

The Voice

Newsletter of the Atlanta Young Singers of Callanwolde
Callanwolde Youth Chorale

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CAMP WOODMONT

Summer Music Camp

Summer Music Camp at Camp Woodmont was another great success this year! Seventy-three campers joined AYSC staff, counselors and parents in a week filled with outdoor activities, games, food, fun and lots of singing! A highlight of this year's camp was the introduction of our new musicianship workbook, created by Paige and the AYSC music staff – and we are all excited to continue this new method when rehearsals start later this month! From our Camp Director to counselors to staff to the campers, everyone returned from camp with great stories – and here is a sample of memories from Camp Woodmont 2004!



When I was nine years old, I had my first encounter with the Atlanta Young Singers of Callanwolde at "Singing Camp." Held at Whitewater Express Outpost in Tennessee, AYSC Camp consisted of kickball games and whitewater rafting, but also two to three full rehearsals every day. As a new singer the rehearsals seemed excruciatingly long, but the sound of everyone singing was amazing, and I loved singing with the older campers because they sounded incredible. With help from Paige, Brianne, the counselors and my workbook coach, I gradually settled into the schedule of rehearsals and workbook sessions, which were peppered with treats of swimming and having fun with

new friends. By the end of the week I didn't want to go home.

This past summer was my fifth year at camp and also my last year as a camper. Though the location of camp had changed, the schedule tweaked and new classes added, I realized that the "magic" of camp was still there. Every summer AYSC camp got me excited and prepared for the year ahead, and this summer was no exception. I watched new kids walk in not knowing what to expect. I hope they walked away with new friends, beautiful music, refined kickball skills or the appreciation for their own unique voice. I have found all of that, and more, over the years that I have been a camper.

-Jaclyn Kottman, Camper

Every year, we say we're going to write down our thoughts about camp and every year we never do it. Well, guess what? Things have changed! First, I want to say that the week went really well. The talent show was one of the best we've ever had, and even the older kids danced on Thursday! Plus, everyone

sounded beautiful. I'd like to thank all the counselors for doing a great job keeping the kids excited and working hard to keep things going smoothly. Thanks to the staff for making the transition to the new workbook pretty painless and helping us out

(Camp continued on page 2)



Omolara Williams, Noriah Williams and Calah Singleton (L to R) take a break from rehearsal at Camp Woodmont.

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ATLANTA YOUNG SINGERS
of callanwolde

LETTER FROM THE BOARD PRESIDENT

This has been a year of growth for AYSC – at the same time, it has been a year of personal and professional growth for me. As each singer has memories from the year in AYSC, I too have significant memories from this year as Board President.

As we planned for our major tour, AYSC was forced to move quickly and effectively to provide a memorable tour experience for our deserving singers in the wake of a funding crisis. We would never have been able to execute the successful tour to New York without you, our supportive network of families and friends. As a small non-profit, AYSC depends on you to sustain and grow this organization. Thank you for your support of AYSC throughout the year.

After growing up with this organization and now serving as President of the Board of Directors, I can sincerely say that I would not trade my time with AYSC for anything. I leave the leadership of the Board of Directors in the capable hands of my fellow AYSC alumna, Renee Nelson. I remember singing with Renee and other current board members in rehearsals and concerts all over the globe when we were Young Singers. It is awesome to think that we are now intimately involved in ensuring that current and future Young Singers get the opportunity to make more great memories.

Thank you to all the fabulous AYSC singers, staff and board members, friends and families that make this organization wonderful. Thank you for a great year – I know that the best is yet to come!



Regina L. Lenoir

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR SENIORS

We congratulate our High School Seniors and wish them the best life has to offer. We appreciate the time, energy and talent they have given to our organization during their membership.

Camille Burge
Bethune Cookman College

Amanda Crouse
Emory University

Caroline Goldstein
Haverford College

Elizabeth Gray
Carleton College

Catherine Killingsworth
Yale University

Wes Pitts
Queen's University of Charlotte

Stephanie Rice
Warren Wilson College

Nathan Young
Stanford University

NEW ADDITIONS TO YOUTH CHORALE

We would like to congratulate our Ninth Graders as they move from Young Singers to Callanwolde Youth Chorale.

Caitlin Brett
Alan Chandonia
Lucy Feil
Stephanie Levin
Lauren Monger

Ethan Sawyer
Hilary Smiley
Emma Templeton
Anna Young

(Camp continued from page 1)

whenever we needed it. Thanks to Kathy Murphy for taking care of probably the most injured kids we've ever had in a week. Thanks to my mom for being our fun and fashionable mediator. And thanks to Paige for continuing to teach kids a gift that will stay with them for the rest of their lives.

-Christy Crutchfield, Camp Counselor

We all had a great time at Camp last week – everyone learned new skills, rehearsed repertoire for the coming year and performed extremely well in their ensembles. And the counselors and Camp Woodmont staff kept them entertained with "Messy Olympics," horseback riding, archery, Movie Night, the Talent Show, Costume Dance and other great activities! Congratulations to the Talent Show winners, the Orange Team for winning the team competition, Mika Jain for overall points winner and to India Brantley, Camper of the Year! Many thanks to Kathy Murphy, our camp nurse, who saw many of your children in her office last week –

FROM THE MUSIC DIRECTOR~ THAT'S LIFE

by Paige Mathis

Picture this: a rustic camp in the mountains, picturesque pond, tree house style cabins, lots of kids to play with...a kid's dream, right? Well, also picture this: an overly shy 10-year-old with no friends at the camp. Pure torture! Strike one, the first reason for this kid to forget the whole choir thing and get the heck out of Dodge.

“The sound is something unexpectedly beautiful—something that this 10-year-old had never experienced before.”

Picture a first rehearsal. It is reminiscent of the 'sorting hat' scene from *Harry*

Potter — new kids standing in line nervously awaiting the word on whether they would end up “here” or “there”. Of course, the shy kid gets flustered and goes to the wrong “there”. Strike two. The correct “there” is on the *front* row of the alto section, further torture for a shy kid. The new singer then flinches when the conductor raises both hands in the air to summon the sound of the choir. The sound is something unexpectedly beautiful—something that this 10-year-old had never experienced before.

At the conductor's request, the tour team then begins to sing “Jesu Joy of Man's Desiring” by J.S. Bach. That event does it for the new young singer—hooked. How great it would be to sing *that* music and sound *that* way! Bach's

music has suddenly demoted justifiable reasons to quit the choir to nothing more than minor irritations.

Of course, this is shamelessly autobiographical, but I've heard various versions of the story from many alumni. The potentially devastating “Strike three” event has come and gone many times over since that first camp, but it is the *music* that keeps drawing me back. The music of Bach is back at camp this year, weaving its familiar spell around another generation of singers, hopefully making them forget about all the hassles of being human. I hope that it draws all of you back, too.

she got quite a workout! And deepest thanks to the AYSC camp staff...Lynn Crutchfield, Camp Director, and the fabulous camp counselors who were so great with your kids!

-Sue Briss, Adult Music Staff

What is it about a week at camp that has made so many adults and counselors return year after year to be on the staff? It is apparent that our staff loves every aspect of summer camp. Working with the camp director and the staff of Camp Woodmont has been a pleasure. Tyran Bennett, Camp Director of Camp Woodmont, has been the best camp director I have ever worked with. The staff at Camp Woodmont is truly focused on making sure the children are safe and have a wonderful experience during summer training camp. Working together as a team with the Camp Woodmont staff is one reason why camp works so well for all of us. It doesn't get any better than this! The counselors have been together for many years in AYSC and Youth Chorale and have formed a bond that radiates for that week. They are true role models for the

campers. I have so many great memories from this year. The talent show was really great! We watched “Finding Nemo” this year...and thanks to Larry Crutchfield who drove to camp to show the movie for us! Our costume dance on Thursday night was also a great hit. Also thanks to Carl Christie for driving to camp to set up his sound system and DJ the dance! The sounds of the counselors serenading the campers to sleep at night and the sounds of singing throughout the week made me so thankful for being part of this wonderful experience. We all came away from this year with new ideas and renewed hope to continue to make this summer training camp the best experience for years to come.
-Lynn Crutchfield, Camp Director



Valeria Makeeva, Sue Briss and Jaclyn Kottman (L to R) enjoying a lighter moment in music theory class.

CITY CALLED HEAVEN

by Brianne Turgeon

The AYSC major tour of 2004 to NYC began a mad dash to the flight gate because of long lines at the ticket counter. In retrospect, it seems like we were running from the moment our tour began, and we didn't stop until we landed back in Atlanta.

Our first official concert was singing at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine, which is a fantastic and historic space. Our accompanists John Lawless and David Marcus traveled with us and added so much to our performance. During our tour we did everything under the sun that there is to do in NYC: Times Square; touring the top of the Empire State Building; Lady Liberty;



Young Men's ensemble sing "Duke of Earl" featuring Chris Dixon on the solo.

Ellis Island; Chinatown; Little Italy; Ground Zero; singing on the street in Central Park; attending the Ray Charles Memorial service in Harlem; eating at

the Hard Rock Café; and plenty of shopping and getting to know each other better. We had the best bus driver in the world, Harry Serious. Joanne (of Music Celebrations) was our very knowledgeable tour guide. The weather was wonderful and sunny most days, and it never got too hot.

Some of our most memorable moments were:

- **The South Street Seaport concert.** It was an outdoor concert on a stage near a mall and a pier. There were street performers all around the area, but once our Young Singers began to perform a crowd formed and throughout the concert more and more people stopped to listen. Despite balance problems with the sound system the singers seemed to have a great time performing, and the audience really enjoyed the diversity of our repertoire, particularly "The Wave," "Ya Faroule" and the guys' version of "Duke of Earl."

- **Singing in the rain.** There was a torrential rainstorm while we were in Little Italy, and rather than covering under awnings the kids one by one began to sing, play and dance in the rain while New Yorkers gathered and watched from under their awnings. It was a brief time of youthful joy and abandon, singing and dancing in the rain.



Stephen Solomon hard rockin' at the doors of the Hard Rock Cafe in New York City.

- **Our visit to Ground Zero and singing "Utopia."** Prior to going there, Paige and the singers had an amazing talk about the text of the song, and about how the song figured in Paige's recollections about 9/11. We all sang "Utopia" while standing next to where Tower 2 had stood, and then a

“It was an amazing time to realize our connections with each other.”

guard came out of his guard house to talk to the kids about his memories of the day, and then he took questions from the kids and asked them questions, too. It was an amazing time to realize our connections with each other, and while we were heading back to the bus many people offered their own stories about where they had been on 9/11.

MAY CONCERT SOLOISTS

• Our final fantastic concert on Sunday at the Episcopal Church.

After taking a couple songs to settle into the space, the singers really found their stride. They were energetic and really musical, transitioning smoothly from different moods and styles of music, and everything just seemed to gel together. Some of the pieces like "Young Galileo" were the best I'd ever heard.

I really enjoyed having the opportunity to spend time with the singers in a more personal way, and the chance to get to know many of these wonderful, bright, talented kids a little more than I did before.



Nia Bayne sings the solo on "City Called Heaven" at the Cathedral of Saint John the Divine in New York City.

The May 16th concert was held in one of Atlanta's most historical churches, Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, and was the final presentation of the *Ancient Voices, Modern World* series. The first half of the concert featured the world premiere of a mass, *Missa de Fides*, composed by AYSC alumna, Noelle Laborde Ross. Several movements in the mass included solo performances by Performance Choir members:

Missa de Fides

Kyrie

Gloria – soloists, **Hannah McCord** and **Caitlin Brett**

Alleluia

Credo – soloists, **Jaclyn Kottman** and **India Brantley**

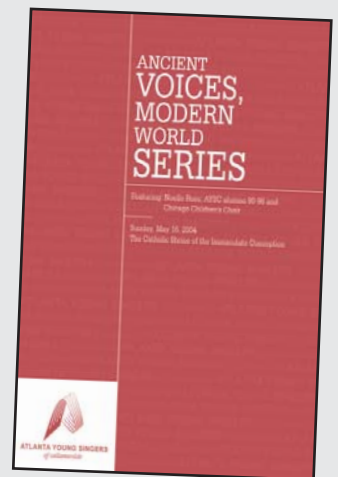
Sanctus

Pater Noster

Agnus Dei

Amen

The second half of the May concert featured songs that tell a story. Malcolm Dalglish is a composer and a world-renowned hammered dulcimer player. His songs are always favorites of our choristers and audiences. His piece, *The Selchie and the Fisherman*, featured soloists **Emma Templeton**, **Rachel Templeton** and **Lauren Monger**. Malcolm's friend and fellow musician, **David Woolf**, was featured on dulcimer.



Other favorite compositions featured in this portion of the program were *Ja Faraoule* and *Ahe Lau Makani*. Stephen Hatfield, who is recognized as a leader in multiculturalism and musical folklore, composed these selections. *Ja Faraoule* is a merging of Arabic folk songs from Egypt and Lebanon. It means "Oh Strawberry!" and refers to the red cheeks and heightened color caused when love is in the blood. This song featured percussion by **Andrew McFarland** (Performance Choir member), clarinet accompaniment by AYSC Education Director, **Bill Nittler** and a solo vocal performance by **Michele Murphy** (Performance Choir member). *Ahe Lau Makani* means "Many Soft Breezes" and references love lyrics and nature. The image of breezes is a favorite of songwriters, especially since there are over 150 Hawaiian words for "wind". **David Woolf** provided the beautiful guitar accompaniment to this piece.

2003-04 CALENDAR

September 10-12, 2004

Youth Chorale Retreat
Cloudland, GA

September 23, 2004

Performance Team to
Literacy Volunteers of Atlanta benefit

September 26, 2004

Performance Team to
Wesley Woods

October 30, 2004

International Dinner at
the Intown Community Church

December 4-12, 2004

Festival of Trees at the World Conference Center
(AYSC performance dates TBA)

December 18, 2004

Holiday Concert at
Druid Hills United Methodist

February 19, 2005

AYSC Winter Concert at
Shallowford Presbyterian Church

AYSC UPDATE

Do you know someone who would like to be added to the AYSC mailing list? Is your address information incorrect? Has your e-mail address changed recently? Please let us know of any changes – thanks!

Name: _____ Year(s) in AYSC: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

E-mail: _____ Telephone number(s): _____

Alumni Corner

ALUMNI UPDATE

Angie McGowan (AYSC 1979-83) is living in Atlanta and working in public health at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention as an Epidemic Intelligence Service Officer. What that means in plain English is that she went to school for entirely too long and is now a "disease detective" for the agency, focusing on evaluating violence programs as well as working in part on public health legal issues. Unfortunately, she hasn't gotten to use many of her YSC skills recently, unless you count tapping her fingers in tune to the beat, singing a little harmony in the car, or every once in a while amazing people by knowing the words to a seemingly unlikely (former YSC) song. She'd love to hear from any other "old-timers."

Chelsea Toledo is entering her sophomore year at New England Conservatory in Boston where she is studying to receive a Bachelor of Music degree in vocal performance. Her freshman year has yielded a good deal of success; she sang the role of Tytania from Britten's *A Midsummer Night's Dream* in their opera scenes program last semester, and she made it to semifinals in the NATS competition this winter.

Michael Ivey received a B.A. in Religious Studies from Georgia State University in 1997. He married Emily Airey Nix on July 3, 1999, and is currently a Senior Partner with Ivey & Brown, Inc., a Software Process and Technology Consulting firm. Emily and Michael are the Religious Education

Directors for Fairhope Unitarian Fellowship and the Youth Directors for the Southeast Unitarian Universalist Summer Institute. They live in Bay Minette, AL with their dog, Angus, and cat, Betty. Michael spends his free time fly fishing and enjoying the wonders of South Alabama. Website: <http://gweezlebur.com/ivey/>

Abby Nardo is finishing up her dissertation at Indiana University, Bloomington and is about to embark on a one-year internship in Memphis, Tennessee. When she is done with her dissertation and internship she will be Dr. Abby! Her doctorate is in School Psychology. She sings in a choir called *Voces Novae* where she gets all the really good solos!

Interested in hearing more from our alumni? Check out the AYSC web site at www.aysc.org to read more.

And if we haven't heard from you, please send your update to Colleen Kingston at ckingston@mindspring.com.

Calling All Alums!

AYSC is eager to update our database of alumni to keep in touch with all of you. Over the next couple of months, board members and volunteers will be setting up a phone-a-thon to call alumni and make sure we have current information. Please let us know if you're interested in helping us track down those people who have helped make this such an incredible organization!

Contact Colleen Kingston at ckingston@mindspring.com.



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DEKALB COUNCIL FOR THE ARTS, INC.

Contributors to *The Voice*: Colleen Kingston, Cheri Lee, Regina Lenoir, Lauren Norton, Ginny Stratton, Brianne Turgeon
Photography: Carl Christie, Brianne Turgeon

THE ATLANTA YOUNG SINGERS OF CALLANWOLDE

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Interim Executive Director
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Accompanist
Brianna Turgeon
Assistant Music Director
William F. Nittler
Education Director
Suzanne Shull
Music Instructor
Heather Bargeron
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Do you know a child who has a talent for singing?

AYSC is scheduling individual auditions for the 2004-05 season. Aspiring singers in grades 2-11 are encouraged to audition. If you know a singer who may be interested in joining AYSC, please encourage him or her to contact us by phone at 404-873-3365 or by email at aysc@bellsouth.net.

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