

Singing City

Report of Giving 2010-2011



Uniting People Through Music Since 1948

Dear Friends,

As we do every summer, we have been putting together the pieces of our upcoming season - Singing City's 64th. At the same time, we have the opportunity to reflect on the year just past - and what an exhilarating year it was. The choir held its annual retreat at Fellowship Farm in Pottstown, PA and were joined by the youngest and newest members of Singing City - the Singing City Children's Choir. This was the start of new relationships and a mentoring program, one that we will continue to expand in the coming year.



Our fall 2010 concert, *Audience Favorites*, opened the season with a diverse mix of repertoire that was inspired by you. In 63 years of performance, Singing City has established many favorites among both audience and choir members. At our Winter Concert in February, we awarded the Singing City Prize for Young Composers to Brian Eiffes, a student from the mid-west, for his piece, *Presence of Angels*. His work had its debut at the concert and the Singing City Children's Choir had theirs as well. A proud and exciting moment for all of us.

Our 63rd Anniversary Concert - *The French Muse*, held on April 30, involved wonderful collaborations with musicians, dancers, composer Andrea Clearfield and artist Louise Clearfield. The planning for that concert began in the fall of 2009, when Singing City was chosen to participate in the first Philadelphia International Festival of the Arts (PIFA), whose theme was Paris 1911 - Philadelphia 2011. We commissioned and debuted a new work, *Les Fenêtres*, by Andrea Clearfield, that was a companion piece to Honegger's *King David*, also on the program.

Late in the spring, the choir performed in a variety of community settings before ending the season and taking a much-deserved break. In the midst of the performance season we also held our fundraising auction, Singing City Lights, and an intimate dinner with Andrea Clearfield that gave each of us in attendance a glimpse of her creative process.

The economy continues to be a challenge for all of us. It is incredibly gratifying to know that we have so many loyal supporters and we thank you for the many ways you contribute to Singing City. You make all of our work possible. We are indebted to outgoing board president Linda Madara for her passionate commitment, support, and leadership. She made an indelible mark on Singing City. Now on to our 64th season!

Sincerely,

Lauren Anderson
Executive Director



123 S. 17th Street • Philadelphia, PA 19103 • www.singingcity.org

ANNUAL FRIENDS DRIVE

Annual contributions to Singing City are of crucial importance because they are used to support the operating budget of the Choir. Annual Friends Drive gifts are spent throughout the year on operating needs such as our formal concert series, community concerts at care facilities and retirement homes, and to support our small but dedicated staff. Because gifts to the Annual Friends Drive are not designated to a particular use when made, these funds have the broadest impact on Singing City and its audiences. In our 63rd season and under the direction of Linda Madara, Janet White and Mike Thompson, \$55,000 was raised to support the Annual Friends Drive. Our thanks to each and every contributor.

\$1,000 and above

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Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church Alternative Gift
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Every effort has been made to insure the accuracy of these lists. Please notify us at info@singingcity.org of any errors. Thank you!



Singing City is fortunate to have many enthusiastic volunteers who help in countless ways, from selling tickets, ushering and taking photographs, to providing support and snacks for members of the Children's Choir. We are grateful for the many ways in which people show their support,



Top: Singing City's Winter Concert in February featured the Singing City Prize for Young Composers. Artistic and Music Director Jeffrey Brillhart congratulate Brian Eiffes, the 2011 winner, for his composition *Presence of Angels* (left). The choir performed the premiere of the piece at the concert. The Temple University Singers, led by Jeffrey Cornelius (pictured at right), were among the guests at this annual event celebrating youth and singing.

SINGING CITY SEASON SUBSCRIBERS

Season Subscribers provide the backbone of financial support for the performance aspect of our mission. We are grateful for their generosity and for their commitment to artistic excellence.

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PIFA - Philadelphia International Festival of the Arts



Louise and Andrea Clearfield at the September 25 dinner held at the Philadelphia Art Alliance



Singing City was honored to participate in the first Philadelphia International Festival of the Arts (PIFA) sponsored by the Kimmel Center. We commissioned Philadelphia composer Andrea Clearfield to write a choral work based on the festival's theme of Paris from 1910-1920. Her work, entitled *Les Fenêtres*, a setting of four poems about windows by Rilke, had its premiere at our 63rd Anniversary Concert in April. Andrea's mother, Louise, created a companion painting (above right) that represents, in visual form, elements of the poems.

Singing City is grateful to John and Sandra Stouffer for a generous gift in support of this commission. In addition, Singing City hosted a dinner with Andrea Clearfield where Andrea talked about her creative process and shared the work in progress. The evening was organized by committee members Ellen Anderson, Jane Guthrie, Linda Madara, Maris Ogg, Barbara Rittenhouse, chaired by Ruthanne Schlarbaum. We thank all those who contributed and joined us at the Philadelphia Art Alliance for an inspirational evening.

Lauren Anderson
Ellen Anderson and Brantly Rudisill
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Mr. and Mrs. A. Morris Williams

SINGING CITY LIGHTS AUCTION

Singing City Lights Auction and Wine Tasting, to benefit Singing City, was held on Sunday, March 20, 2011 at the offices of Woodcock Washburn at the Cira Centre in Philadelphia. Over 100 people turned out for an afternoon of delicious food and drink, live music, bidding on a wonderful assortment of items, spectacular views of the city, and a chance to socialize with friends old and new. Contributions from special events such as this are important to sustaining the mission of Singing City. Thanks to the leadership of auction chairs Nancy Frandsen, Linda Madara, and Cheryl Slipski, over \$10,000 was raised through Singing City Lights.

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Singing City Choir Members
Cheryl Slipski
Smithville Inn
Mike Thompson
Elizabeth Weigle
The Wilma Theater
Carole Ziegler



Foundations, Corporations and Government Support

Grants from foundations, businesses, along with government support, touch every aspect of the mission of Singing City. In addition to support for our performance series and education programs – Singing City Children's Choir, Schools Program, Prize for Young Composers – these donations support our no-cost concerts at care facilities throughout the city. In 2010-11, Singing City received \$70,000 in grants from these sources.

Barra Foundation
Claniel Foundation Inc.
The Samuel S. Fels Fund
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Business Partners

Woodcock Washburn



Board members C. Stewart Patrick, top left, and Nancy Frandsen, at the Singing City Lights Auction held on March 20. Stewart acted as the auctioneer during the live auction proceedings and Nancy was co-chair of the event. Musical entertainment was provided by another board member, Mike Thompson, and also by special guests the Oxford Gargoyles of Oxford, England, left.

Lift Every Voice The Singing City Campaign for the Endowment

The Endowment Fund will assure that the challenge of our mission to the schools and community, and the economic risk of exercising artistic creativity can always be met, regardless of a temporary down-turn in charitable giving, stock market value, or concert ticket sales. Gifts to the Endowment Campaign are prudently invested, and the interest which is generated each year is used to support our operating budget. This kind of long-term financial stability will allow Singing City to rise to a new level of maturity and stature as a Philadelphia arts institution. It will energize us and see us into the future. We are honored to have received the following gifts and pledges to our endowment fund.

Ellen G. Anderson
Julie and Don Friedman
John and Chara Haas
Elizabeth Haslam
Robert Holmes
Don and Laila Isaacson
David and Kristen Knouft
William S. and Helen Krewson
Mary Tryon Ledwith
Claire McKinley and William G. Krewson
Rosalyn and Harris Ominsky
Gary and Ruthanne Schlarbaum
Angela Scully and George Elser
Michael Smith
Bill and Linda Thompson
Jean Weiss—*posthumous*

A Simple Gift

You might want to make a gift to the Singing City Endowment, but now is not the right time for you. Keep it simple. Make a bequest or deferred gift to the Choir. Your bequest will support the Choir's endowment, which in turn will help strengthen the Choir's ability to retain and attract the very best staff, provide ongoing support for *Singing City in the Schools* and the *Singing City Children's Choir*, stabilize the operating budget and establish a financial aid fund so that everyone in the choir can participate in retreats and go on tour. Keep it simple: make a bequest to Singing City. Your gift will be gratefully received and wisely used. Your forethought and generosity will be greatly appreciated. If you would like to include Singing City in your planning, please contact Lauren Anderson at 215-569-9067 or by e-mail at lauren@singingcity.org.

Legacy Fund

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Carolyn Lowery
Mike Nasielski
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Rosalyn Ominsky
Tom and Barbara Rittenhouse
M'Annette Ruddell
Mary Ann Sullivan
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Mr. John H. Wood



SCIS Workshop Director Katy Gentry (right front) and Composer in Residence Andrew Bleckner (left front) with students at the EM Stanton School during a "sharing session" in February. Students sang from a wide range of repertoire and also performed original compositions for peers and family members.



Members of the Singing City Children's Choir joined their adult counterparts at Fellowship Farm for a fall retreat. The Children's Choir, under the direction of Steve Fisher, had its debut at Singing City's Winter Concert in February (cover photo).



In Memory of Harris Ominsky

Ron Abrams
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 Fanchon Apfel
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 Lewis Hoch
 Margot Horwitz



Harris and Roz Ominsky in Belfast, Northern Ireland, during Singing City's 2006 tour.

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