

Upcoming Events

January 24

Open auditions for boys ages 8-11 at 10am, Saturday, Jan. 24 at Chorus Hall. Session begins Jan. 28. Call 296-6277 to register.

February 8

The Classic Concert, 3pm, Catalina Foothills Church

February 20

TowneSingers appearance in the 75th Annual Rodeo Parade

March 3 - April 3

Touring Chorus tours South Africa

April 23-April 26

TowneSingers travel to San Diego

May 1

2004-2005 season auditions, 10am

May 2

Pops Concert, 3 & 7:30pm, TCC Music Hall, \$15 and \$12

November 6

The Musicale Regale, Grand Ballroom, UA Student Union Memorial Center, \$150 per ticket.

For more information, please call 296-6277

Best Wishes for the New Year

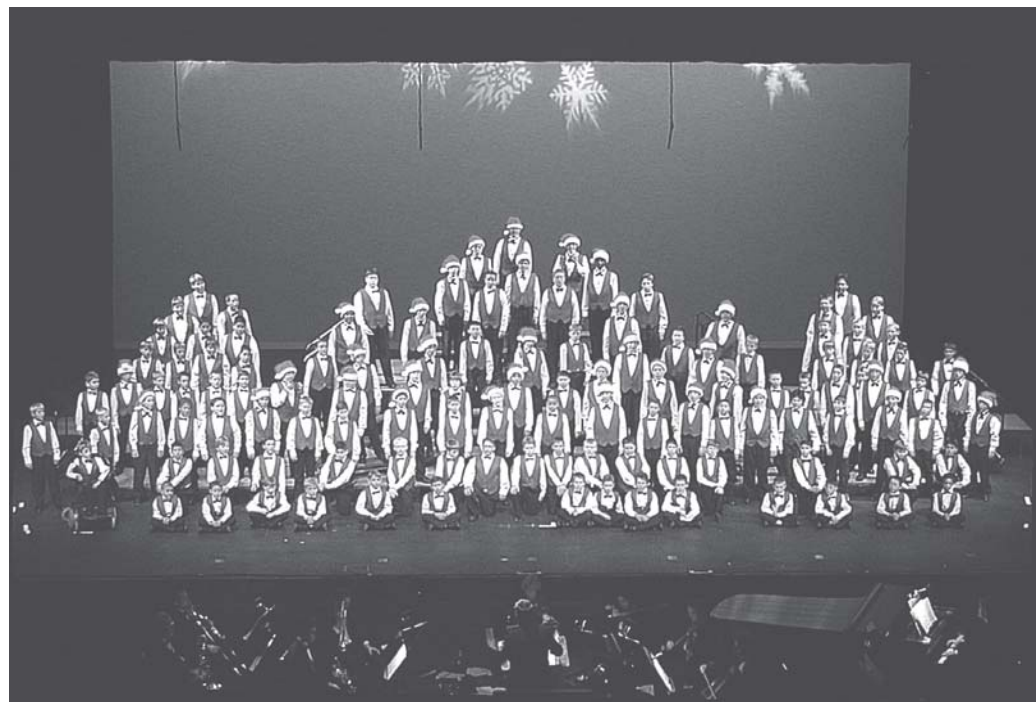


Photo by Ginger & Tom Suginoto

The Chorus performs its finale at Holiday Concert 2003 at the TCC Music Hall

There's still time to order Season Tickets and receive substantial savings for the remaining two concerts. Call 296-6277.



Tucson Arizona Boys Chorus

5770 E. Pima Street
Tucson, AZ 85712

Parents of alumni: if this issue of News & Notes is addressed to a son who no longer maintains a permanent address at your home, please send the correct address to the Chorus or email us at TABC@boyschorus.org

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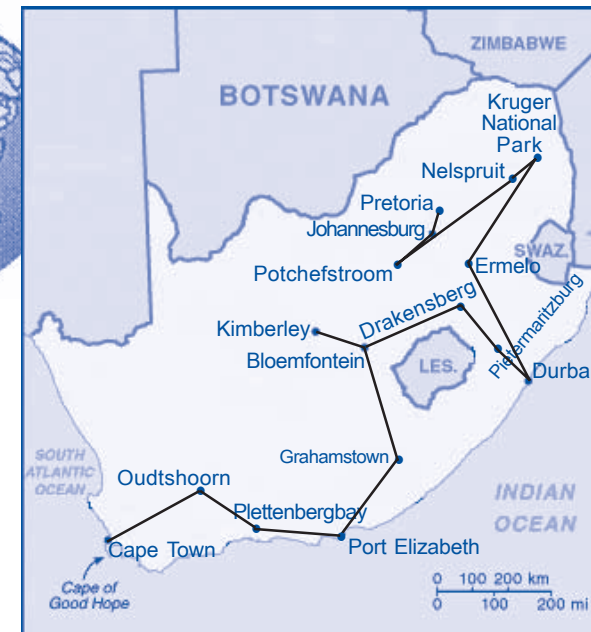
For Friends
of the
Tucson Arizona Boys Chorus

January
2004

Tucson Arizona Boys Chorus

news & notes

South African Adventure



For the first time in its 64-year history, the Tucson Arizona Boys Chorus will travel to the African continent. The four-week sojourn will encompass traveling and performing in more than 15 major cities throughout South Africa, a country almost twice the size of Texas.

The choristers will depart on this international concert tour and cultural exchange on March 3 and will return to Tucson on April 3, 2004. The entourage includes the 32 members of the Touring Chorus, Director Julian Ackerley, Touring accompanist Elizabeth Spencer, and nurse/wardrobe manager Jane Ackerley.

The itinerary includes stops in Johannesburg, Pretoria, Potchefstroom, Nelspruit, Kruger National Park, Ermelo, Durban, Pietermaritzburg, Drakensberg, Bloemfontein, Kimberley, Grahamstown, Port Elizabeth, Plettenbergbay, Oudtshoorn and Cape Town. More than 20 major concerts are planned for the 32 day stay.

Many of the tour concerts will be shared with South African choirs who will be hosting the Chorus. The initial invitation to travel to South Africa came from two outstanding choirs; the Bloemfontein Children's Choir and the Drakensberg Boys' Choir. In a reciprocal visit to Tucson in October, the Drakensberg Boys' Choir performed in an inspiring combined concert with the Boys Chorus and the UA's Arizona Choir (see page 3).

Since the boys will be out of school during the month-long tour, they will complete an extensive structured study program prior to departure and a tutorial session upon return. In addition, all choristers will participate in a South African studies program and maintain a daily travel journal.

The significance of this tour is paramount and will create lifelong memories for the choristers. It will also be an opportunity for the choristers to share their culture with African audiences, including their unique brand of music representing the American Southwest.

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Office Hours

Monday – Friday, 9am-6pm (mst)
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website: www.boyschorus.org

IN MEMORIAM

Magnus Hourscht, former president of the Board of Directors, Chorus parent and longtime supporter of the Tucson Arizona Boys Chorus passed away on November 29, 2003 at the age of 80. During his tenure as president, he spearheaded a community campaign to build the current building which houses the Chorus. The 5,000-plus square foot Chorus Hall at 5770 E Pima, was dedicated in 1975. His three sons, Merlin, Greg and Marlo were each members of the Tucson Boys Chorus.

Magnus Hourscht was born on May 14, 1923 to Mary & Peter Hourscht in Dell Rapids, South Dakota. He was one of 11 children. Magnus went to school in Pipestone, Minnesota and was in the class of 1943. In 1946 Magnus, through an effective left hook, received one of the highest boxing honors, the Barney Ross Welter Weight trophy for sportsmanship from the Chicago Tournament of Champions. Magnus married Pearl Rislov on September 9th, 1950. He moved his wife and family to Tucson in 1952, and shortly thereafter began a successful construction company.

He and his wife became involved with the Tucson Arizona Boys Chorus during the time their three sons were members. As board president, Magnus called upon his many friends in the construction industry to build the Chorus Hall. Many tales have been told of how the Chorus Hall was built, and how Magnus persuaded, cajoled, and otherwise prodded the donation of time and materials from hundreds of volunteers in the construction industry, as well as from alumni and friends.

Magnus Hourscht is preceded in death by his parents, beloved wife, Pearl and several brothers and sisters. He is survived by two brothers, Clarence and Leo; four children, Merlin (Jeanne), Greg, Paulette and Marlo, as well as eight grandchildren, and numerous great-grandchildren.

A plaque bearing his image hangs in the lobby of the Chorus Hall in memory of his tremendous gift to the Tucson Arizona Boys Chorus.

Plane tragedy claims lives of former board member, wife

Former board member and longtime supporter of the Tucson Arizona Boys Chorus, **Dr. Joe Spears, and his wife, Judy**, died when their private plane crashed in a mountain range east of Tonapah. Their grandson, Cosmo, was a member of the Chorus from 1996 through 2001, and as a Touring Chorister traveled on the 2001 tour to the Orient.

The deaths of the 78-year-old doctor and his 69-year-old wife have hit a wide swath of people, relatives say, from those in rural Missouri, where Joe Spears was a doctor for years and Judy Spears taught generations to swim, to those the couple helped through various civic and philanthropic groups in Tucson, where they moved more than two decades ago.

“Mom and Dad were some of the most wonderful people you’d ever want to meet,” Louise Spears, their daughter-in-law, said. “They were truly phenomenal people.”

Joe Spears worked with the University of Arizona’s rural medicine department, retiring more than a dozen years ago. He worked with the Flying Samaritans, setting up medical clinics in Mexico, as well as other charitable groups, and flying and golfing in his spare time. Judy Spears was a long-time volunteer at St. Mary’s Hospital, and was an accomplished golfer. She also sang in the Catalina Foothills Church choir and helped local arts programs.

During his service as board member to the Tucson Arizona Boys Chorus, Dr. Spears sought scholarship funding from his family foundation, the Bess Spiva Timmons Foundation, named after his mother. Through the years, the foundation has provided scholarship support, funded the purchase of choir chairs and wardrobe, as well as providing substantial funding for a new Chorus van.

Relatives are planning an early January service for the couple, who would have been married 50 years in August.

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Thank you to these fine businesses and individuals for their contribution to our auction and Musicales Regale fundraiser.

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(Continued on next page)

South Africa choir showcases talent alongside local choirs

On October 1, 2003, a Tucson audience was treated to a superlative concert showcasing the incredible talents of the Drakensberg Boys' Choir from South Africa, the UA Arizona Choir and the Tucson Arizona Boys Chorus. The Drakensberg Boys' Choir came to Tucson in a visit which will be reciprocated this spring when the Tucson Arizona Boys Chorus travels to South Africa.



Photo by Ginger & Tom Sugimoto

The featured performance of the evening was the Drakensberg Boys' Choir. The choir is internationally

acclaimed for its unique African repertoire, containing various renown works like *Shosholoza* and *Night Sounds*, where the boys imitated the sounds of the African Bush. They also performed the "Gumboot Dance" in which, using African instruments and body

percussion as accompaniment, they performed dazzling display of athleticism and musical talents.

The evening ended with the three choirs taking stage, and with more than 200 voices strong singing American folk song, *O Music*, and the South African song *Ut'he Wena*. The audience rose to their feet in a well-deserved standing ovation.

TowneSingers travel to San Diego

It's not often that the intermediate choir of the Tucson Arizona Boys Chorus gets to travel out of town, but this spring, the TowneSinger Chorus will venture to the west coast for a tour to San Diego.

The 45 members of the TowneSinger Chorus will travel by bus to San Diego in April as guests of the San Diego Children's Choir, departing Friday, April 23rd and returning Monday, April 26th.

During their four-day visit they will perform with the San Diego choir in a community-wide concert. Their visit will

also include several sightseeing opportunities.

TowneSinger touring outside the state is a rarity. The last known extended trip for the intermediate group was back in 1989 during the Chorus' 50th Anniversary year when they traveled throughout Southern Arizona with visits to Douglas, Sierra Vista and Wilcox.

"This upcoming San Diego journey is an important trip for the Boys Chorus," said Director Julian Ackerley. "It will be an exceptional training opportunity for these young men to see what touring and life on the road is actually like."

Winter auditions scheduled

Do you know of any boys, age 8-11, who like to sing?

The Tucson Arizona Boys Chorus will be holding auditions at 10am, Saturday, Jan. 24 at Chorus Hall, 5770 E. Pima Street. Call 296-6277 for more information.

65th Anniversary Celebration

Have great ideas? Have a little extra time?

Calling all alumni and friends of the Chorus. If you would like to be on the task force to develop the planned celebration for the 65th anniversary of the Tucson Arizona Boys Chorus (which will occur during the 2004-2005 season beginning in July),

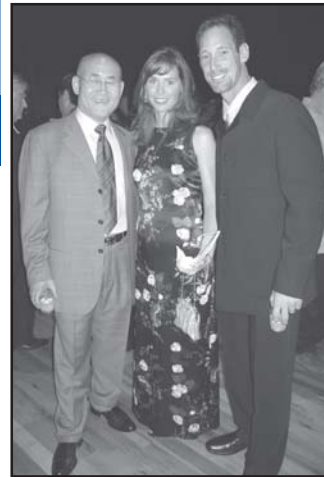
please call 296-6277, or email TABC@boyschorus.org

Musicale Regale

UA's new Student Union Memorial Center was transformed into the stage for one of the most successful fundraisers for the Tucson Arizona Boys Chorus on Saturday, November 1. More than 450 guests arrived early at the Musicale Regale for a one-on-one autograph signing opportunity with **Arizona Diamondbacks All-Star Luis "Gonzo" Gonzalez**. After dinner, guests listened as **UA Coach Lute Olson, Jim & Linda Livengood**, and **Dave Sitton** gave entertaining video presentations of their live auction offerings. Then, striding to a spotlighted raised platform amid tables at the center of the ballroom, **Celebrity Auctioneer Luis Gonzalez**, assisted by **Alan Michaels**, began the live auction with flair and fervor. Lively bidding among guests ensued with **Larry Malcolmson, Terry Dwyer, David Gray, Nena Ashton, Ray Depa, Loretta Peto**, and **Denny Eggiman** counted amongst the winners of sports and vacation packages. **Director Julian Ackerley** showcased the Touring Chorus with a rousing performance capped by late night dancing to LeeAnne Savage and The Audacity. The event netted more than \$80,000 for chorister assistance programs.



TUCSON ARIZONA BOYS CHORUS



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Save the Date and Reserve your table today!

Corporate sponsorship opportunities welcome. Tables of ten begin at \$1500. Reserve your table now for Musicale Regale 2004 on Saturday, Nov. 6 by calling 296-6277.

Alumni in the News

Travis Griffin ('96) returned from a ten-week Study Abroad Program through the University of Arizona this past summer. He lived in a dormitory in St. Petersburg for five weeks, studying at the Smolny Language Institute. He later traveled to Moscow to study at the Moscow State University. Travis began his world travels as a Touring chorister on European Tour '96. "That trip fueled much of my desire to see the world and learn about different cultures," Griffin said.

Congratulations to Chorus alumnus and longtime camp counselor **Michael Peyron ('90)** and his fiancé Vicky Shen. The couple met during their college studies at Bowdoin College in Brunswick, Maine and plan to be married in 2005. Michael recently received his master's degree from the University of California at Santa Barbara and is working for the People's Self-Help Housing Corporation in Santa Barbara.

Got News? Share it with your fellow alumni. Please send your information to the Tucson Arizona Boys Chorus, 5770 E Pima Street, Tucson, AZ 85712. Or email it to TABC@BoysChorus.org.

Wells Fargo, Bess Spiva Timmons provide fund & scholarship support

Recent scholarship awards will go a long way to ensure that any boy who has the talent and desire to be a member of the Tucson Arizona Boys Chorus can do so.

The Bess Spiva Timmons Foundation provided a \$5,000 grant to assist with scholarship funding. The Wells Fargo Foundation also recently granted \$2,500 in support of scholarship programs.

The Many Ways of Giving

Patrons of the Tucson Arizona Boys Chorus often ask what are the various ways one can contribute to the Chorus. There are several ways in which you can contribute and each has its own tax benefits.

Gifts of Cash: The most popular way of giving to the Tucson Arizona Boys Chorus is in the form of cash gifts, which are fully tax deductible.

Gifts-in-Kind: Gifts of goods are always welcome, particularly items for our auction for the Musicale Regale, our annual fundraiser held each fall. Tax deductions are as allowed by law.

Gifts of Appreciated Property: An alternative to gifts of cash is gifts of appreciated property which include marketable securities, real estate or tangible personal

Tucson Boys Chorus selected to appear at national choral conference

The Tucson Arizona Boys Chorus received a prestigious invitation to be one of the select choirs to perform at the Western Division Conference of the American Choral Directors Association. The conference will be held February 26-28, 2004 in Las Vegas.

The invitation was offered after an extensive audition process. Choirs from throughout the region submitted audition materials to be considered. Only a few were eventually chosen representing many genres including professional, university, community, church and children's choirs.

"We are thrilled about the selection," said Chorus Director Julian Ackerley. "This invitation further validates the artistic excellence of our program."

Dr. Ackerley has also been selected to be a clinician of a special interest session on "The Male Changing Voice". Members of the Tucson Arizona Boys Chorus will be his demonstration group during the session.

The Touring Chorus participation in the choral conference will take place just one week prior to the boys' departure on their international tour to South Africa in March 2004.

Many of the convention performances will be open to the public. The Chorus will perform on Saturday, February 28th at Guardian Angel Catholic Cathedral, 302 Cathedral Way, located near Las Vegas Blvd and Desert Inn.

property. Gifts of capital gain property are deductible at fair market value on the date of contribution.

Gifts of Life Insurance: Naming the Tucson Arizona Boys Chorus as the owner and beneficiary of a life insurance policy is a good way to make a large donation with a nominal cost to the donor. Premiums for such policies are tax deductible.

Bequest: A bequest to the Tucson Arizona Boys Chorus is truly a gift of a lifetime. If you are interested in how you can include the Tucson Boys Chorus in your will, or how you can establish a permanent family legacy, please contact the Tucson Boys Chorus. Additionally, your personal tax advisor or attorney can provide you with information about the best way of giving.

For more information, please contact the Tucson Arizona Boys Chorus, (520) 296-6277



Photos by Gary Auerbach