

Dear North Shore Choral Society Community,

A truly special moment stands before the North Shore Choral Society community this 72nd Concert Season. For fully one-third its life—24 of 72 years—the North Shore Choral Society community of singers, instrumentalists, soloists, and audiences have performed under the masterful baton of Donald Chen.

We proudly recognize and celebrate this remarkable era of Maestro Chen's choral leadership. As we approach Donald's retirement at the conclusion of this season, we all say both a deeply felt "Thank you" and a rousing "Bravo, Maestro!"

David W. Hunt
President, NSCS

From the Music Director

Dear Friends,

At its December 9, 2006, meeting, I informed our Board of my decision to retire from my position, Music Director and Conductor of North Shore Choral Society, at the end of the 72nd season. I reached that decision after much thought. In the end, it was guided by my belief that the time has come for the Society to have new energy and imagination in its artistic leadership. By completing my tenure in 2008, the Society will be able to mount a thorough conductor search in time to plan a significant 75th anniversary celebration for the 2010-11 season.

Twenty-three years seem to have flown by in a flash, especially when I still remember clearly my audition and interview in 1984. I count myself incredibly fortunate to have been associated with such a group of dedicated singers who so wholeheartedly enjoy choral singing and are willing to devote time and energy to produce outstanding performances. We, the chorus and I, have had wonderful experiences of working with outstanding soloists and instrumentalists who helped to elevate our concerts to memorable heights.

(continued)

We have witnessed important transformations since our 1984-85 season. We expanded to a three-concert season in our 50th anniversary, 1985-86, and in our 54th season, we committed ourselves to a multi-year project of performing all Masses by Franz Joseph Haydn. Through the years we have guided our repertoire choices by our mission statement: *The North Shore Choral Society explores, studies, and performs a wide range of choral music for the enrichment and enjoyment of its singers and audiences.* Indeed, we have performed a divergent list of works. Memorable highlights in my mind are works such as Bach's *Mass in B Minor*, *St. John Passion*, *St. Matthew Passion*, and *Magnificat*, Brahms' *Ein deutsches Requiem* and *Schicksalslied*, Haydn's *Creation*, Handel's *Messiah*, and Carl Orff's *Carmina Burana*. We have sung with the Chicago Philharmonic Orchestra in the Beethoven *Ninth Symphony*, with the Evanston Symphony in the Mendelssohn *Second Symphony*, with the Kankakee Symphony in the Verdi *Requiem*, with the Northbrook Symphony in the Shostakovich *Second Symphony*, with the Skokie Valley Symphony in Honegger's *King David*, and under Erich Kunzel's baton at the Ravinia Festival.

For me, it was when our exploration and study ventured into "unknown regions" that we truly fulfilled our mission and performed what I consider one of the most important functions of a community music organization. Studying and performing these works have left an indelible impression in my mind, among them: Don Draganski's *The Geometry of Music*, Dan Tucker's *A Reason for Singing*, Karl Kroeger's *Pax Vobis*, Dominick Argento's *Jonah and the Whale*, Duruflé's *Requiem*, Britten's *St. Nicolas*, David Fanshawe's *African Sanctus*, Darius Milhaud's *Les Amours de Ronsard*, José Nuñez-García's *Requiem*, Handel's *Alexander's Feast*, Luciano Berio's *Magnificat*, and Schumann's *Das Paradies und die Peri*.

North Shore Choral Society is a unique and proud amateur chorus that is to be treasured and nurtured. I urge you, its friends and listeners, to continue your support by attending concerts, making financial contributions, and offering encouragement. Those gifts have meant a great deal to me and to members of the chorus, and, I am sure, will mean a great deal as well to their new conductor.

I shall always remember my North Shore years with fondness and shall make every effort to sustain the friendships I have developed here. To the Society, I will always be your ardent champion, and I am proud to join the ranks of your audience members and supporters.

Donald Chen

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Don't miss these
upcoming highlights:

Mendelssohn's *Elijah*

Mozart ❁ Poulenc
Rheinberger
Vaughan Williams



Music Director Donald Chen begins his twenty-fourth season with the Society. He is Associate Professor of Music and Resident Conductor of the Roosevelt University Orchestra, and Director of Music at The Village Presbyterian Church, Northbrook. Join us as we make Dr. Chen's final season as NSCS Music Director a memorable one!

2007 - 2008 ❁ Seventy-second season

Bravo, Maestro!

Order your tickets now and save!

Become a Subscriber! Save on single tickets purchased in advance or at the door. Program notes are mailed to you before each concert.

Season subscriptions to all three concerts

Regular admission	_____ @ \$60	\$ _____
Senior (age 65 and over)	_____ @ \$50	\$ _____
Student	_____ @ \$30	\$ _____

Single tickets in advance

Regular admission					
___ November 11	___ March 16	___ June 7	@ \$22	\$ _____	
Senior (age 65+)					
___ November 11	___ March 16	___ June 7	@ \$20	\$ _____	
Student					
___ November 11	___ March 16	___ June 7	@ \$12	\$ _____	

Single tickets at the door of the November and June concerts are:
Regular \$25, Senior \$22, Student \$15.

Please add a contribution and become a NSCS sponsor. \$ _____
Name as you would like it to appear in the program: _____

Send check payable to **North Shore Choral Society,**
Box 103, Evanston, IL 60204-0103 Total \$ _____

Name: _____

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Tickets will be mailed in October 2007.
Thank you for joining us for this 2007-2008 season.

Sunday, November 11, 2007 3 PM
The Parish Church of Saint Luke
939 Hinman Avenue, Evanston, IL

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

Te Deum

Ralph Vaughan Williams

Flos Campi ("The Flower of the Field")

with Charles Pikler, viola

Josef Rheinberger

Der Stern von Bethlehem ("The Star of Bethlehem")

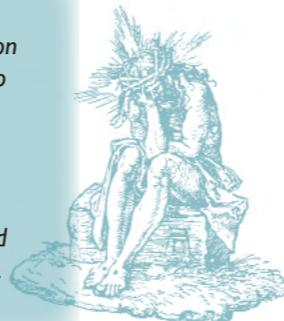
with Kathleen and Peter Van De Graaff, soloists



The three pieces for our first concert are rarely heard and widely varied. *Te Deum* is the Society's first performance of this majestic song of rejoicing. *Flos Campi*, scored for solo viola, wordless chorus, and a small orchestra, is a delicate and sensuous suite with one melody carried imperceptibly into another throughout the piece. *Der Stern von Bethlehem*, based on a libretto written by his wife Franziska, is considered Rheinberger's most deeply personal creation.



Accompanist Sharon Rich Peterson also accompanies for the Chicago Symphony Chorus, Northwestern University, North Park University, and Maria Lagjos' voice studio. In addition, she is the organist at North Park Covenant Church and North Park Theological Seminary.



Sunday, March 16, 2008 2:30 PM
Pick-Staiger Concert Hall
50 Arts Circle Drive, Evanston, IL

Francis Poulenc

Gloria

with Michelle Areyzaga, soprano
and the Evanston Symphony Orchestra
Lawrence Eckerling, conductor



Gloria, a work familiar to many singers and audience members, is the crowning symphonic choral work of Poulenc's musical maturity. It has occupied a significant place in the choral repertoire since its 1961 world premiere by the Boston Symphony Orchestra and the Pro Musica Chorus under Maestro Charles Munch. Also on this program are works of Bizet, Canteloube, and Dukas.

Saturday, June 7, 2008 3 PM
The Parish Church of Saint Luke
939 Hinman Avenue, Evanston, IL

Felix Mendelssohn

Elijah



In many ways, Mendelssohn's *Elijah* bears the influence of Handelian oratorios. There are here two principal protagonists: the stern, unyielding, but benevolent prophet of God, Elijah, and the Israelite people, whom Mendelssohn aptly portrays in an impressive series of powerfully dramatic choral movements. The music Mendelssohn gave us is stirring and tender, dramatic and ethereal, tempestuous and serene, giving listeners a moving experience. This is a work with which Dr. Chen feels a close affinity. Join us immediately following the concert for a reception celebrating his tenure with us.



The North Shore Choral Society explores, studies, and performs a wide range of choral music for the enrichment and enjoyment of its singers and audiences.

Join the Chorus!

Regular Tuesday rehearsals begin on September 4 at 7:30 PM, at Trinity Lutheran Church, 3637 Golf Road, Evanston. Auditions for new members are at 6:30 PM before the rehearsals on September 4 and 11. We welcome any singer who has the desire and commitment to learn and perform great choral music. For an audition appointment, contact Len Barker via email at lenbarker@comcast.net or call him at 847-272-2351.

www.northshorechoral.org



The North Shore Choral Society is supported in part by a grant from the Illinois Arts Council, an agency of the State of Illinois.