



# Downers Grove Choral Society

#13 JANUARY 2011

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Here's hoping you all had a wonderful holiday season. Now that the New Year has arrived, the DGCS is back at work preparing for the remainder of their season. Some exciting things are planned for the next few months!

## *Welcome Dr. Amy Weller*

We are very happy to announce Dr. Amy Weller as our new director starting on July 1, when Bob Holst retires after 19 years with the DGCS. Bob will be hard to replace, but we are very excited to welcome Dr. Weller, who is already planning the programs for 2011-2012, the 53<sup>rd</sup> season of DGCS.

Dr. Weller's background is too extensive to detail here, but she is well known in the Chicago area; she currently conducts the University Singers and teaches Choral Literature and Choral Conducting at Northwestern University's Bienen School of Music. She was the founding conductor of the DePaul Community Chorus, and was Director of Choral Organizations and Associate Professor of Music at DePaul University, where she was tenured. She has also sung with the Chicago Symphony Chorus and Bella Voce.

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## **Love's Sweet Songs – Music about Love and Dreams**

**Sunday, February 13, 2011 – 3 pm**

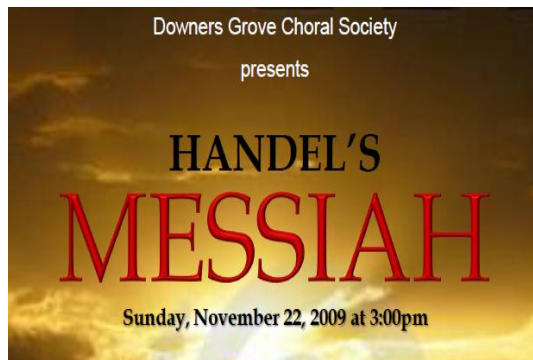
**First United Methodist Church**

**1032 Maple Avenue, Downers Grove**

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, from familiar to classical. The presentation will be informal and relaxed, and there is also an option to purchase along with your concert tickets lunch or dinner at nearby Capri Restaurant. Chorus members are also working on acquiring appropriate boutique items that can be purchased for your loved ones at the concert. Plan to make a day of it!

Concert tickets in advance 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. Contact 630-515-0030. Reservations for lunch, dinner, and purchase of Capri gift cards can be made at the same number. Tickets may also be purchased at Anderson's Book Store, 5112 Main St, Downers Grove, or on line at [www.dgcs.org](http://www.dgcs.org).

## DGCS CD of **Messiah** Now Available



The DGCS has recorded the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary performance of Handel's *Messiah*, which is now available for purchase. If you would like to purchase a copy (2-CD set) for yourself, for a gift, or if you have friends or relatives who would be interested, purchases may be made through Dave Sandfort by calling the DGCS phone number (630-515-0030). The cost is \$25.

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March 5, 2011  
The Doubletree Hotel  
2111 Butterfield Road, Downers Grove  
A Very Fun Evening – 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 Federals 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.

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Gail Millas, Soprano Extraordinaire  
February 27, 2011

If you have never attended one of the DGCS Artist Recitals, you are missing a very special treat. Each year the DGCS arranges with highly talented local performers to perform recital programs. The performance level of the featured singers and musicians is exceptional. The programs are done in a small, intimate setting, which almost makes one feel the artists are performing for you and your friends in your living room. It is a very different, more personal, experience than the concert series, and is greatly enjoyed by music lovers.

All recitals are performed on Sunday afternoons, but the artists, program content, and locations change. No tickets are required for the recitals, as a good will donation will be suggested. Please plan to attend, and mark the dates above on your calendar for this year's Artist Recital programs.

Gail has been a popular entertainer at a number of past DGCS recitals, and is sure to present a very entertaining program. Watch future newsletters for more details.



The picture above is from the November 7 performance which featured Bloch's *Sacred Service* at Wentz Hall. This was a very stirring and memorable program, and we were pleased to welcome new patrons who were attracted by the program and the venue.



On December 11, members of our chorus participated in the DGCS Outreach Program performed for seniors at Fairview and Saratoga Grove Retirement homes. The music combined lighter selections of old standards with Christmas music, and the audiences were very enthusiastic.

The DGCS Outreach Program performs at a number of senior homes, community events, and other activities throughout the year. We welcome singers who would be interested in participating in this program, which does not require a commitment to sing the concert series. The DGCS welcomes members with disabilities, and can provide music in large print if needed. Please contact the VP of Membership by calling 630-515-0030 if you are interested in singing with the DGCS.

**The Downers Grove Choral Society presents its 52<sup>nd</sup> Season of Great Choral Music**  
**– Please join us in 2011 to honor Dr. Robert Holst in his final season as DGCS**  
**Music Director**

**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)

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**Artist Recital Series**

(Watch the newsletters for further details)

Sunday, February 27, 2011

Soprano Gail Millas

Sunday, April 3, 2011

Mezzo-soprano Victoria L. Linich and pianist Robert Holst

Sunday, May 22, 2011

Pianist Jeffrey Panko

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**Dinner-Dance Fundraiser**

March 5, 2011  
The Doubletree Hotel  
2111 Butterfield Road, Downers Grove

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*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.*

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*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](mailto: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!*