

Fall 2009 Events

Friday October 23, 7:30 pm

Festive Choral Evensong

Saint John's Episcopal Church

Friday November 20, 7:00 pm

National Anthem at opening of hockey game between the Mississippi Riverkings and the Bossier-Shreveport Mudbugs Desoto Civic Center (www.riverkings.com)

Saturday December 5, 7:30 pm

Christmas Pops Concert with Jackson Symphony Orchestra Jackson (TN) Civic Center (www.jacksonsymphony.org)

Sunday December 13, 4:00 & 7:00 pm

22nd Annual Lessons & Carols Saint John's Episcopal Church, Greer at Central, Memphis



Summer's Gone, But You Can Wear a Darn Good T-Shirt Any Time! And, you just won't be able to beat a Memphis Boychoir T-shirt! These lovely 100% cotton shirts feature our slogan, "Oh Boy! Amen." above our stylish logo. We have all sizes, and at \$10 each, you won't find a better deal! Show your support. Order one today: 323-8597 (pick up at St. John's, Greer at Central).

• Alumni Profiles •



Hello! My name is Peter Abell. I was a member of the Memphis Boychoir choir in 1989 and 1990. I started just after the *Silent Night* audio tape was completed and participated in the recording of the first CD, *What Sweeter Music*. I sang with Lee Gilliland on the intro of "Let us Run", a song for which my father had written the music. If you want to know which

one I was, Lee is the better one!

I went on the Texas tour, which is still to this day one of the best experiences I have had and one of the fondest memories from my childhood. During that trip we delivered an impromptu performance in a pavilion at a rest stop somewhere in Louisiana. We sang "This Joyful Eastertide" and received a standing ovation from the crowd who happened to be there. I don't think it mattered that they were already standing!

The Boychoir taught me the basic tenets of music theory, but also the importance of hard work and preparation. At a very young age, we were all certainly driven to excellence. That has been a big help in both my personal and professional life.

Today, I am the Assistant Director of Development at Youth Villages. I don't sing formally, but Jessica, my wife of four years, would say otherwise. We live in East Memphis with our giant dog Pau and enjoy attending performances by the Dr. Geoffrey Ward led boychoir.

MEMPHIS BOYCHOIR

Discover the sound of centuries.

The mission of The Memphis Boychoir is to provide the city of Memphis and surrounding areas a spiritual and musical experience featuring the unique aural qualities of unchanged treble boys voices and to provide boys with the opportunity to participate in a musical discipline which builds confidence, collegiality, and teamwork.

The Treble Voice, the official newsletter of The Memphis Boychoir, is published by The Memphis Boychoir, Inc., 3245 Central Ave., Memphis, TN 38111. To submit items, please contact Dr. Geoffrey Ward by phone or email at: 901-323-8597 x26 or ghward@stjohnsmemphis.org.

The Treble Voice

The Official Newsletter of The Memphis Boychoir

Fall 2009

Festive Choral Evensong Will Feature Specially Commissioned Piece of Music

In June St. John's Episcopal Church, the Memphis Boychoir and the Memphis Chamber Choir celebrated the wonderful choral music of George Frideric Handel as well as the career of Richard T. White. More than 300 people gathered for the music and to hear the story of Mr. White's tenure as organist and choirmaster of St. John's during the years 1950-1986.

Rev. John Sewell, rector of St. John's, has commissioned a piece of music to honor Mr. White. "Prayer for Humble Access" will be performed during the Festive Choral Evensong Service on Friday, October 23rd. The composer, James Blachly, will conduct the piece, which will be sung by the Memphis Chamber Choir.

A dessert and wine reception will be held in the Parish Hall following the service.



FROM THE HEART TO THE SOUL

Members of the Memphis Boychoir and Memphis Chamber Choir performed in the courtyard of LeMoyne-Owen College

Choirs Perform at LeMoyne-Owen College

On Sunday September 13 members of the Memphis Boychoir and Memphis Chamber Choir participated in a community event sponsored by the Memphis Symphony Orchestra and LeMoyne-Owen College. The event "From the Heart to the Soul" featured choirs and soloists from around the Mid-South and culminated in a performance by the Memphis Symphony Orchestra with Maestro David Loebel.

The boys and adults of our choirs performed a 15 minute segment which included renditions of "The Star Spangled Banner" and "O Canada." For most of our singers, it was the first time to visit and to sing at the beautiful campus at LeMoyne-Owen College. We performed in the courtyard area for about 200 alumni, family and friends.

Dr. Johnnie B. Watson, president of LeMoyne-Owen, said, "This is a gift to the community to have our campus and community and supporters of LeMoyne-Owen College come to this free, live concert." Other performers included a choir from Saint George's Independent School and the LeMoyne-Owen concert choir.



REDBIRDS & LASTING FRIENDSHIPS

The Memphis Boychoir provides great music instruction and opportunities for boys to form lasting friendships. At left are Summer School participants attending a Redbirds baseball game. Above are current members Aidan Terry and Austin Robinson.

Many Thanks to Our Generous Donors!

The Memphis Boychoir Inc., a chartered non-profit 501-c-3 corporation registered with the state of Tennessee, would like to thank the following donors for their generous contributions to our Annual Fund. This list includes contributions received between July 1 and September 19, 2009:

Beethoven (1000 to 1999)

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Remembering

Virginia Taylor Gibson
 Beverly & Duncan Williams

MBC Camp Scholarship Fund

The Rev. John & Marilyn Sewell
 Sissie & Walton Griffin

First Ever Boychoir Summer Camp Was a Rousing Success!

July 2009 marked the first Memphis Boychoir Summer Camp. Seventeen participants between the ages of seven and twelve took advantage of a week filled with many wonderful activities! Over half the campers were new to our program. One of the goals of the camp was to introduce the Memphis Boychoir to more boys in the community and this is something we achieved.

Returning Boychoir members were strong leaders during the camp, giving instruction and lending a hand to the new boys. It is inspiring to see nine and ten year old boys demonstrating leadership skills!

The culminating event of the week was the opportunity to sing for the worship service on Sunday July 26. The boys joined members of the Saint John's Chancel Choir for this service.

Other highlights during the week included performing the National anthem for the Memphis Redbirds game, visiting the Brooks Museum, the Pink Palace and invading the residence of Walton and Sissie Griffin for a closing pool party. I am very proud of the hard work that was demonstrated during the camp. We worked hard and we played hard - what a great experience!
 —GHW



VIEW FROM ABOVE

Dr. Geoffrey Ward leads the Memphis Chamber Choir through their final rehearsal prior to the "Bach at Idlewild" performance. (Photo by Dr. Ching Hon Pui)

Bach at Idlewild – A Great Season Starter!

There was mighty stiff competition on the schedule for Labor Day weekend. In the Liberty Bowl it was Ole Miss vs. Memphis, and downtown it was a popular free event, The Center for Southern Folklore's annual Memphis Music & Heritage Festival. But in midtown, "Bach at Idlewild" ruled!

More than 700 people attended this gala event which featured the Memphis Symphony Orchestra and Friends at Idlewild Presbyterian Church. The Memphis Boychoir and the Memphis Chamber Choir were honored to be among the friends. For the boys, it was their first performance in this series, and for the adults, their third.

Robert Moody was the guest conductor for the matinee, which included two Bach cantatas and two works for organ and orchestra by Samuel Barber and Francis Poulenc. Both choirs were very professional and patient for all rehearsals and the performance and hope to continue this partnership with the Memphis Symphony and Idlewild Presbyterian Church.

We Need a Few Good Boys!

Do you know a boy who loves to sing? Please connect with the Memphis Boychoir about possible recruits. We are always looking for new boys to participate in our program. We offer excellent musical training and an environment that enables boys to "discover the sound of centuries". —GHW