



ARCHDIOCESAN  
BOY CHOIR  
OF  
PHILADELPHIA

# CHOIR NOTES



[www.archboychoir.org](http://www.archboychoir.org)

PO BOX 12576, PHILADELPHIA, PA 19151

January—March 2010

A NOTE FROM MR. TOM:

## *“People Plan, God Laughs”*

Dear Choir Family,

We were not the only musical group that had to cancel our big Christmas Event on that snowy weekend of December 19 & 20. Even the Pennsylvania Ballet had to refund a full house because the Saturday evening “Nutcracker” was cancelled. Our concert, entitled “For The Birth of Christ,” was ready to go and had to be rescheduled. Many stores and businesses were hurting, not because they couldn’t get the Christmas message out to people, but because they were going to lose a great deal of money if people were homebound. As a wise older person at my Church always says, “God knows what he’s doing.”

Christmas Eve at the Cathedral and Neumann Feast were happy occasions with good liturgy and good music. None of the Main Line Churches or Institutions were able to offer us a concert venue, however, as Sunday after Epiphany is traditionally the Sunday for taking down Christmas decorations in Church; one after the other they all had to decline our request.

There was, however, this little Church, not on the Main Line but close to the banks of the Delaware River. Hard to find, but once found, our patrons were surprised and felt that they had stumbled onto a real gem. “This is like something you’d find in Europe!” When the concert began the audience got the biggest surprise of all. This “hard to find” Church, built by immigrants in the 1860’s, had the finest acoustics of any Church or concert hall in that part of Philly.

“There is such a warm sound; it really enhances the total choir sound.” Many seasoned parents said that it was the best concert in years and the way the boy’s voices blended, due to great singing and great acoustics, into beautiful harmonies topped with impeccable diction, was exceptional.

Bravo boys!

Our Christmas season had a surprise ending, a good surprise. The bible is full of stories of how the day is saved, not by the strong and powerful, but by the humble and forgotten. The good workers and Pastor, Fr. Ayers, at the Immaculate said, “Have your concert on Sunday, we’ll come during the week to take the Christmas decorations down.” May God continue to watch out for us, as he always has, throughout the years.

Mr. Tom

*A note from Miss Dot:*

Dear Parents,

Thank you so much for your generous gifts at Christmas. It was greatly appreciated.

Just a gentle reminder, state police clearances & PA child abuse clearances must be turned into the choir in order to travel with the choir to Spain. This rule comes directly from the Archdiocese. ALL adult travelers (over the age of 18) must have these clearances, including grandmom.

Since the child-abuse clearance takes some time to process, you should start working on it IMMEDIATELY. Our travel coordinator will be checking for these documents and there will be no exceptions granted. I don't want to have any embarrassments or angry pilgrims because they can't travel with us. In addition, all financial obligations (dues, etc) must be paid in order to travel.

On a more positive note, please prepare for this pilgrimage as you would for any religious experience. Attend Mass, go to confession & receive the Eucharist. Remember what you put into it is what you will receive from it.

Yours in Christ,

Ms. Dot

**LOST & FOUND:**

If anyone "moved/removed" our speaker stands, we need them back. No questions asked!  
Free amnesty!! And you don't even need to move to Canada first!!

Please contact us if you know of their whereabouts!

**Choir Name & Logo:** The choir name and logo are the property of the Archdiocesan Boy Choir of Philadelphia. Permission to use the choir name and logo must be submitted in writing to the choir board for approval. This includes, but is not limited to fundraising and publicity.

**Choir Email list:** the list of email addresses of the parents of the choirboys ("choir email list") is to be used only by authorized choir personnel for authorized choir business. Any request for an email to go out to the choir email list must be approved by the Director. This includes prayer requests, helpful information, etc. The choir email list is never to be used for solicitation purposes.

Remember, we have Wawa Shorti coupons available. The coupons are \$4.00 each, sold in packs of 5 for \$20.00. They are a great ongoing fundraiser, and your son's account gets credited \$2.50 for every 5-pack purchase. Keep them in your wallet - they are a great lunch/dinner on the go. Share them with your coworkers, friends and family. Everyone's "Gotta Have a Wawa."

*Note from the Chairman:*

While most of you are focused on getting ready for Avila, Mr. Tom and the board have been busy behind the scenes planning our practice dates & venues, as well as our performance schedule when you return to the States. Following are a few of the upcoming events for which we need volunteers:

Communion Breakfast—this is scheduled to be held on May 16th at Mike & MaryEllen Washko's parish, St. Philip Neri in East Greenville, PA

Graduation—no details yet; a committee needs to be formed to make the arrangements. Typically, the committee is comprised of 8th grader parents & 7th grader parents, in addition to anyone else who wants to volunteer. Please see Maria Hare or send her an email at mlhare@comcast.net to volunteer.

Parent Board positions—even though we still have vacancies in the board secretary and assistant chair positions, I want to thank the many people who've stepped up to volunteer whenever and wherever we needed help. Although Maria Hare and I have been doing much of the paperwork and the publications, as well as the treasurer functions, you will note that this issue of Choir Notes is over a month late. To state it simply—I/we cannot do it all. If the positions remain unfilled, things will go undone and everyone will suffer. Please, consider stepping up and taking on some responsibilities. Do it not for me, not for Mr. Tom, but do it for your son, and the other boys. Elections will be held at the end of the choir year.

**Finally**—on behalf of the parishioners of Nativity of Our Lord parish in Warminster, Fr. Citino expressed his thanks for a wonderful performance on Feb 13th. In his words, "I don't think the people of this parish have heard singing like this in a long, long time."

Peace to all & safe travels to our "pilgrims!"

*Joe Hare*

See a new face at practice? Why not introduce yourself? Make everyone feel welcome!

## CHAPERONE SCHEDULE – subject to change

**Please check your choir flyer EVERY WEEK FOR CHANGES IN THE SCHEDULE:**

THE CHAPERONE SCHEDULE IS ATTACHED TO THE NEXT PAGE

Feb 20	Rehearsal, St. Charles Seminary 10-2:30
Feb 27	Rehearsal, St. Charles Seminary 10-2:30
Feb 28	Rehearsal, St. Peter's School 2:00-4:30
Mar 06	Rehearsal, St. Charles Seminary 10-2:30
Mar 13	Rehearsal, St. Charles Seminary 10-2:30
Mar 20	Rehearsal, St. Peter's School (5th & Girard) 10-2:30
Apr 17	Rehearsal, St. Charles Seminary 10-2:30
Apr 24	Rehearsal, To be determined 10-2:30
May 01	Rehearsal, To be determined 10-2:30
May 02	Performance, Mother of Consolation Parish, Chestnut Hill, PA Time TBD

**Please be prompt in picking up your son(s). Remember that your turn to chaperone will come.**

Chaperones are required at all rehearsals and performances. In order for there to be an equitable, shared responsibility, it is imperative that each parent fulfill his or her obligation to chaperone. If you see that you have a conflict, **you are responsible for finding a substitute**. If the conflict arises within 24 hours of the chaperone duty then a call to the board member (name in bold print for each rehearsal or performance) is necessary.

**Do not call Dot.**

We must make sure the boys are well chaperoned. Chaperones should arrive at least 20 minutes before a practice and chaperones are expected to stay until all boys are picked up. Chaperones must stay in the building during rehearsals. Please be aware that some of our rehearsals sites require a certain number of chaperones at all times because of liability concerns.

**Chaperone reminder—parents need take this responsibility seriously. If you can't fulfill your scheduled duty, you must find a substitute. These procedures and policies are put in place to PROTECT the boys, as well as the adults. Failing to show up or to find a substitute because you had a basketball game or a birthday party is no excuse. The importance that we parents place on this duty is not lost on the boys—they notice it.**

**Archdiocesan Boy Choir of Philadelphia**  
**Chaperone Duty List February - May 1st**  
2010

Location	St Katharines	Nativity Of Our Lord	Seminary	Seminary	Seminary	Seminary	St Peters	Seminary	TBD	TBD
Date	2/6/2010	2/13/2010	2/20/2010	2/27/2010	3/6/2010	3/13/2010	3/20/2010	4/17/2010	4/24/2010	5/1/2010
<b>Lead Chaperone</b>	<b>Dierkes</b>	<b>Hare</b>	<b>Morton</b>	<b>Washko</b>	<b>Perrong</b>	<b>Ortiz</b>	<b>Dierkes</b>	<b>Hare</b>	<b>Morton</b>	<b>Ortiz</b>
<b>Others:</b>										
	Braun	Mazzeo	Shrupp	Baxter	Braun	Shrupp	Mazzeo	Washko	Braun	Mazzeo
	Cassidy	Jones	Romano	Beck	Myers	Tryon	Ventura	Myers	Tryon	Pfeiffenbe
	Chavarria	Kim	Slaweski	Cassidy	Hagerty-Le Bron	Pfeiffenberger	Vink	Corcoran	Kim	Pirri
	Conwell	Lombard	Stauffer	Chavarria	Jacobs	Nugent	Walczak	Demusz	Lombard	Romano
	Corcoran	Mascio	Triplett	Conwell	Jones	O'Malley	Wysocki	Feliciano	Mascio	Slaweski
	Feliciano	Millward	Pfeiffenberger	Corcoran	Kim	Parmet	Balestriere	Furton	Millward	Stauffer
	Furton	Mizelle	Ventura	Demusz	Lombard	Pirri	Baxter	Gies	Mizelle	Triplett
	Gies	Morales	Vink	Feliciano	Mascio	Romano	Beck	Gorman / Johnson	Morales	Ventura
	Gorman / Johnson	Nugent	Walczak	Furton	Millward	Slaweski	Cassidy	Hagerty-Le Bron	Nugent	Vink
	Hagerty-Le Bron	O'Malley	Wysocki	Gies	Mizelle	Stauffer	Chavarria	Jacobs	O'Malley	Walczak
	Jacobs	Pirri	Balestriere	Gorman / Johnson	Morales	Triplett	Conwell	Jones	Parmet	Wysocki