



# Radcliffe Choral Society

## NEWSLETTER

MAY 19, 2010

### *Announcing the New Director of Choral Activities at Harvard:*

The Office for the Arts at Harvard (OFA) and Harvard University Music Department are pleased to announce the appointment of Andrew Clark as Director of Choral Activities at Harvard, and Senior Lecturer in the Music Department. Andrew Clark comes to Harvard from Tufts University, where he has served as Director of Choral Activities since 2003. Under his leadership, the Tufts choirs have quadrupled in membership, and have undertaken

## Andrew Clark



international tours, new music festivals, and regular collaborations with other university choirs and ensembles. Clark teaches conducting, music theory, and orchestration in the Tufts Music Department. Clark is also Artistic Director of The Provi-

dence Singers, an award-winning choral organization of 120 singers and five staff members. With Clark, the Providence Singers has earned critical praise for artistically rewarding and innovative concerts, distinctive community engagement programs, and dynamic organizational partnerships.

Clark has served as Music Director of The Worcester Chorus, Chorus Master and Assistant Conductor of Opera Boston, Associate Conductor of the Boston Pops

Esplanade Chorus, Director of Choral Activities at Clark University, Assistant Conductor of the Mendelssohn Choir of Pittsburgh, and Assistant Conductor of the Harvard-Radcliffe Collegium Musicum.

### A Letter from the President, Emily Pierce '10

Dear Alumnae of the Radcliffe Choral Society,

I find it somewhat bittersweet to write this final letter to you as RCS President. Just over a week ago, we held elections for the next group of smart and dedicated women who will take over RCS, and usher the group through a new, exciting phase of RCS history. I have been proud to be President of such a talented and wonderful group of women this year, and have been so proud of what we've accomplished. Our year began with a fun-filled retreat with the Glee Club, a beautiful fall concert with Collegium, and our annual Christmas concert with the Glee Club. In the second semester, we joined with other Harvard groups to participate in a benefit concert, which raised \$36,000 for Partners In Health to aid their earthquake relief efforts in Haiti. We also performed a gorgeous Junior



### Spring 2011 Preview- Southern California

March 12-March 20, 2011, RCS will be touring to Santa Barbara, Los Angeles, and San Diego. We're looking forward to the sunshine and beaches and are particularly pleased that so many of our alums live in this area. We hope to meet many of you during our travels!

Alumnae from Southern California who are interested in advising the RCS Tour Managers as they begin planning should contact Marlee Morris ([mmorris@fas.harvard.edu](mailto:mmorris@fas.harvard.edu)). Alumnae interested in helping to organize alumnae receptions in conjunction with RCS tour concerts should contact Cara Ferrentino at [ferrentino@post.harvard.edu](mailto:ferrentino@post.harvard.edu).

### (A Letter from the President, *Cont.*)

Parents Weekend concert with the Glee Club in March. Also in March, RCS was delighted to travel to Washington DC, Philadelphia and New York on spring tour. During this time, RCS bonded as friends and as musicians, and performed some of the most beautiful music we have made as a group. We were also thrilled to see so many alums at our after-concert receptions in each of the three cites! As our year closed out in April, we performed a hugely successful end-of-year concert in honor of Dr. Jameson Marvin. Along with the Collegium and Glee Club, RCS performed *Song of Awakening*, a piece by Robert Kyr, commissioned by the three groups in honor of Jim. That same weekend, we had an alumnae brunch filled with stories and songs from years past.

May brought more good news! As much as we will miss Jim Marvin, we are thrilled to welcome Andrew Clark as the next Director of Choral Activities. Mr. Clark is coming to us from Tufts University. I am sure that he will continue to help RCS grow musically for many years to come, and am excited to see what is in store for all three Holden choirs!

Over the past year, I have been so proud of everything that RCS has been able to accomplish. None of what we have done would have been possible without the gracious assistance of you, our alums, and I want to thank you for your continued support. At the end of the year, I will join all of you as an alum-

na of the Radcliffe Choral Society, and I am excited to be joining such a formidable group of women.

Warmly,

Emily Pierce

President 2009-2010



### RCS Alumnae Sing at Youville House

In February, RCS alumnae from all eras gathered at Youville House, an assisted living residence in Cambridge, MA, to rehearse together and perform for Youville's residents. The group sang a movement from Palestrina's Magnificat, an arrangement of George Pope Morris's Long Time Ago, and several Radcliffe songs. The event was a great success - the audience at Youville enjoyed the concert, and the alumnae had fun sharing an array of RCS traditions with one another. We look forward to the next of these events for our Boston-area alumnae.



# *A Holden Reunion in Honor of Jameson Marvin*

## **Memories, Sings, and Celebrating**

Hundreds of Holden alumnae came back to Harvard the first weekend in May to honor Jim Marvin on the eve of his retirement. The weekend included a spectacular concert by the three choirs and a lovely banquet commemorating Jim's 32 years of service as Director of Choral Activities. It was also an opportunity for the women of RCS—past and present—to gather together and celebrate our rich history. On Saturday morning there was an RCS group sing, in which Jim and assistant conductors Katie Woolf and Beth Willer led the attendees through favorite repertoire from across the ages. The following morning featured a brunch in the Radcliffe Quadrangle, where women from the classes of 1962 to 2013 mingled and shared memories. We learned the origin of the Glee Club Sweetheart and heard about RCS's moving journey to East Germany before the Berlin Wall came down. We also sang through classic Radcliffe songs such as "The Cherry Ribbon" and "The Only Man". Many current and former RCSers were involved in planning the events of the weekend, and we extend our sincere thanks to them!

### **A Letter from Dr. Jameson Marvin**

Dear Radcliffe Choral Society Alumnae,

This has been an incredible year, as measured by the quality of the singing of the Radcliffe Choral Society and the Collegium and Glee Club achieving the same levels of excellence, but also by the well-known fact that I retire this June 30, as Director of Choral Activities at Harvard.

Throughout the past six years Kevin Leong and I have teamed together to be conductors of RCS, HGC, and HRCM, establishing an important foundation of equality of excellence between and among the Holden Choruses. Kevin's work with all three ensembles has allowed me to achieve my most important goal for the Choral Program at Harvard: a mixed ensemble, a men's ensemble, and a women's ensemble viewing each other as equals as they share in the joy and musical achievements of each other and create a unity of spirit within and between them all.

Kevin conducted RCS this fall and up through their spring tour to Washington, Philadelphia, and New York. RCS had a fabulous time on spring tour, made vivid by Kevin's musical and personal leadership, enhanced and made possible through the professional advanced planning by RCS's Spring Tour Manager, Joan Xu. What was especially rewarding and enriching were the numbers of alumni who heard our concerts and opened their homes to RCS. Beth Willer, our fabulous Assistant Conductor (who will return for a 3rd year) conducted repertoire on each concert and for all it was a mutually rewarding and most fun experience.

What I especially loved about RCS this year was that they were the quickest sight-readers of the Holden Choirs. Working with them as I did on and off through the year, but especially in late March and April, I witnessed incredible joy and high spirits, as well as attentive and professional work

in rehearsals. We and the other choruses worked hard in the presentation of my final concert at Harvard, on Friday, April 30 at which there were wonderful speeches by Reverend Peter Gomes and Jack Megan, Director of the Office for the Arts. HGC, RCS, and HRCM, all sang diverse and poignant choral works drawn from their repertoires from throughout the year. Kevin and I shared conducting the RCS program featuring works by Pablo Casals, Kodaly, Mendelssohn, Victoria, Stravinsky, and my arrangement of an appropriately named American folk song, "He's Gone Away".

The "going away" weekend I experienced was truly a life-experience, one I will never forget. The concert itself concluding with the combined Holden Choirs singing *Song of Awakening*, composed by Robert Kyr in honor of my retirement, was a work of transcendent beauty – opulent, richly tonal, highly contrapuntal set in an ingenious Gabrieli-style polychoral texture, that glowed and that created a very powerful and experience for us all.

Most incredibly, there were more than 500 Holden Alumni in Sanders Theatre who came back for my final concert that was followed by a huge and festive reception in Memorial Hall. All alumni events were meticulously planned in advance by a huge committee of alumni and students of HGC, HRCM, and RCS - most prominently - Stacey Hanson, Cara Ferrentino, and Jaime Leifer. It was an overwhelming experience for me, beginning on Saturday morning with a festive and humorous "Marvin Roast" and poignant speeches, followed in the afternoon with 3 Holden SINGS. I conducted the three Sings alternating with former and current Holden Assistant Conductors, including Katie Woolf (AC, 2004-2008) and Beth Willer, and directed more than 100 RCS alums in polished big-brain performances of works by Josquin, Mendelssohn, Kocsar, Nordqvist, Hildegard, and my arrangement "Wayfaring Stranger".

I will in fact become a wayfaring stranger to Freshmen who





### **Tour 2010 Receptions**

This year's spring tour featured post-concert receptions organized by and for local alumnae in each tour city. These receptions were one of the highlights of tour, as they provided RCS alums and current singers a chance to get together for conversation and refreshments after the concerts. Attendance at each reception reached around 100 people, including current singers, alumnae from the classes of 1954 to 2009, and RCS friends, family, and tour hosts. In addition to the connections and reconnections made among RCSers past and present, the receptions featured a few words from RCS and FRCS leadership and entertainment from the 'Cliffe Notes.

These receptions were sponsored by an extremely successful fundraising drive, which focused on asking recent alums to donate \$10-15 each to support the tour receptions. While these recent alums are only just beginning their careers, their strong participation in this fundraising drive demonstrates their commitment to RCS and its alumnae network. In total, the drive elicited participation by 52 women and raised \$1197. The



receptions were funded by 14 women from the class of 2009 (\$305), 14 women from the classes of 2007 and 2008 (\$421), and 24 women from the classes of 2004-2006 (\$471).

In addition to thanking all our donors, RCS and FRCS would like to thank the local alumnae who helped with reception planning in each tour city. Without their help, these receptions would not have been possible. Our thanks go to Jessica Azani ('09), Emma Beavers ('06), Emily Mott Brown ('07), Angelina Fryer ('03), Michelle Groman ('01), Kathy Hurwich Haas ('00), Anne Lewandowski ('09), Christine Monta ('02), Sarah Redmond ('02), Elizabeth Weinbloom ('07), and Ashley Wivel ('93). Special thanks to Deepa Dhume('05) for leading the project.

#### *(A Letter from Jim, Cont.)*

will sing in the Holden Choirs next fall. That is a very sad thought for me, but for them and for all Holden Singers we have a new and fabulous Director of Choral Activities, Andrew Clark. He was the unanimous choice by Search Committee, and by the singers of HGC, RCS, and HRCM. I am incredibly relieved to know that we have found a perfect fit, musically and personally to lead and inspire a whole new generation of singers for the Glee Club, Collegium and Choral Society into a bright and brilliant future. My own future has been blessed by the collective memories of the students of Harvard and Radcliffe. These memories were made profoundly poignant to me awakening blissful memory bells through reading three books given to me by the RCS, HGC, and HRCM, each filled with photos and hundreds of deeply meaningful thoughts about me that are rich in their descriptions of how much Holden and I have meant to them. These tributes are an overwhelming treasure.

Perhaps the most thoughtful gift was from my son, Graham, a sophomore at the Tisch School at NYU, who spoke at the final banquet in my honor attended by 600 alumni and guests. Polly and I were moved to tears by his articulate and heartfelt speech. It meant the world to me.

While I will be "retired" I will still be waving my arms – I am planning to form a Holden Alumni Choir, conduct and teach at various colleges and universities. Polly plans to work for two more years (NYU tuition!) and in the meantime I look forward to arranging, composing, and editing for various publishers. When we are both free, we can't wait to travel, visit friends, and do alumni sings in various parts of the country wherever invited!

Warmest regards and with abiding affection to all,

Jim