



Downers Grove Choral Society

#14 FEBRUARY 2011

"What is this thing called love?"

This song not only opens the program, it sets the theme for the February 13 DGCS Concert entitled *Love's Sweet Songs*, which will explore the bountiful riches of music about love to present a concert devoted to the sweet, and sometimes bittersweet, subject.



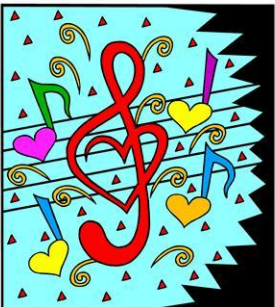
In recognition of Valentine's Day, the DGCS has planned a concert all about love – and whether you are a young lover, a not-so-young lover, a wannabe lover, or have fond memories, this is a program you will be sure to enjoy, as it will explore many moods of love through a variety of selections.



As long as there has been music, sweethearts have relied upon tender melodies and eloquent texts to express the breadth and depth of their innermost desires. Artistic director Robert Holst will present an eclectic mix of ballads, standards, and songs that range from classical and contemporary composers to popular pieces by Gershwin, Sondheim, Bacharach and Joni Mitchell. The performance will include full chorus, intimate solos, and small groups from within the DGCS membership, in an informal and relaxed presentation style.

Some of the music was even conceived by sweethearts: Contemporary composer Eric Whitacre and his wife, soprano Hila Pittman, composed music and lyrics for the collection, *Five Hebrew Love Songs*, and Robert Schumann's wife Clara was his editor for "*Ich bin geliebt*" (I am beloved).

Sweethearts abound within the membership of DGCS, too: about one third of the 55 singers for this concert are couples. Music plays a central role in their relationships, and many met through their musical activities; some couples even met while singing in this very group.



Advance tickets are \$20 for adults, \$15 for seniors, \$5 for students and children 13 and younger are free with an adult. All tickets are \$2 higher at the door. Call (630) 515-0030 to purchase. Tickets may also be purchased at Anderson's Book Store on Main Street in Downers Grove or online at www.dgcs.org.

Love's Sweet Songs – Music about Love and Dreams

Sunday, February 13, 2011 – 3 pm

First United Methodist Church

1032 Maple Avenue, Downers Grove

Dinner and the Show Option!!!

Shakespeare insinuates that music is the food of love, but on February 13 the DGCS makes it possible to satiate **both** hungers. The Capri Restaurant of Downers Grove has partnered with DGCS to offer \$25 gift cards which can be used on the day of the concert (or at another time, if you prefer).



Reservations can be made for lunch (1:00 pm seating) or dinner (6:00 pm seating) at the time you purchase concert tickets and gift cards. A portion of the proceeds from gift card purchases will benefit the DGCS. Capri is located on Main Street in Downers Grove, a short walk from the concert.

So take your sweetheart, your best friend, your Mom, or any special person to lunch or dinner the day of the concert, celebrate Valentine's Day, and support the arts in the Downers Grove community at the same time. (*Note - members who eat frequently at Capri highly recommend the deconstructed cannoli desert - give it a try!)

Call (630) 515-0030 for details, to purchase gift cards, and to make reservations.

DGCS Music Award Winners to sing in *Love's Sweet Songs*

To encourage young singers to pursue an interest in music, the DGCS gives awards to 7th and 8th grade students. Last year's recipients were Anna Burton (8th Grade, Herrick Middle School) and Elyse Warnecke (7th Grade, O'Neill Middle School). **Both Anna and Elyse are scheduled to perform in the DGCS February 13 concert.**

The DGCS Award winners are selected by a review panel, based on written applications and letters of recommendation, and the awards may be used to support activities outside of school music classes, such as private or group singing lessons, music camps, or other musical experiences for which tuition is charged. Winners are also invited to perform in a DGCS program. Applications are made available through area schools, and this year's winners will be recognized at the DGCS May 1 concert. Further information about the award is available via email at pcam1016@att.net.

Your contribution to the Choral Award Program helps to make the awards possible. Containers will be available at all DGCS concerts for this purpose, or you may mail contributions to DGCS at P.O. Box 655, Downers Grove, IL 60515. We appreciate your generosity in supporting young singers.



Award winner Elyse Warnecke receives her award from DGCS President Sue Crowther. Elyse used her award for voice lessons.



Award winner Anna Burton at Junior Choral Music Camp, with DGCS member Justin Sisul. Anna used her award to attend the music camp.

Bake Sale and Boutique

The DGCS Bake Sale and Boutique Table will be back on February 13 by popular demand. In addition to wonderful baked goods, members will be selling one-of-a-kind handmade jewelry items. Be sure to stop and make a purchase. All proceeds benefit the chorus.

DGCS CD of Handel's Messiah



The DGCS has recorded the 50th Anniversary performance of Handel's *Messiah*, which is now available for purchase. The 2-CD set is available by calling the DGCS phone number (630-515-0030). The cost is \$25.

Please join us in 2011 to honor Dr. Robert Holst in his final season as DGCS Music Director

Concert Series

Love's Sweet Songs – Music about Love and Dreams

Sunday, February 13, 2011 – 3 pm

First United Methodist Church

1032 Maple Avenue, Downers Grove

Farewell Concert for Robert Holst, Director of DGCS

Sunday, May 1, 2011

Tivoli Theatre, 5021 Highland Avenue, Downers Grove

Mozart's *Requiem*

Beethoven's Choral Fantasy - Jeffrey Panko, piano soloist

Convery's "As Rivers Seek the Sea"

(Premier performance of Commissioned work to honor Robert Holst)

Artist Recital Series

(Watch the newsletters for further details)

Sunday, February 27, 2011

Sunday, April 3, 2011

Sunday, May 22, 2011

Soprano Gail Millas and Friends

Mezzo-soprano Victoria L. Linich and pianist Robert Holst

Pianist Jeffrey Panko

Dinner-Dance Fundraiser

March 5, 2011

The Doubletree Hotel

2111 Butterfield Road, Downers Grove

A Very Fun Evening Featuring local favorite:

Tony Kidonakis and the Federales

Bring your Friends!

On Saturday evening, March 5, the DGCS' annual fundraising event this year will be a very entertaining evening of music, comedy, food, and dancing, combined with an opportunity to bid on exciting auction items and participate in raffles.

The evening will feature outstanding pianist and local favorite Tony Kidonakis, known in the area for his interactive performances that have audiences laughing and clapping. After dinner, Tony and the Federales will entertain and play music suitable for dancing. Whether you want to participate or just listen, you are sure to be delighted! Mark your calendars now so you don't miss it, and watch for more details in the newsletter.

The Downers Grove Choral Society is a nonprofit organization, and receives support from the Illinois Arts Council, the DuPage Community Foundation, the Hinsdale Center for the Arts, and the generosity of our friends and patrons. The Downers Grove Choral Society welcomes patrons and members with disabilities.

Please feel free to share this newsletter with friends or acquaintances who may be interested. You can simply forward the email to them, or email pcam1016@att.net to notify us of names to add to our email list. Please use the same address if you wish to be removed from the list. Thank you!