

Asheville Choral Society

Lenora Thom, Music Director

Powerful Voices, Remarkable Music



Come Sing With Us!!!



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Lenora Thom, Music Director

Dear Chorister,

Thank you for your interest in becoming a member of the Asheville Choral Society. Under the dynamic and talented leadership of Music Director Lenora Thom, we have enjoyed a level of artistic and organizational growth that is simply remarkable. We are proud of the fact that ACS is now widely regarded as the finest choral group in Western North Carolina.

We sing all kinds of music. The concerts programmed by Maestra Thom are innovative, thoughtful, inspired - and always challenging. We work very hard but we have fun doing so. Whether it's the artistic and spiritual reward of singing a requiem by Brahms or Finzi, or the sheer joy of singing Ellington with a great swing band, ACS has become an important part of our lives.

We've put together this brief brochure for those considering membership in our chorus. Here's what you'll find in the pages ahead:

- An introduction to Music Director Lenora Thom
- More about the Asheville Choral Society
- Our concerts for the 2008-2009 season
- Selected repertoire, 2000-2008
- Audition Requirements
- Basic membership requirements
- How to schedule an audition
- An audition questionnaire

Music Director **Lenora Thom** is a conductor, pianist, organist, vocal coach, teacher and arranger who moved to Asheville in 1998. For over twenty years, she enjoyed a busy and varied professional career in the New York City area, where she held positions as Music Director and Conductor of the New Jersey Choral Society and Orchestra, of the Kean (NJ) Chamber Symphony and of the Riverdale (NY) Chamber Orchestra.

Ms. Thom was appointed Music Director of the Asheville Choral Society in September 2000 and has also worked with many of Asheville's leading musical groups. She has acted as Assistant Conductor for the Asheville Symphony Orchestra, Musical/Vocal Director for the Flat Rock Playhouse, and Music Director at the Asheville Community Theatre. She maintains a busy vocal and piano studio and finds time for musical arranging and recital/cabaret work as well. In September of 2003, Ms. Thom was appointed Director of Music at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Asheville.

Maestra Thom founded the Riverdale Chamber Orchestra and served as its Music Director / Conductor from 1985-1992. Lenora is a frequent guest conductor and musical director for choral, orchestral, and musical theatre groups. She has conducted more than 100 musical theatre productions for off-Broadway, regional, summer stock, and university theatres. An award-winning pianist, she has performed in recital, cabaret, and chamber music concerts throughout the Northeast. From 1980-1995, she was the studio accompanist/coach in several leading voice studios in New York City, accompanying and teaching literally thousands of singers in all genres of opera, art song, musical theatre and popular music.

Ms. Thom studied at Juilliard, the Hartt School of Music, Trinity College, Peabody Conservatory, and the Pierre Monteux School for Conductors. Lenora held numerous Director of Music/Organist positions at churches and synagogues from 1970-1998 in Maryland, Connecticut, New York and New Jersey.





The Asheville Choral Society

The Asheville Choral Society was founded in 1977 by Dr. Robert P. Keener. Now Music Director Emeritus, Dr. Keener was greatly respected for his expertise in choral repertoire and his creative programming. He retired in 2000, having earned a loyal following among singers and audience members in the Asheville area.

In the fall of 2000, Maestra Lenora Thom became Music Director of ACS and has presided over a period of extraordinary growth. The chorus roster has grown from approximately 50 to over 140. The number of performances each season has increased from three to six, with the 2008-2009 Season adding a seventh, a special benefit concert featuring Paul McCartney's *Ecce Cor Meum*. Concert attendance has grown fourfold. ACS is now established as one of the preeminent performing arts groups in Western North Carolina.

The ACS season comprises two performances each of three concerts. The annual pops concert is performed with professional show band; the others are performed with professional orchestra, often with world-class soloists from throughout the country. Ms Thom is well-known for her innovative and challenging programming. Peruse the repertoire lists that follow and you will find that ACS performs many choral masterpieces that, unfortunately, are not heard as often as they deserve.

The membership of the chorus is diverse. Most, however, have extensive choral experience and many have music degrees or have worked as professional musicians.

ACS 2008-2009 Season

Magnificent Christmas

Embrace the joy, peace, light and love of this season!

“Magnificent” settings of *Magnificat*

By W.A. Mozart, Johann Pachelbel and Arvo Pärt

William Mathias: *Ave Rex*.

Works by John Rutter, Eric Whitacre, Z. Randall Stroope,
Leo Nestor, William Walton and others

With orchestra

December 13 and 14, 2008 * Central United Methodist Church

GAIA: A Celebration of the Earth

Ralph Vaughan Williams: *A Sea Symphony*

Libby Larsen: *Missa Gaia (Mass for the Earth)*

Joseph Haydn: *The Creation (selections)*

With orchestra

March 28 and 29, 2009 * Central United Methodist Church

The Colors of My Life

The beautiful ballad from the hit musical *Barnum* is the inspiration for this program. “The colors of my life are bountiful and bold,” but they are also “softer than a breeze.”

I'm Always Chasing Rainbows ♦ *Mood Indigo* ♦ *Shakin' the Blues Away*
Mountain Greenery ♦ *Yellow Submarine* and much more!

With show band

May 30 and 31, 2009 * Diana Wortham Theatre

“ACS Sings Classical McCartney:

The Benefit Concert”

ECCE COR MEUM

Behold My Heart

Chamber chorus, children's chorus, soprano soloist and orchestra

October 12, 2008

Diana Wortham Theatre

Asheville Choral Society

Selected Repertoire 2000 - 2008

<i>Christmas Oratorio</i>	Johann Sebastian Bach
<i>Knoxville: Summer of 1915, Op. 24</i>	Samuel Barber
<i>Gloria</i>	Randol Alan Bass
<i>Mass in C Major, Op. 86</i>	Ludwig Van Beethoven
<i>Chichester Psalms</i>	Leonard Bernstein
<i>Avodath Hakodesh (selections)</i>	Ernest Bloch
<i>Ein deutsches Requiem</i>	Johannes Brahms
<i>A Ceremony of Carols</i>	Benjamin Britten
<i>La damoiselle élue</i>	Claude Debussy
<i>Requiem</i>	Maurice Duruflé
<i>Judas Maccabaeus (selections)</i>	George Frederick Handel
<i>Intimations of Immortality</i>	Gerald Finzi
<i>Requiem da Camera</i>	Gerald Finzi
<i>Totus Tuus</i>	Henryk Górecki
<i>Song of Democracy</i>	Howard Hanson
<i>Choral Hymns from the Rig Veda</i>	Gustav Holst
<i>The Cloud Messenger</i>	Gustav Holst
<i>Psalms 86 and 146</i>	Gustav Holst
<i>Missa Brevis</i>	Zoltán Kodály
<i>Lux Aeterna</i>	Morten Lauridsen
<i>O Magnum Mysterium</i>	Morten Lauridsen
<i>Mid-Winter Songs</i>	Morten Lauridsen
<i>Ave Rex</i>	William Mathias
<i>Elijah</i>	Felix Mendelssohn
<i>Hymnus Amoris</i>	Carl August Nielsen
<i>Carmina Burana</i>	Carl Orff
<i>Old Flemish Carols</i>	Flor Peeters
<i>Christmas Cantata</i>	Daniel Pinkham
<i>Gloria</i>	Francis Poulenc
<i>Gloria</i>	Giacomo Puccinni
<i>Vespers, Opus 37 (selections)</i>	Sergei Rachmaninoff
<i>Gloria</i>	John Rutter
<i>When Icicles Hang</i>	John Rutter
<i>Christmas Oratorio</i>	Camille Saint-Saëns
<i>Mirjams Siegesgesang (Miriam's Song of Triumph)</i>	Franz Schubert
<i>Hodie</i>	Z. Randall Stroepe
<i>Magnificat</i>	Jonathan Willcocks
<i>Dona Nobis Pacem</i>	Ralph Vaughan Williams
<i>Toward the Unknown Region</i>	Ralph Vaughan Williams



Asheville Choral Society

**Selected Pops Concerts
2000 – 2008**

Music From the Stage

Selections from great operas, operettas and musical theater

The music of Verdi, Bizet, Mozart, Gilbert and Sullivan, Romberg,
Sondheim, Lerner and Lowe and many others

ACS Swings!

*The music of Ellington, Goodman, Prima, Porter,
Carmichael, Arlen, Van Heusen and more*

with Show Band

An American Album

Spirituals, songs of the Appalachians, the music of
Foster, Gershwin and Loesser

with Show Band

ACS at the Awards

*Oscar, Tony, and Grammy Award-Winning Songs
The best from Broadway, the movies, and popular music*

with Show Band

Seasons of Love:

Love, Time and the Seasons

with Show Band

Autumn Leaves, April in Paris, June is Bustin' Out All Over,
Too Darn Hot, Stormy Weather,
selections from *Rent* featuring Seasons of Love,
and many, many more



Asheville Choral Society

Audition Requirements

Your audition will include the following:

Prepared piece. Select a piece that you feel best demonstrates your vocal ability. Depending on the applicant, prepared pieces vary from virtuosic arias and art songs to popular and Broadway songs to simple hymns and folk songs. In addition to a copy for yourself, you will need to provide one copy of the music, in the key you will be singing, for accompaniment. Memorization is not required.

Vocalization. You will be asked to vocalize to determine range and vocal qualities.

Sight-reading. You will be asked to sight-read a short, simple musical selection. You will not be expected to sight-read without piano accompaniment.

Foreign language pronunciation. The music director will pronounce a few words or phrases in Latin, German, Italian or French. You will be asked to repeat them.

A typical audition is 15-20 minutes long. The only people present will be you and the music director who will also be your accompanist.

The Asheville Choral Society welcomes members without regard to age, race, sex, creed, or sexual orientation.



Asheville Choral Society

Basic Membership Requirements

Regular rehearsals: Regular rehearsals are Monday nights throughout the concert season, from 7:15 p.m. to 9:30 p.m., at the Haywood Street Methodist Church, Patton Avenue and Haywood Street. The expectation is that choristers will attend all rehearsals possible. Anyone missing three or more rehearsals may be asked to withdraw from singing that concert. A few extra, optional rehearsals will be offered, usually on Saturday mornings from 10:00 a.m. to noon. Attendance is encouraged, but not required.

Dress rehearsals: Either three or four dress rehearsals are scheduled the week of each concert. These rehearsals are from 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. and attendance is mandatory.

Concerts: ACS presents three concerts each season, with two performances of each, usually Saturday night and Sunday afternoon. Our performance venues are the Central United Methodist Church on Church Street and the Diana Wortham Theatre on Pack Square, Asheville.

Chorister costs: Singers are asked to pay dues of \$25 per concert and to purchase their music, usually \$30-\$40 per concert. Financial assistance is available. Full-time students are exempt from dues.

Concert dress: Men's concert attire is black tuxedo, bow tie, cummerbund, shoes and socks with white formal shirt. Women's concert dress is a standard ACS all-black, full-length performance dress. Women are expected to purchase these and the cost will run \$60-\$90.

Black music folder: All singers must have their music in order and in solid black folders or binders for all dress rehearsals and performances.

Re-auditioning: In order to retain active membership, choristers must sing at least two of the three concerts each season. Those who cannot meet this standard may be asked to re-audition. If there is a waiting list for their section, they will be placed at the end of the waiting list, assuming the audition was passed.



Asheville Choral Society

How to Schedule an Audition

To schedule an audition, you must complete the audition questionnaire and return it to ACS, after which you will be contacted promptly to schedule your time.

The questionnaire can be completed and submitted a number of ways:

Online. If you are reading this online, you can go to the appropriate ACS web page by clicking here: www.ashevillechoralsociety.org/auditions/questionnaire. If you are not online, you can copy the above into your web browser or simply go to our home page www.ashevillechoralsociety.org and click on “Come Sing With Us” and follow the directions given.

Mail. The following page in this brochure is the audition questionnaire. If online, print the form. Complete it and mail to:

Asheville Choral Society
P. O. Box 7200
Asheville, NC 28802

In person. Complete the audition questionnaire on the following page, printing it if online. The ACS office is located on the mezzanine level of the lobby of the Haywood Park Hotel, Suite M-1, 1 Battery Park Avenue, Asheville. Office hours are 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. If no one is present when you arrive, you may drop the form into the mail slot in the door.

If you have any questions, please call the ACS office at (828) 232-2060.



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Audition Questionnaire

Name _____ Phone (h) _____

(w) _____

Address _____ (c) _____

_____ e-mail _____

Please describe your previous singing experience:(community/college/high school chorus, church/synagogue choir, musical theatre, etc):

Have you ever had formal vocal training/ voice lessons? yes _____ no _____

If yes, please describe:

Have you ever played a musical instrument? Please describe: _____

Do you read music? (know note names, rhythmic values, can follow a choral part, etc.)

yes, very well _____ yes, somewhat _____ no, not really _____

How did you hear about us? _____

The song you prepared is _____

Thank you very much!