

UALR Vocal Arts

August/September, 2008
Volume 2, Edition 1

WHAT WE DID THIS SUMMER

UALR vocal faculty and students were seen all over the globe, performing and studying.....

** **Professor Heather Crafts, Shaina Erwin, Matt Tatus, Maggie Cox and Heather Adams** participated in Musica nelle Marche, a four-week program of study in Urbania, Italy. The four students sang concerts in the Teatro Bramante and Castello Piobbico, and enjoyed excursions featuring the food and wine of the region.

** **Shea Williamson, Dustin Beam, Jennifer Boccarossa and Sarah Jane Kershaw** sang in the

Weekend Theater production of **Sweeney Todd**.

** **Beau Humble** sang the role of Adam in Haydn's oratorio **The Creation**, with the Hot Springs Music Festival.

** **Maggie Cox** followed her month in Italy with a stay in Spain, as a part of the Donaghey Scholars Program.

** **Bryan LaRue** sang on an August 8th fundraiser at Wildwood, to benefit Stratsimir Pavlov's trip to Bulgaria.

** **Professor Edward Crafts** directed a production of Mozart's *Le Nozze di Figaro* in Cortona, Sansepolcro and Castiglione Fiorentino, Italy. The performances were part of the Oberlin in Italy summer festival, featuring students from Oberlin Conservatory, Julliard, Curtis and the Academy of Vocal Arts.

** **Jennifer Boccarossa and Dustin Beam** sang in the Weekend Theater production of **Godspell**.

** **Paul Hiblong** began a new job as Music Director at the Second Baptist Church in Malvern, AR.

PAZZO PER CANTO! We're still crazy about singing!

The second annual series of "Pazzo per Canto!" fundraisers kicks off Sunday, August 24th at 3pm. with a reprise of last season's popular "Pazzo per Fresco!" ("We're crazy about cool!"). This event, featuring performances by UALR singers of melodies about the good ol' summer time, is free to the public (donation requested). Delectable ice cream concoctions and other summertime sweets will be served. The concert will take place in the Bailey Alumni

Center, adjacent to the Fine Arts Building.

Later this fall, two dinners will also feature UALR singers – "Pazzo per Gershwin!", with favorite tunes of the Tin Pan Alley maestro on September 25 and "Pazzo per Paris!" with beloved arias from French operas on October 16. Both dinners are \$50 per person and are limited to 40 guests.

In the spring "Pazzo per Verdi!" will feature arias and ensembles from popular operas by Giuseppe Verdi, sung by the UALR voice faculty. Admission is \$75 (\$50 tax-deductible) and includes a champagne reception at the Bailey Alumni Center following the performance.

Proceeds from all the "Pazzo!" events will go to hire orchestra musicians for UALR's Vocal Arts productions in 2008-2009.



UALR OPERA THEATRE REVIVES A FORGOTTEN OPERATIC MASTERPIECE


UALR Opera Theatre will present the regional premiere of a “fable in music” – Ottorino Respighi’s operatic rendition of the Sleeping Beauty legend. First performed in 1922 as “La Bella Dormente nel Bosco”, the opera was written to be performed by puppets, accompanied by singers in the orchestra pit. The composer later revised the score for live performers on the stage. Initially the

opera proved quite popular, but then fell into a long period of neglect.

The score was published by Ricordi in 2003 and was given a sensational American premiere by the Spoleto Festival in 2005. Director/Designer Basil Twist directed a production that combined puppets and singers on the stage, to great critical acclaim. The opera was performed again at the

Lincoln Center Festival the following summer.

UALR’s version will feature the world premiere of a new English translation by Edward Crafts. A cast of nearly 30 performers and an orchestra conducted by Dr. Bevan Keating will be heard in two public performances, Nov. 8 & 9, at Wildwood Park.



“If you are not practicing, someone else is, and when you meet him, he’ll beat you!” – Bill Bradley, college basketball star and later US Senator

Back to school – getting off to a good start

As you begin a new school year, you want to get off to a good start. Try being more proactive about your relationship with your voice teacher – find out exactly what your professor expects from you (the syllabus is a good starting place), and make sure you talk about

your personal goals for the semester.

Start off right by establishing a regular practice time and really being disciplined about using it. It’s too easy to say “I’m tired today”, or, “My voice doesn’t feel good” - you can always use the time to learn notes or

to memorize words, even if you aren’t singing.

Make an action list of the dates by which you need to have your vocal assignments memorized, and then make sure you put in the hours to meet that deadline. Nobody ever failed because of too much practicing!



New choral ensemble at UALR!

The UALR Chamber Choir debuts this fall - a highly selective ensemble featuring students who are most skilled in vocal technique, sight-reading and musicianship. **The Chamber Choir** is an 8-12 member SATB ensemble that sings a diverse repertoire of chamber music, including Renaissance madrigals and motets, contemporary

selections and music from various cultures. The choir will maintain a rigorous concert and travel schedule, touring locally, nationally and internationally. The group will meet Tu/Thu 10:30-11:30. Membership is by audition. Contact Dr. Bevan Keating for more information.

<p>DON'T FORGET! WELCOME BACK LUNCH FRIDAY, AUG 29 ON THE FINE ARTS BLDG. PATIO FREE HOT DOGS, SODA, CHIPS AND DESSERT!</p>
