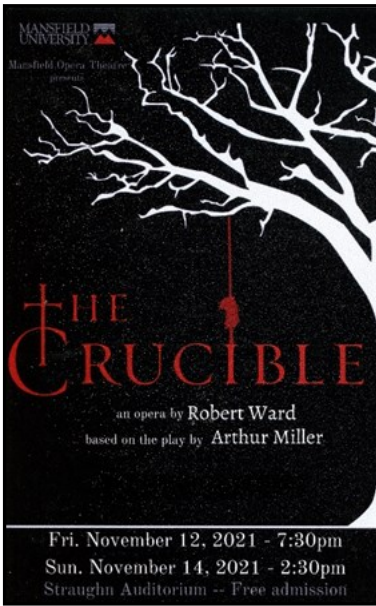
**MAY 27, 2022: DEPARTURE** Transfer to the airport for your return flight to the United States.

*(continued)*

- Concert Arrangements Including Venue Rental, Concert Permits, Advertisement and On-site Assistance
- Direct Billing to Participants
- Organization of Three performances



# THE CRUCIBLE produced by Mansfield Opera Theatre in November



Music by Robert Ward, Libretto by Bernard Stambler (based on a play by Arthur Miller)  
Stage & Music Director: Todd E. Ranney; Associate Music Director: Catherine Ranney;  
Scenic Design: Peter Davis

## The Cast (in order of appearance)

Betty Parris - Nicole Ann Orlando	Ezekiel Cheever - Jeremiah Loubriel / Patrick Murphy (cover)
Rev. Parris - Seth Shields	Judge Danforth - Jay Falgo
Tituba - Taylor Stevens	Sarah Good - Grace Chamberlain
Abigale - Deanna Mogianesi	Ruth Putnam - Marita Gattone
Ann Putnam - Skylar Marcen	Susanna Walcott - Emily Sanker
Thomas Putnam - Carson Witherite	Mercy Lewis - Elizabeth Brandt
Rebecca Nurse - Natalie Holsey / Bronwyn Stermer	Martha Sheldon - Emma Criswell
Francis Nurse - TBA / Kiefer Brien (cover)	Bridget Booth - Ally Fisher
Giles Corey - John Christopherson / Carter Route (cover)	Sarah Osborn - Rachael Karwowski
John Proctor - Matthew Merolla	Bridget Bishop - Victoria Wormuth
Rev. Hale - Tyler Boyles	Martha Bellows - Jennifer Andrianos
Elizabeth Proctor - Jessica Stouse	Alice Barrow - Abby Dalton

## OVERTURE

Abigail and the girls playing sinister games in the forest under Tituba's magical control.



## ACT I



Rev. Parris and Tom Putnam listen to Ann Putnam's explanation of the girl's malady while Rebecca Nurse watches over Betty Parris.

Prayers for the daughter's recovery are expressed.







Rev. Parris checking over the progress of his daughter Betty while neighbors are watching on.

Rev. Hale leads all as praise is lifted upward for the recovery of Betty.



## ACT II



Husband and wife John and Elizabeth Proctor console one another.



Rev. Hale comes to arrest Elizabeth Proctor for being a witch with John protesting.

## ACT III

Salem witch trials awaiting the judge.



Judge Danforth addresses the courtroom with John Proctor and Mary Warren listening.

Panic ensues as the girls are thrust into convulsions.



John confesses adultery and accuses Abigail of lying to the court about being a witch.



Danforth confronting Elizabeth about her husband's confession for verification.

## ACT IV



Judgment day for John Proctor and Rebecca Nurse with Danforth attempting to get a retraction from the guilty.

Rev Hale attempts to console Elizabeth as her husband ascends the gallows.



## CODA



A joyous celebration for a job well done!

The entire cast (on stage) and the orchestra (standing in the pit) receive a heartfelt round of applause. A major accomplishment for Mansfield's Opera Theatre!

## Halloween

Something, surely, was afoot. I realized it when I drove up to Butler on the afternoon of October 31—a nice day, really, with few clouds in the sky—but there was steam or smoke coming out of the ground east of the building. (See picture to the right.) Even more puzzling were strange hallucinatory reflections—similar to Northern lights but unlike them—on my ascent to the parking lot. (I made a reminder that I should follow-up on my annual appointment with Stroecker Vision at the corner of 6 and 15 in Mansfield, but it was Sunday, and the optometrist’s office was closed.)



Things really became scary when I did the same trip a few hours later. Meanwhile it was dark, even though daylight savings time had not set in. The smoke of the afternoon had developed into substantial plumes enveloping the entire area. I could still identify parts of Allen Hall on the left and the entrance to the Athletic Field on the right. The plumes took on threatening shapes, like horses being given the reins and resisting human control (or were they just poodles playing?)—my imagination may have been just too much influenced by the spirit of the day, tricker-treaters roaming the neighborhood, jack o’-lanterns flashing their mean “otherworldly” grin, cobwebs and skeletons decorating front yards, and I remembered having received a wedding invitation on a card picturing two skeletons saying “till death do us part” (only later, I realized the wedding celebration was scheduled for Halloween). Okay, get a handle on yourself, I said to myself, and stay calm. But then I saw a ghost, right there to the right of the entrance to the Athletic Field named after the late Helen Lutes, and it had a different color, was not just steam, or plume, or cloud, or whatever. It did not just look like a ghost. It really was one. (See for yourself in the next image.)



With some trepidation, I was able to park my car in the Upper Steadman parking lot to attend an organ recital.

Organ recital? Do we have an organ at Mansfield University? I inquired about that a few days earlier with students passing by at the clock near Manser Dining Hall, but they all looked at me with some puzzlement. Even after I added that “organ” was a music instrument, they shrugged their shoulders; a few pointed uphill where the music department was located. Now I was getting curious: Who is the organist? I learned that, well, way back in the last century, perhaps millennium, there was an organist who taught students at Mansfield, who in turn made it into respected graduate programs in the country. For that information, I had to go back into the most secret archives of Mansfield University to learn that his name was either “Kent” or “Hill.” But he

was long gone, I learned. There was a footnote, or, in modern parlance, a “link” attached to one of the names: It indicated that, yes, he was “a great teacher.” It even had an exclamation mark after “teacher.” Armed with that information, I entered Steadman Theatre, expecting that, perhaps, the above-mentioned Kent Hill might be there to give an organ recital on Halloween.

“Da-da-daa, daddle-daddle-daa-daa.” That sounded familiar. It sounded like Bach—in Europe, American tourists, visiting churches with organs, always ask: “Can you play ‘*The Toccata*’?” Of course, resident organists can. It is a great piece: You need to imagine a huge canvas with comets and asteroids flashing across the nocturnal sky with streaks of light and colors. Galaxies in motion and colliding! The sounds were indeed imposing. But who was playing the organ here in Mansfield, PA? And, moreover, on Halloween? Something was surreal, and my earlier experiences in ascending the hill by car added to my puzzlement. The organ console was decorated with a candelabra, and, yes, there was an organist, and also a registrant (someone who pulls the stops in case the organ-

ist's hands are unable to leave the keyboard because those hands are occupied otherwise). The registrant, strangely, was masked: Did he plan a bank robbery? First Citizens Bank in Downtown Mansfield does not have that much cash at hand for any would-be-criminal to risk acquiring a record, I said to myself, there must be another reason. And the organist looked quite serious, and he was without a mask. Not only did he use his hands (was I just imagining that he played with white gloves?) but he also made sounds by stomping on some pedal boards below the organ bench (his shoes, I was certain, were black). In any case, "da-da-daa, daddle daddle daa daa"—he surely was getting some exercise.

I took a seat and continued listening. The program was quite varied from Bach, the composer with a wig and the toccata invoking comets and asteroids, to contemporary fare, from light classics and music known from the movies (Gounod's "Funeral March of the Marionettes" and a Hitchcock show theme come to mind) to an "Elegy on Fly Away" by E. K. Erb (more about him shortly) and the "Addams Family" theme (with finger snapping and singing of the audience encouraged). Spooky and ghoulish as it may have been, the organ recital of "horror" and "saintliness" (as it was announced in the program) was a thoroughly enjoyable evening and also a fundraising event. (Details about the latter, shortly.)



Afterwards, I even met the organist, Fr. Ed Erb. Yes, he is also a minister, serving since June 2021 as Rector of St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Wellsboro (where he can be encountered every Sunday in a different capacity). He is a local son: Was born in Lock Haven, studied at Lycoming College in Williamsport and received undergraduate degrees there in Religion, Archaeology, and Music (also met his wife of 41 years there), was active in Williamsport, Lewisburg, and Hershey churches as organist and choir director, and served on the staff of the Royal School of Church Music in Wilkes-Barre, mentoring young organ scholars. His CV is impressive, but even more impressive is his energy-generating supportive personality. When Madame Conductor who, besides running the award-winning choral program at Mansfield University, has been known for running fund-raising campaigns for

restoring organs at Mansfield University (the musical kind), met Fr. Erb, she said: "He has dropped down from heaven." "Not really," said FrEd (as he is also known); he attributes his arrival in the area to a T-shirt he saw at Dunham's, showing the GPS coordinates of Wellsboro with an imprint: "Where Life Leads You!"

In any case, the two organs on the Mansfield Campus deserve to be upgraded or restored (and that's where fund-raising comes in): The Moeller in Steadman Theatre (it needs to be digitized to dispense of a dozen cables needed to move the console off stage) and the Austin at Straughn Auditorium, a historical instrument (Opus 297). The blowers for the latter were unceremoniously dismantled by the guy who headed the theatre department at the time (to make space for costumes near the stage). For those not in the know: Removing the blowers pumping air to the instrument is similar to removing the engine from a car. Both have been rendered non-functional.

Fr. Erb's and Madame Conductor's effort turned out well, I learned, but it needs lots more oomph, before even one of the organs mentioned is in pristine and workable condition. In other words, the fund-raising continues. In the post scriptum find some information on how to contribute.

After the recital was over, I rushed to the stage to meet the artist. And there was indeed a photo opportunity. Fr. Erb had again donned the black robe that marked his initial appearance (albeit not the white gloves I had imagined earlier) and he seemed to flash an approving smile. But then another creature joined him, restoring my uneasy feeling—and I remembered that it was Halloween and was cognizant that not all seems to be what it is—and I wondered whether my uncanny ascent to Upper Steadman invited that strange creature to join the photo opportunity in his Halloween costume. But who was he? Answers to that question (see picture above) are anxiously awaited by [jthy@aol.com](mailto:jthy@aol.com).



PS. Here are ways to contribute to restoring the organs on campus: If using credit cards, visit [give.mansfield.edu](http://give.mansfield.edu), click on music department, enter name and data, designate your gift as "organ restoration"; if using a check, make it payable to Mansfield University (specify purpose: "organ restoration") and mail it to MU, Alumni Relations, 31 S. Academy St, Mansfield, PA 16933.

## Briefly Noted

### “We got some press!”

The following link leads to a video clip made by Interkultur, the company in Germany that organizes the World Choir Games and all kinds of other international choral encounters. The Concert Choir is briefly featured with performances at the World Choir Games in Cincinnati 2012 and in Riga 2014 (at 0:30 and 0:50, respectively).

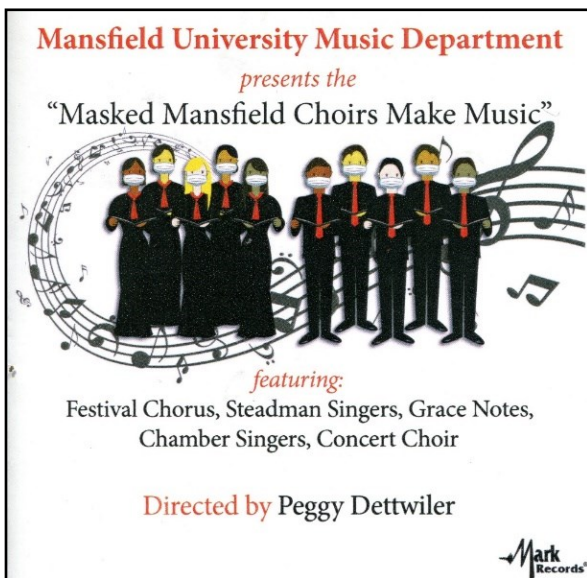
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iBddayAsN7g>

Madame Conductor commented: “We got some press!”

### Joan Berresford

Joan Berresford of Johnstown, PA, is the one who identified, correctly, the mystery question in the last issue of HTV. The location where the voice faculty had their last lunch with Professor (by now, Professor Emeritus) Youngsuk Kim was indeed Night and Day at the corner of 6 and 15 in Mansfield.

### A New CD



Despite ongoing hardships for aerosol-producing choral ensembles in the age of the pandemic, Mansfield University’s Music Department produced a CD (see cover on the left) compiling the “best” performances of the academic year 2020-21. The audio was recorded by Houston Baker. It includes, among other pieces, “The Pledge of Allegiance” by Alfred Reed (Matthew Merolla and the Festival Chorus), “Prayer of the Children” by Kurt Bestor (Steadman Singers), “Wild Embers” by Melissa Dunphy (Grace Notes), “Os Justi” by Bruckner and “Sleep” by Eric Whitacre (Concert Choir). The Concert Choir has always been stellar in performing African American spirituals, and this CD is no exception (“Joshua,” “Sinner Man,” and “Nobody Knows the Trouble I’ve Seen”) with Carson Witherite, Jessica Strouse, and Michael Deshield as soloists and Zachary Lepley and Trevor Jackson on the drums. The Chamber Singers are represented with two pieces, one of them featuring Hannah James as piano accompanist. (The performance is dedicated to her memory.)

The CD can be purchased during intermission of various spring concerts featuring the choral ensembles in the spring semester, by contacting

Peggy Dettwiler at 570-662-4721, or directly from Mark Records in Clarence, NY at [www.markcustom.com](http://www.markcustom.com) (the number of the CD is 56267-MCD).

### Irving Berlin in the Summer

Irving Berlin’s music will be featured as the vocal/choral component in one of the concerts of the Endless Mountain Music Festival in the summer of 2022, thereby continuing the collaboration between Maestro Stephen Gunzenheimer’s organization and Mansfield University’s choral program. Berlin is the composer of tunes Americans love so much: “There’s No Business Like Show Business,” “Always,” and “God Bless America” come to mind. Perhaps it is important to realize that one of the most famous American composers was born in Russia, arrived with his parents on Ellis Island, was Jewish, and still enchanted Americans of all faiths with “White Christmas” and “Easter Parade.”

### Thomas Putnam

Known as the founder and director of Hamilton Gibson Productions, Thomas Putnam was honored on January 2 with the Outstanding Community Health Service Award by the Tioga County Partnership for Community Health. The honor meant nothing less than a recognition of the arts as a signally important ingredient for the health (in the broadest sense) of a community. Congratulations to Thomas are in order: He has heroically made a case for the arts in Tioga County, as director, actor, conductor, and administrator. Our area would be much poorer without him. And a choral component is part of Hamilton Gibson’s activities as well: Many years ago, Putnam co-founded the HG Youth Choir with Kay Galloway and the late Katie Brennan, a choral ensemble that has performed at home and abroad (as well as in all 67 counties of Pennsylvania); the Messiah Sing Along, also sponsored by Putnam’s HG, has become a musical/religious staple before Christmas in Wellsboro. (See about the 2021 Sing Along elsewhere in the issue.)

**Mansfield University's  
Choral Academy for Voice Students  
Sunday, July 24 through Saturday, July 30, 2022**

Make music at one of the premier music schools in the East under the leadership of esteemed faculty and in the beautiful mountains of northern Pennsylvania. Develop your solo and ensemble performance skills, your musicianship, your stage presence, and have a great time doing it! Learn from master teachers along with Mansfield University music majors and alumni who will inspire you to grow and achieve at a higher level than you could imagine. Enjoy the safe and beautiful surroundings of nature as you immerse yourself in music-making!

Academy counselors are selected from MU alumni and collegiate music majors. The student to counselor ratio is about 5:1. Students and counselors live on campus in the new suite-style residence halls and eat in the campus dining room. Recreational and educational facilities are open to all students.

All campers:

- Participate in the Academy Festival Chorus
- Sing with the professional orchestra of the Endless Mountain Music Festival featuring the music of Irving Berlin
- Participate in an ensemble (vocal jazz and/or madrigal)
- Receive private voice instruction
- Attend master classes for singers
- Have the opportunity for a staged musical theatre activity
- Participate in a closing concert

**FACULTY**

- Dr. Peggy Dettwiler, Director of Choral Activities
- Dr. Todd Ranney, Director of Musical Theatre
- Catherine Robison-Ranney, Instructor of Voice and Choirs

## Vocal Jazz News

The annual Vocal Jazz Festival will be held on Thursday, April 28. The festival will include a day of workshops and performances for area high school vocal jazz ensembles. They will have the opportunity to work with guest clinicians during the day and to see the festival concert in the evening. The concert will feature the Mansfieldians and guest artists Vintage Vocal Quartet. This wonderful group has been featured at the festival in the past and we are thrilled to have them back again this year.

The Mansfieldians will be touring with the Concert Choir in May. We will be competing in the pop/jazz category. Our repertoire includes:

The More I See You	Mack Gordon & Harry Warren	arr. Paul Langford
Moanin'	Bobby Timmons & Jon Hendriks	arr. James Rosen
And So It Goes	Billy Joel	arr. Kelly Kunz
I Could Have Danced All Night	Lerner & Lowe	arr. Kerry Marsh

Mansfieldians will also be performing at the Alumni Reunion weekend. They will join the Alumni Mansfieldians and the MU Jazz Ensemble on the Saturday night concert. It is a busy semester for this ensemble.

## Fan Mail



Thanks again for a wonderful choral concert. There was so much variety! And all the groups were sounding their best. The opening piece from the Steadman Singers reminded me that there is no substitute for hearing a live performance. I'm especially partial to the Festival Chorus, of course, and their selections were all so well sing. I'm so glad they are doing the Haydn Creation in the spring. I just listened to it for the first time—the Monteverdi Choir with the English Baroque Soloists, John Eliot Gardiner conducting. An Amazing work! And the Concert Choir—what an honor winning the

American Prize is for them and for you. I loved their selection, too, and the Clap Praise was a real treat, melodically, rhythmically, and visually.

Ellen Blais, Mansfield, PA

Yet again sincere thanks for all that you do, and particularly for Festival Chorus and the Holiday Concert. For us this is the major highlight of the Christmas season. It is so gratifying to impress friends and relatives in the audience by being a tiny part of such a magnificent event. They are always amazed and awed by the quality of productions at MU, and the talent displayed by the students is truly outstanding.

Bob Cooper, Troy, PA

My husband and I have watched you over the years and the wonderful things you have accomplished not only at Mansfield, but the gift that you have taken around the world. Thank you for being a light to so many young people on their journey and sharing that beautiful light with everyone they meet. So many times, teachers don't know a fraction of the impact that they make on students. But that light will continue in their lives, and then in the lives of their students etc. Music is a powerful, powerful language. What a gift from God! -- Even though I cannot be there for this concert [the reunion concert in April], I just wanted to thank you for organizing such a wonderful event. My heart will be there in spirit and I know that the hills around Mansfield will continue to be alive with the sound of music!

Joan (Valentine) Johnson (class of '75), Landrum, SC

Oh my gosh I love "Clap your hands." When I get a good choir, I will program it! All that choreography ohhh muyyy goooooosh! I would never be able to sing this piece! I wouldn't be able to memorize the music and the choreography! So, congratulations to the Concert Choir, again and again!

Hingrid Kujawinski (MA at MU in Choral Conducting in 2012), Porto Allegre, Brazil and Valdivia, Chile

What a lovely holiday concert! (I received your YouTube link.) -- The diversity of the numbers is of course perfect for a broad audience that might not be accustomed to sitting still for a whole concert of purely "classical" numbers. ... The smaller ensembles sing with very tight ensemble and excellent intonation and spirit. But it's the bigger choral numbers that I really loved this time--reminding me, in case I had forgotten, how uplifting the sound is of dozens of voices joined in song. ... The Stacey Gibbs "Elijah" worked especially well, reminding me of how wonderfully your chorus has done spirituals before. (We used to sing "Elijah Rock" in our temple youth group, I think as a way of emphasizing our support for civil rights—a big theme that the rabbi used to emphasize in sermons.) Anyway, congratulations (again) on keeping the music flowing... Lucky students to have you in charge of choral activities at Mansfield U!

Ralph Locke, Clarksburg, MD

Ken and I listened to the Song of Joy this afternoon. It is something we do now, when there is a lull in the holiday activities; it makes us feel as though we are amid the music. We were tempted to come hear it in the flesh, but we were in Hawaii that weekend, playing with our Community Band for the Pearl Harbor 80th anniversary parade. -- It was good to see some familiar faces but also to hear the new sounds of the students who have come into the fold. As usual, you found the perfect voicing for the solos and although the numbers in the choirs are fewer, the quality is exceptional. -- Thank you for making our holiday special!

Kate and Ken Means, Christiana, PA

Ok. Where to begin. ... I was looking forward to your concert at the end of an incredibly busy/challenging/fun/draining/satisfying week. Our concert on Friday night, all day on the street on Saturday with 24 kids singing and dancing, two productions of A Christmas Carol inside at the two venues. My Dickens weekend almost always ends with the Sunday afternoon concert at MU. -- Your opening number was so rich, so full of energy and good round sound. It was a delicious opening of the feast that was to follow. And a feast it was. I could elaborate on all the special moments of the various groups and pieces but suffice it to say it was a huge, glorious feast. -- And then came "The Threads of Joy"—speaking the unspeakable—a kind of silence, a light beneath pain...joy....joy...joy. My thought as the final sounds lingered: What could be any better than standing in front of a group of beautiful voices singing such a glorious piece? And then, you uttered nearly the same words. What, indeed, could be any better? Keeping the feast metaphor: Essence of protein and flavor and fiber and nutrients and health—complete nourishment. Speaking the unspeakable. -- The two pieces that followed were, well, dessert just doesn't describe the power and awe and....joy...that they provided. You said at the beginning that you hoped we would experience some of the joy that you all had in preparing the concert. I experienced a lot. Thank you, once again. -- I hope you all can get some rest and bask in the joy of bringing so much joy to so many.

Thomas Putnam, Wellsboro, PA



I just wanted to take this opportunity to thank you for acknowledging my 15 years with the Festival Chorus. It just does not seem like 15 years, but time has a way of flying past. I will cherish the gift and think of you every time I use it. -- I thank you for allowing me (and other community members) for singing under your wonderful direction. I have learned so much from you. Even with a worldwide pandemic going on, you are still able to make fine music.

David Rappleye, Elmira, NY

A lovely afternoon indeed and lifted my spirits immensely. Appreciated the variety in the program as always and the incredible sound you consistently get from those amazing young people. Enjoyed the piece based on the Siegfried Sassoon poem of course. I just discovered that there is a film just recently released about Sassoon... It's the sort of thing that Cinemapolis in Ithaca shows, so we will hope it comes around eventually. It was welcome news that you are doing the Haydn in the spring. I suddenly remembered that *Creation* was the first thing we ever heard at Carnegie Hall, over 20 years ago. And then old Leonardo dreaming of flying. Wonderful!

Donna Uffelman, Mansfield, PA

Thinking of all the many wonderful offerings on that stage over more years than I can believe, it seemed to me that I had never been more moved than by the three pieces by the Concert Choir today, the first one (from all those centuries ago) for its own beauty but also for the reminder of how music and great art go on and on sustaining us in ways we can't even completely understand. And then "The Threads of Joy," a sort of miracle that joy is even possible in the face of grief and pain and evil. "It presses through." Thank you for it all, and thanks for you.

Donna Uffelman, Mansfield, PA

"Too much of a Good Thing is WONDERFUL!" Mae West was/is correct. – I have indeed enjoyed MU's musical news. It's October already, and I am still reading it [Hear the Voices, August 2021 issue] from time to time. It is a most welcome read and a reprieve from so much of the battered sounds flying by on our own radio and television. – You are making a real contribution to quality in life's entertainments. I sincerely thank you both for the concerted efforts.

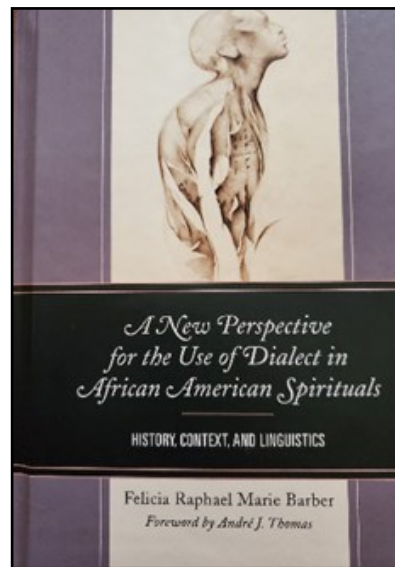
Barbara York, Mansfield, PA

I attended the MU Holiday Concert this afternoon and it was spectacular, as always! I applaud you and your students for their dynamic talent! Despite my lack of music knowledge, I appreciate and enjoy the singers (students and community), musical instrument accompaniment, and the variety of songs. It's a learning experience! - Thank you for your professionalism, enthusiasm, and providing this area with a well worth show, which leaves me with a privileged and grateful feeling every year.

Claire Yuhas, Town, PA

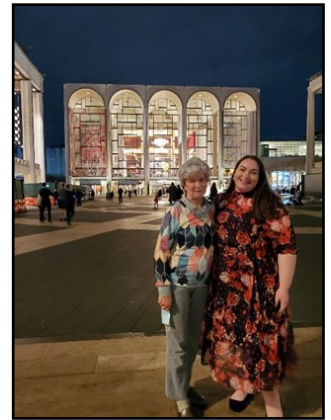
## News from Students and Alums

**Felicia Barber** (MA at MU in Music Education 1999) has just published a book that is destined to become a classic on performance practice of African American Spirituals. The abstract describes the book as follows: "A New Perspective for the Use of Dialect in African American Spirituals: History, Context, and Linguistics investigates the use of the African American English (AAE) dialect in the musical genre of the spiritual. Perfect for conductors and performers alike, this book traces the history of the dialect, its use in early performance practice, and the sociolinguistic impact of the AAE dialect in the United States. Felicia Barber explores AAE's development during the African Diaspora and its correlations with Southern States White English (SSWE) and examines the dialect's perception and how its weaponization has impacted the performance of the genre itself. She provides a synopsis of research on the use of dialect in spirituals from the past century through the analysis of written scores, recordings, and research. She identifies common elements of early performance practice and provides the phonological and grammatical features identified in early practice. This book contains practical guide for application of her findings on ten popular spiritual texts using the International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA). It concludes with insights by leading arrangers on their use of AAE dialect as a part of the genre and practice."



**Joan Berresford** (class of 1967) correctly identified the location of the restaurant in which the voice faculty had their luncheon with retiring colleague Youngsuk Kim: "Night and Day!" and added to her mail that she and her husband Bill (class of 1967) hope to start singing again [the pandemic must have put a stop to it, ed.] with the Westmoreland Choral Society. (They live in Johnstown, PA near Pittsburgh.)

**Lindsay Brown** (class of 2013) informed her followers on social media in August 2021: “After an amazing summer here at Santa Fe Opera, I will be flying to New York City to jump in as a cover in both Musorgsky’s *Boris Godunov* and Mathew Aucoin’s contemporary opera *Eurydice* at The Metropolitan Opera!” Armed with that information, Madame Conductor and the editor of HTV had dinner with the rising star in a restaurant on Columbus Avenue during a recent visit to New York City with a photo opportunity afterwards (see picture). She told us that her contract at the Met had been extended into the next year with her covering Marcellina in the Met’s current production of Mozart’s *Figaro*, the same role that she performed in Mansfield more than a decade ago.



After returning to Mansfield a few days later and going through the mail that had accumulated during our absence, your chronicler, to his amazement, found the following feature in the January 2022 issue of *Opera News*. Note, in addition to the wardrobe worn by singer during both photo opportunities, that Mansfield University of Pennsylvania is mentioned as a place where a career in opera was suggested to her.

**Sound Bites** by F. PAUL DRISCOLL

## Lindsay Kate Brown.

A mezzo from Waterloo, New York, is on the roster this season at Dallas Opera and the Met.

**MEZZO LINDSAY KATE BROWN**, who scored a hit last summer as Hippolyta in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* at Santa Fe Opera, says classical singing did not come into her life until she was an undergrad at Mansfield University of Pennsylvania. When she had her first voice lesson, her teacher suggested opera. "At that point in my life, I had seen only one opera, *La Bohème*, while I was in fifth grade. All I remembered was that it moved, and somebody died. So I went to the library to learn about opera from recordings – and from old copies of *OPERA NEWS!*" Brown studied for her master's degree at SUNY Binghamton and received an artist diploma from Rice University. "I spent the pandemic mostly in Houston, where I was an HGO Studio artist. The company made every effort to keep us connected to our work and to each other, which was a blessing. We had weekly voice and language coachings. We even did a video of *Hansel and Gretel*. I was *Gretel*. I'm not a mean person in real life, so it is fun to be mean onstage. It's always fun to be mean onstage." Brown was accepted as an apprentice at Santa Fe Opera for the 2020 season, which was canceled. She went to Santa Fe in 2021 to sing Hippolyta in *Dream* and Marcellina in the season's last two performances of *Le Nozze di Figaro*. She remembers, "The last week in Santa Fe was tough, because I was in both shows, but it was awesome. I loved it!" Brown's next stop after Santa Fe was New York, where she was contracted to cover roles in *Boris Godunov* and *Eurydice*. "I found out about the Met offer about two weeks before I had to be there, seriously! So I put everything I had into two suitcases, went straight from New Mexico to New York City, and I told myself, 'It will be O.K.' And it has been great!" This month, Brown plans to do an audition tour of Europe before heading to Dallas Opera, where she will cover three roles in *Flight*. Her list of dream roles currently holds Adalgisa, Norma, Princess Eboli, Strauss's Ariadne and Judith in *Bluebeard's Castle*. Her favorite singers range from Jamie Barton and Christine Goerke to Shoshana Bean, but when asked to name her favorite non-opera music, she pauses before answering: "I guess All Time Low? Boys Like Girls? Honestly, anything that gets me moving in the morning and gets me dancing." ■

**Samantha Eckrich** (class of 2019 and a graduate student in Clinical Psychology at the University of Massachusetts-Dartmouth) wrote in October 2021: “Overall, I have been doing well. I can’t believe it’s already been two and a half years since graduating from MU, and in early May I will graduate with my master’s in clinical psychology. I suppose as they say, time flies when you’re having fun. The only things I have left are my comprehensive exams, and internship hours. I’ve spent most of the last year interning in a partial hospitalization program for teenagers and adults, and I have absolutely loved it. Not to mention, my supervisor (a licensed art and expressive therapist) has me run expressive groups, and I get the added joy of integrating music and art into my work. I switch over to outpatient counseling in a few weeks, and my new supervisor (a music therapist) is excited to support and show me how to integrate music into my outpatient work. I’m thankful that even though I didn’t take a music therapy route, I have the flexibility to do some things with music that are still ethically in the scope of my work.”



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**Ashley Jackson** (class of 2012 and a nurse) and Andrew Druckenmiller got married on August 21, 2021 in a wonderful outdoor ceremony, officiated by the groom’s brother (a minister) in Lewisburg only a few yards from the mighty Susquehanna River. Quite a number of alums attended the wedding, enough indeed to perform the Celtic Blessing, the theme song of the Concert Choir. Ashley is now known as Ashley Druckenmiller, residing in Williamsport, PA.

**Vincent Lawrence** (class of 1963) recently celebrated his eightieth birthday in the company of family and friends. He sold his house in Natrona Heights northeast of Pittsburgh, location of many a choral party and reception for MU alums in the Southeast corner of the state, and he acquired a condominium in the Mount Washington area giving him breathtaking views of downtown Pittsburgh.

### ACDA Holiday Party

The month of December is usually quite stressful for musicians, as they are called to provide good cheers and caroling during the holiday season. Besides, final exams beckon for students. Mansfield University's ACDA Chapter got together nevertheless in the home of Madame Conductor to enjoy each other's company, good food, and the spirit of the season. From left to right: Matt Merolla, Carson Witherite, Patrick Murphy (standing), Jared Vamvakias, Jess Strouse, Mason Bryant, Keifer Brien, Cody Ranck, Peggy Dettwiler holding Lenny (sitting in the sofas), Hanna Worthington, Nicole Orlando, and Abby Dalton (kneeling).



December 8 in the home of Madame Conductor

### Messiah Sing-Along in Wellsboro

Masked



Unmasked



Double Photo Opportunity after the Messiah Sing Along on December 12 in the pews of St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Wellsboro. The soloists were (from L to R): Emma Criswell, Lily Woughter, Maddie Felpel, Andrew Clark, Tyler Boyles, Deanna Mogianesi, Taylor Stevens, and Carter Route.

### Faculty News

**Peggy Dettwiler** (at MU since 1990) presented three sessions for the Maine ACDA Fall Conference held on October 8. They were titled: The Choral Director as Voice Teacher, The Choral Rehearsal: Process to Product, and Making Music in the Middle of Nowhere. The event was held in Windham High School with their Chamber Singers under the direction of Rick Nickerson as the demonstration group. This is a renowned high school ensemble evident by the many flags and pictures in the room! Peggy was also scheduled to present a session entitled "Making Choral Music in a Rural Community" for the National Collegiate Choral Organization on January 20-22 in Atlanta, Georgia. That conference has gone virtual; her session will be rescheduled.



**Sheryl Monkeliën** (at MU since 2000) wrote in August 2021 an uplifting email, announcing her retirement: “Today is my LAST first day of school! After 35 years of teaching (21 at Mansfield University) I will be retiring. So excited for what is planned for the year - music ed classes, Mansfieldians (an Alumni Reunion Concert in April), musical production (*Hello Dolly!* in March), and a European tour with the choirs in May (Spain, France, and the World Choir Cup in Barcelona)! Looking forward to a great last year of teaching!” And more recently she presented a session on vocal jazz and contemporary a capella singing at Moravian College in Bethlehem. She also has been a member of the advisory board for the School for Music Vocations at Southwestern Community College in Creston, Iowa for the past several years. This is the school that was founded by Phil Mattson. It is nice to keep Phil’s legacy alive through his school and current students. Mansfieldians will join the School for Music Vocations Vocal Jazz Festival in April via zoom to work with the wonderful vocal jazz artists *Säje*. It will be a great experience for our students!

**Todd Ranney** (at MU since 2010) wrote: “Six of my students were announced as winners at the auditions of the Allegheny Mountain Chapter of NATS (the National Association of the Teachers of Singing) in November: Matthew Merolla, Tyler Boyles, Carson Witherite, Carter Route, Marita Gattone and Michaiiah Watkins. (It was a virtual event, and I do not have any pictures of it.)”

“I produced and conducted my 12th complete performance of Handel’s *Messiah* in December at the Grace Presbyterian Church in Hudson, Ohio. In addition to singing a few of the bass solos and playing the harpsichord alongside a 14-piece orchestra with community chorus members, I was joined by 12 MU students including Matthew Merolla and Jessica Nistad, who appeared as soloists, and Patrick Murphy who conducted the orchestra during the bass solos. A fun time was had by all especially after spending the night at our Akron home. (See the selfie.)”

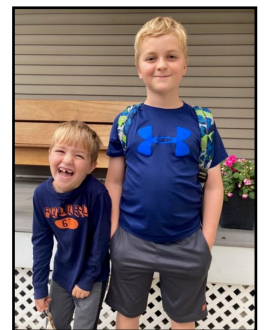


**Alissa Rose** (at MU since 2009) reports: “After hardly traveling at all over the past couple of years, this fall I took several trips, both with and without my family: visiting friends near NYC (twice!), family in Louisville and Memphis, and vacationing with the family in Florida and Virginia. We spent a good part of the fall at sporting events, between soccer and baseball



The Manhattan Contemporary Chamber Ensemble with Alissa Rose and Christine Moulton (second and third from the left)

for both boys, but the winter’s been less busy for sports, with only basketball, ice skating, and hockey happening in the early winter, although skiing is finally starting! Concerts started up again, as well, with a recital with Dr. Kwak in October (a selection of American art songs) and a performance in November in NYC at the Church of Christ and Saint Stephens on November 23 with the Manhattan Contemporary Chamber Ensemble (MCCE), which included a World Premiere. (See picture.) Since many of you haven’t seen the boys in a long time, I also include a photo from the first day of school: Erik in fifth grade and Nathan in first.”



*And in a post scriptum, Alissa Rose added: “The piece we premiered in November was Winter Stars by Richard Alden Clark (subtitled four American poems for Soprano and mixed quartet), for soprano, flute, clarinet, viola, and cello. It’s a set of four songs with poetry by women: Alice Moore Dunbar-Nelson, Celia Thaxter, Edna St. Vincent Millay, and Sara Teasdale.”*



**Jordan Schreiner** (at MU since 2021) wrote: “I just got back from teaching a Masterclass and Coaching the Opera Workshop at Ohio University in Athens, Ohio. We have alums there, working on their Masters: Quessa Brown, Molly Cerep, and Benjamin Eisenhour. I have attached a picture (left) with me are Quessa Brown, and Professor Debra Rentz.”