

Looking Backward/Looking Forward

Dear Friends,

Our theme for this season's series — "Looking Backward/Looking Forward" — refers to our drawing upon favorite works from past concerts and presenting some exciting new pieces. Looking Backward, we are going to perform some of the Gregg Smith Singers' tour repertoire along with several other wonderful pieces we have premiered throughout our 54 years of concerts. Both Samuel Barber and William Schuman would have been 100 years old in 2010 and both were fans of GSS. The first recording of Barber's *Three Reincarnations* was made by the Singers and remained a staple item in our repertoire over many years. William Schuman was a very close friend of both Roz and myself and the Gregg Smith Singers. We had the great honor of premiering several of his works. We toured his baseball opera *The Mighty Casey* and commissioned and premiered *Perceptions*. Ours was the first recording of his *Carols of Death*. We are also going to bring back to our NYC audience a popular portion of our tour programs: Music in Multi-dimensional Sound, or Music in Space. You will enjoy the Singers surrounding you with rounds and some double chorus favorites by Dufay and Horatio Parker. Especially delightful are William Hawley's two motets for 16 voices written for GSS almost 20 years ago. Often on tour, we would present a group of my own folksong arrangements and we would like to bring back such favorites as *Shenandoah*, *Drunken Sailor* and *Blow the Candles Out* as well as my *Mark Twain Cantata*, a theater piece based on the wit and wisdom of American author Mark Twain.

Looking forward, we will be presenting a new jazz work based on Johnny Mercer by composer Dick Thompson and lyricist Kim Rich, two Wordsworth settings by Walter Hulse, *O Vos Omnes* by Michael Bussewitz and works by composers we have been wanting to perform for some time: George Perle and Mark Adamo.

For more jazz, we will be repeating a work by Dale Jergenson, written for GSS' 40th anniversary, *Tricromat*. It is hard to realize

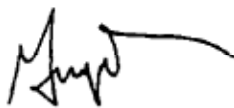
this work is now 14 years old! And GSS' associate conductor Thomas Schmidt will lead his arrangement of *I want Jesus to walk with me*.

Also looking forward, we have quite a few website projects thanks to support from the NEA. (Please go and take a look www.greggsmithsingers.com) Our webmeister James Shaw has designed a GSS 50 Year Chronology which allows you to see and, eventually, to hear what GSS was doing in any given year from 1955 through 2009! Soon to come is an Oral History project consisting of interviews with composers, conductors, many of the Singers, and Adirondack Festival of American Music friends and participants. Just last month, June LeBell interviewed Jack Beeson, William Mayer, Ned Rorem and Elliott Carter (100 years young), and reported of Carter, "He spoke in paragraphs!"

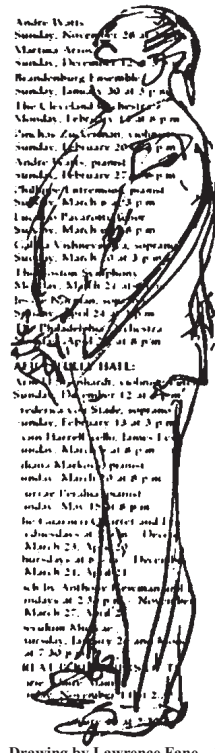
Finally, we are looking forward to the December release of our CD *Heaven Is Music* — Choral and Vocal Music of Virgil Thomson. It is a treasure which includes two Latin Motets, three holiday songs, *Mass for Two-Part Chorus and Percussion*, *Seven Choruses from the Medea of Euripides*, *My Shepherd Will Supply My Need* and three Hymns from the Old South, plus Roz singing Thomson's *Four Songs on Poems of Thomas Campion*.

As always, a concert series like ours needs support from our friends. We are happy to have received a NYSCA grant for this season, but it will cover only about half of the costs so we must ask for support from all of you, support to help us with the exciting programs we have planned, and NEA projects whose funding must be matched. Your past help is very much appreciated. As we look forward, we hope we can depend upon you once again. Being remembered can be as expensive as being performed!

Yours truly,



Gregg Smith



Drawing by Lawrence Fane — 1976



Gregg
Smith
Singers

The 38th Year of Our New York Concert Series

Two Saturday Evenings at 8:00 p.m.

- January 23, 2010
- March 13, 2010

Plus . . .

NYC Choral Composers'
Readings Workshop
March 5 - 11, 2010



Gregg Smith Singers
2009-2010 New York Concert Series
42 Custer Avenue
Yonkers, NY 10701

Looking Backward/Looking Forward

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*Tickets can be ordered on our website:
www.greggsmithsingers.com or
please complete this form and mail it
with your check to:*

GREGG SMITH SINGERS

42 Custer Avenue
Yonkers, New York 10701
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I would like ____ book(s) of 2 tickets @ \$45
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to the Gregg Smith Singers

Total Enclosed \$ _____

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City/State/Zip _____

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- Please mail my tickets right away.
 I'll pick them up at the January concert.
 I am interested in participating in the NYC Choral Composers Readings Workshop

Gregg Smith Singers

2009 – 2010 New York Concert Series



SAINT PETER'S CHURCH
Lexington Avenue at 54th Street, New York City



— JANUARY 23, 2010 —

Heinrich Schütz - Cantiones Sacrae
Virgil Thomson - Tribulationes Civitatem
De Profundis
Tim Laciano - Virtue
In memory of Mary Frances Ritter

William Hawley - Two Motets for 16 Voices
Moselle
Te Vigilans Oculis
Dale Jergenson
Trichromat: 3 jazz pieces
written for GSS 40th Anniversary

INTERMISSION

Celebrating William Schuman's 100th Birthday: Perceptions
Mark Adamo
Settings of Gerard Manley Hopkins
Michael Bussewitz
O Vos Omnes
Thomas Schmidt
I want Jesus to walk with me
Gregg Smith
Folksong Arrangements



*This Series is made possible, in part, with public funds
from the New York State Council on the Arts, a State Agency,
and the National Endowment for the Arts*

— MARCH 13, 2010 —

Heinrich Schütz
Italian Madrigals — Set II
Edmund Najera
Requiem

MUSIC IN SPACE

3 rounds:

Kurt Weill - Hymn to Peace
Leo Smit - Lenten is Come
Guillaume Dufay - Gloria
Horatio Parker
Stant Sion

INTERMISSION

Celebrating Samuel Barber's 100th Birthday:
Three Reincarnations
Walter Hilse
Two Lyrics, After Wordsworth
George Perle
And so the Swans
Dick Thompson
Johnny Mercer Knew
Gregg Smith
Mark Twain Cantata



WORKSHOP

The Gregg Smith Singers
with funding from the Alice M. Ditson Fund
announce a special

NYC Choral Composers' Readings Workshop

**Friday, March 5 through
Thursday, March 11, 2010**

A composition will be rehearsed and taped for each composer along with commentary during each 50-minute reading by the Singers under the supervision of Gregg Smith with associate conductors Dale Jergenson and Thomas Schmidt.

Enrollment in workshop is limited to the first twelve composers to apply.

Fee: \$275

GREGG SMITH SINGERS
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Workshop session on lyrics – with Kim Rich