

The Membership of Forest City Singers

Alice Bewie, *soprano*
John Bewie, *baritone*
Robert Bilenker, *bass*
Nancy Burgard, *soprano*
D'Arcy, *alto*
Charles Dunbar, *tenor*
Linda Frank, *alto*
Heber Hanson, *bass*
Grace Helmuth, *alto*
Tom Johns, *tenor*
Melissa Jolly, *alto*

Betsy Kmetzko, *alto*
Ger Kadis, *tenor*
J. Hilton Luce, *baritone*
Maryanne McCrone, *soprano*
Charles McDonald, *tenor*
Joan McVeen, *soprano*
Milford McVeen, *baritone*
James Newby, *tenor*
Bonnie Savage, *soprano*
Robert J. Sprafka, *bass*
Keith Sykora, *bass*

Joy! Joy! Joy!

A brief history of Forest City Singers

Forest City Singers was founded in 1993 by Virginia Wieland-Mast as an intimate group of 8 experienced classical singers. Since that time the membership has almost tripled. Members have served in the Cleveland Orchestra Chorus, Cleveland Opera Chorus, University Circle Chorale and Chamber Choir (Cleveland Institute of Music-Case Western Reserve University), Cleveland Singers Club, Cleveland Choral Arts Society, Cleveland Messiah Singers, Lakeland Civic Chorus, Western Reserve Chorale, as well as being mainstays and soloists in church and temple choirs around the Cleveland area. Several members teach music, and several regularly perform soli and duets in the Cleveland area.

The repertoire includes 16th and 17th century English, French and German madrigals; German Lieder; chamber oratorios; spirituals (white and black); and Broadway show tunes. Christmas music not often heard is also a specialty. Group members occasionally perform as soloists and duets during longer programs.

Virginia Wieland-Mast

Ginie is a graduate of the Eastman school of Music, having received a Bachelor's degree of Music (BM) in Voice and Music Education with honors. She received a Master of Music degree from the Cleveland Institute of Music, majoring in voice.

She worked with Robert Shaw for nine years, singing and studying. Another nine years was spent singing with the Cleveland Opera. She has performed as a soloist and assistant choir director since college at several Cleveland area churches.

She is active as a voice teacher and coach, with over a dozen students ranging from high school age to adults.

Our full repertoire and recent performance photographs may be viewed on our World Wide Web page: <http://www.rjsprafka.com/fcs>. You may e-mail Ms. Mast at ginhelm@stratos.net

program design by AAI Scientific

Church of St. Stephen
December 12, 1999



Virginia Wieland-Mast
Founder and Director

Joy! Joy! Joy!

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Christmas Hymn 17th C. arr. H. Jungst

“echo” quartet
Nancy Burgard, *soprano* Grace Helmuth, *alto*
Tom Johns, *tenor* Bob Sprafka, *bass*

Ding Dong! Merrily on High 16th C. French tune
harm. C. Wood

O Magnum Mysterium T. L. de Victoria
ed. Parker/Shaw

O great mystery and wondrous sacrament,
That animals might see the birth of the Lord as He lay in the manger.
O, Blessed Virgin, who was worthy of bearing Jesus Christ. Alleluia.

Rock of Ages trad. Hebrew

O God, my saving stronghold, to praise You is a delight,
Restore my house of prayer where I will offer You thanks;
When havoc comes from the foe who maligns us,
I will gratify myself with a song at Your altar.

Machet die Tore weit A. Hammerschmidt
arr. Parker/Shaw

Lift up your heads, ye gates;
and the King of glory shall come in.
Who is the King of glory?
It is the Lord strong and mighty. Hosianna.

Hannukah Madrigal Herbert Fromm

Who can retell the deeds of Israel, who counts them?
Each generation gives a redeemer, one great name.
At this season in those ancient days,
Maccabi won all his people's praise.
And today again as once they dreamed,
Israel, united, rises up to be redeemed.

Alice Bewie, *soprano*

In the Bleak Midwinter G. Holst
arr. A. Parker

O Jesu so sweet, O Jesu so mild Scheidt's "Tablaturbuch" (1650)
arr. J. S. Bach

Deck the Halls trad. Welsh carol
arr. Parker/Shaw

Angels We Have Heard on High traditional French Carol
arr. Parker/Shaw

The Boar's Head English secular carol
arr. Parker/Shaw

Candlelight Carol J. Rutter

Jingle Bells arr. G. Langford

Behold That Star arr. H. T. Burleigh

Christmas is STILL the Best Time of the Year P. Johnson

Christ Child Carol C. Bennett

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Fum, Fum, Fum traditional Spanish dance carol
arr. Parker/Shaw

Timothy Peterson, *accompanist*