Next year, 2019, marks the centenary of our much-loved Choir School. A lot can happen in one hundred years. Certainly the past century encompassed great strife, from the Depression and World War II to 9/11. But the era also brought advances which a chorister entering the school in 1919 could hardly have imagined: the silver screen and small screen, radio and internet, space travel, the empowerment of women, and a more integrated and inclusive society.

Throughout ten decades of challenge and change, the school’s mission has remained constant: to provide a solid education which equips promising young men for an evolving world; to set a standard of excellence through musical study; and to instill a moral and ethical compass by way of Christian teaching.

As we embark on our 100th academic year I invite you to join us in celebrating the work and witness of Saint Thomas Choir School.

–Charles F. Wallace, Headmaster
On June 9, the Choir School held its 99th Commencement Exercises and Prize Day. (You can feel the countdown to the Centennial, can't you?) Along with the presentation of awards to boys for achievements in music, academics, and citizenship, we were grateful to announce a new choristership (see next page). We also offered thanksgiving and said farewell to faculty members who are moving on (p.5) and to the five graduates (p.4).

Our graduation speaker was the Reverend Dr. Michael Piret, Rector of Christ Church, Oyster Bay on Long Island. As Father Wallace remarked: “The history of Saint Thomas Church and Choir School includes many persons from the UK who crossed the pond to work here. Far less often do we see the reverse: persons from America who crossed the pond to work there. Yet our speaker has done precisely that. Like Bruce Springsteen, Father Piret was born in the USA. After growing up in Buffalo and attending the University of Michigan, he traveled on a one-year scholarship to Oxford University and then ended up staying in the UK for 32 years.” While there, Father Piret overlapped with our own Daniel Hyde at Magdalen College, Oxford. As Dean of Divinity, Father Piret worked closely with Mr. Hyde, overseeing chapel worship and serving as a governor of the school.

Father Piret began his graduation address with a reference to the article the New York Times ran about Mr. Hyde shortly after his arrival at Saint Thomas, “The New Wizard Teaching at the Hogwarts for Choir.”

USUALLY WHEN THE MUGGLE PRESS tries to “out” somebody as a wizard, they get it wrong – because how would they know, anyway? But in Mr. Hyde’s case, even for the Muggle press, there were too many clues, there was too much evidence for anyone to miss. Anyway, if Saint Thomas is indeed the “Hogwarts for Choir,” the idea of anyone who is not a wizard being brought into such a post would clearly be ridiculous. How else could young wizards-in-training learn how to summon up a Patronus when attacked by an especially difficult solo, or flatness of pitch, or sour tuning?

Yours is so obviously a wizarding school that anyone could tell. One day last fall when Mr. Hyde showed me one of your choir practice rooms, I was amused to see that nothing more than a curtain on one side of the room concealed a good-sized indoor Quidditch field (if I may say so, it was pretending very unsuccessfully to be a Muggle basketball court). For all I know you’ve got your own Chamber of Secrets and your own Nearly Headless Nick. I’m sure that among your teachers, there has been one like Professor McGonagall, ready to sneak you a Nimbus 2000 broomstick in your hour of need. You’ll have had the likes of Professor Lupin, providing friendship and support. And I am told that your Headmaster has the wisdom of Albus Dumbledore, teaching you extremely important things like the difference between the actual Truth, and the visions you might see in the Mirror of Erised.

But now it is time for you five to leave. This is the departure scene that the Harry Potter movies evoke so well. Hagrid on the platform at Hogsmeade as you board, waving as the train pulls away into the distant scenery – heartstrings are touched by emotive music – it’s officially goodbye to this Hogwarts for Choir. You will now only ever return as alumni, wondering at all the strange new faces in what was your school and inwardly asking why all those youngsters are walking around as if it were their school.

So, what do you take with you from this place as you move on now to your futures? Well, there will be lasting impressions of the guidance of excellent and caring teachers – not only what they taught you, but also how they have helped to shape you as a person. There will be the maturity and poise of having performed as professionals at such a young age. And the discipline which comes from being depended on – really depended on – as members of a team, where it’s so clear that it isn’t about you, or about any one person. There will be many good friendships, I am guessing of the kind which can run especially deep in a place where there is boarding. Ideally, you’ll have built up virtues of loyalty and trust – with a good dash of tolerance for each others’ foibles, dirty socks, lapses of taste, and less sociable habits.

Because this is a choir school, there will also be intangible things you’ve been steeped in – so much so that I’ll bet they are practically coming out of your pores – as a result of leading worship day in and day out in this beautiful place. For example, the magic
of Coverdale’s translation of the Psalms in the 1928 Prayer Book, full of beauty and wisdom, language and religious principles as strong as any charm or spell. Take this one: “Keep innocency, and take heed unto the thing that is right; for that shall bring a man peace at the last.” Here’s another: “The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom then shall I fear? The Lord is the strength of my life: of whom then shall I be afraid?” (Psalms 37, 27).

Beauty and wisdom like that are such important things to have implanted in your souls. Actually, they are necessary things. The world for which you are preparing often seems full of ugliness and ignorance. Paul’s Letter to the Ephesians talks about “spiritual wickedness in high places.” There are Lord Voldemorts out there saying that “There is no good and evil, only power and those too weak to seek it.” That was a lie of course. There was a great power he couldn’t face: the power of self-giving love, goodness at its very best. Just like in the Gospels. With God’s grace, some of the good magic, God’s magic, which you have accumulated in this Hogwarts for Choir really can help to make things better out there. You need to believe that. That you can make a difference. Whatever you boys go on to do, whether you serve in music and the arts, business, or law, banking, academia, medicine, journalism, the church, charitable work, or even (heaven help you) in politics, wherever life leads you, the qualities which have been built into you here can be like light in a dark place. Light that makes things better for others.

Love for what is genuinely beautiful and good. Caring about the difference between truth and falsehood. The discipline of study and learning. Maturity and poise. Virtues of loyalty and trust, fellow-feeling for others, tolerance, the best of the things which can come from good friendships. Above all you’ve been shaped in a place which was founded to be interwoven with the Christian Gospel: the good news of the power of love and sacrifice. These qualities, these experiences, will be your best treasures from this school, as you continue to grow, year by year, into men of principle and compassion. Wherever your paths lead, go well – and God bless you on your journeys.

DR. JAMES L. TUOHY CHORISTERSHIP

The Choir School is in equal measure grateful and fortunate that individuals come forward from time to time to fund choristerships. A Choir School choristership makes possible the education and housing of one boy for his entire career at the school by defraying the cost borne by the church. Until this summer, the Choir School had proudly offered three choristerships, and at Prize Day this June, we added a fourth: the Dr. James L. Tuohy Choristership. During the service, Father Wallace introduced Dr. Tuohy, who was present, and explained how this choristership came to be:

ONE DAY, THE 23RD OF DECEMBER, 2016 to be exact, a call came into my office out of the proverbial blue – from a complete stranger wanting to support the Choir School. In this way, I first came to know James Tuohy. At the time I hardly realized the depth of Dr. Tuohy’s commitment, but after meeting him in person and continuing to speak with him by phone, his generosity and sincerity of purpose quickly became apparent.

You may ask, “What spurred Dr. Tuohy to endow a choristership?” Another event out of the blue. In 1970, on his way home from service in Vietnam, Dr. Tuohy passed through London. He happened to walk into Westminster Abbey for Evensong, where a steward invited him into the Quire. This, his first encounter with the Anglican musical tradition, left an impression which lingered in his mind for some decades – until, in 2011, he attended a concert in Minnesota by the touring Westminster Cathedral Choir, conducted by Martin Baker. That did it – Saul was converted on the road to Damascus. Dr. Tuohy became a diehard fan of Anglican choral music.

He then took an interest in the cathedral and collegiate choirs of the UK, as well as continental choirs (including the “other” Saint Thomas in Leipzig), and over time he traveled to hear each ensemble in person. Only then did he find out that such a place existed in the US. This revelation came by another circuitous path: James’s niece’s husband had just graduated from Notre Dame with a Doctorate in Music and suggested James look into the Saint Thomas Choir School. God works in mysterious ways!

Thus came Dr. Tuohy’s phone call to us. Self-described as “first born of the second half” – that is, eighth out of fifteen children, from a German-Irish family in Rochester, Minnesota – James Tuohy was schooled entirely in his home state and became a radiologist. It was after his internship that James volunteered to work in Vietnam as a civilian physician and, on his way back, made the fateful visit to Westminster Abbey.

We were delighted that Dr. Tuohy was able to come from Minnesota to be with us on Prize Day and to join Father Wallace in presenting the inaugural Dr. James L. Tuohy Choristership.
THE GRADUATES MOVE ON

Congratulations to the class of 2018! We wish you all the best in your new schools and new ventures, and we hope to see you back for a visit very soon.

Emmanuel Estrella – Cristo Rey New York High School, NYC
Nathan Park – Groton School, MA
Anders Pedersen – Special Music High School, NYC
Filip Sentypal – Cate School, CA
John (Bobby) Zahorsky – Episcopal High School, VA

EIGHTH GRADE TRIP TO HAWAII

In a dramatic departure from the usual eighth grade graduation trip to Europe, this year’s boys went west, flying over the continental US and halfway across the Pacific to what are undoubtedly Earth’s best known “hot spot” volcanic islands – Hawai’i.

We spent the morning of our first full day at Pearl Harbor, including a boat tour of the Arizona. Unfortunately that memorial had recently been closed because engineers deemed it too unstable for visitors. We learned a lot that day, so don’t be surprised if the boys expect high school history credit. Back near our beachfront hotel in Waikiki, we rented surfboards and hung out on the beach. Most of us tried to surf, but only Mr. Jarrett can be said to have surfed.

We spent our second day at the Polynesian Cultural Center, a vast compound dedicated to the cultures of several islands within the Polynesian Triangle. Most of the young employees who act as tour guides and performers are college students helping to pay for their education. Demonstrations included climbing for coconuts, boating, and of course dancing. (That hula dance you associate with Hawai’i? It’s from Tahiti.)

Early on our third day, our tour guide picked us up for a trip around O’ahu, assisted by his 8-year-old daughter, who attends a Hawaiian language school and speaks English, Japanese, and Hawaiian. We saw famous surfing beaches (and a famous surfer you’ve never heard of), pineapple crops, and hills significant to native Hawaiians because they resemble a pregnant woman lying down. We rode stand-up paddleboards, snorkeled in Hanauma Bay, jumped off a cliff and swam under a rock.

Our fourth day was a travel day, and we hopped aboard one of the frequent inter-island flights to the “Big Island” of Hawai’i, passing very close to some of the smaller islands – including Maui and Molokai – which have far smaller populations than O’ahu and Hawai’i. (Ask any boy in grade six or above about how plate tectonics explains why these islands form a line.) The drive to our hotel in Kailua-Kona took us past ancient lava flows which extended for miles and looked more like a landscape from another planet.

On day five we took our flight to the volcano. Our pilot was not Magnum’s friend TC, but a skilled, quiet young man named Bo. We traveled along the coast, past an endless string of waterfall-strewn valleys, including one once occupied by the Hawaiian royal family. The volcano, Kīlauea, was in fine form that day, bubbling and sending lava eight miles to the ocean. Kīlauea is estimated to be between 300,000 and 600,000 years old, and has been continuously active since 1983. We were lucky to have been able to see it, as it had experienced an explosive eruption just a month earlier.

On our last full day we went “treetop trekking” on a ropes course at the north end of Hawai’i. The group then split up – some went swimming while others visited the Kona Coffee Living History Farm.

If you are ever offered a trip to Hawai’i, just say yes. It is every bit as exciting as all the tourist agencies would have you believe. To the many benefactors who made this adventure possible we say mahalo, and of course, aloha! – Matthew Gilbert, science
WELCOME

Chris Cuomo, History
Chris Cuomo comes to us from North Haven, CT, having grown up in the New Haven area. Mr. Cuomo attended high school at Choate Rosemary Hall as a boarder and then majored in history at Hamilton College. His first teaching assignments were at Hamilton, where he served as a TA and mentored first year students. Also at Hamilton, he worked in an after-school reading program called Hamilton Reads, which sent him into local schools to help students in grades 2-4, not only by tutoring them in reading skills but also by fostering enthusiasm for and love of reading. He has also taught in Choate’s summer program, working alongside his former teachers – and learning to call them by their first names. This summer, he taught middle and early high school students classes in ethics, the history of cities, and a course on the CIA. Mr. Cuomo told us that having been a student at Choate gave him certain advantages as a teacher there. As the proverbial poacher turned gamekeeper, he knew exactly how students were trying to get around the rules, break curfew, and so forth, having recently done so himself. Boys, please take this as fair warning!

Outside the history classroom, Mr. Cuomo loves to read, and he tells us his favorite books from middle school are the Artemis Fowl series. He also enjoys flag football, softball, volleyball, and hiking.

Nicholas Berry, Third and Fourth Grade
Nicholas Berry is a born-and-bred New Yorker who was educated at the Town School, Loyola, and Vassar College, where he majored in history. He is the son of a teacher and, since college, has spent several years teaching in New York City private schools – St. Bartholomew’s, Grace Church School, and Browning. Mr. Berry is a tennis enthusiast, both as a spectator and a player (he tells us he does his best to keep up with his younger brother on the court). He also enjoys ice hockey, cross-country, track, and reading. When we asked about his favorite book when he was in grade school, Mr. Berry found it difficult to pick just one, citing the Narnia books, Harry Potter, The Castle in the Attic, anything by Roald Dahl, and the Encyclopedia Brown series. He had an even longer list when asked what he was reading presently, suffice to say his catholic taste runs to history, historical fiction, literary fiction, fantasy, and more. Mr. Berry also loves board games and the Blues and tells us he would like to learn how to be a better cook and how to play the harmonica. Excellent goals!

Wanda Matos, Office Manager
Mrs. Matos is from Bronxville in Westchester. After 28 years working with a realty company, she joins us to take on the all-important responsibility of making the office run smoothly and keeping Father Wallace in line. Mrs. Matos and her husband of 37 years have two children and a grandson. Welcome!

GODSPEED

At Prize Day, the school bid a fond farewell not only to the graduates, but also to the faculty and staff leaving us for their next chapters.

Joe McDowell
Mr. McDowell has had a long association with the Choir School: he first joined us as a learning specialist in 2007 and then, three years ago, took on the position of third and fourth grade teacher. Although Mr. McDowell is stepping down from his full-time classroom duties, he will still be available to provide academic support for our boys. This is happy news indeed given the affection and respect we have all developed for him!

Kevin Carpenter
Mr. Carpenter has taught history for six years at the Choir School, and during that time he not only revamped the history curriculum (see Winter/Spring 2018 newsletter for details), but he also made a mark coaching varsity soccer and with sports generally, whether by training for and running the NYC Marathon or playing pickup games with the boys in the gym or at camp. Mr. Carpenter will stay in New York City and commute to Norwalk, CT, where he moves on to a new career in consulting.

Sophia Bryant-Scott
After four years bringing order to the Choir School office and good humor to the choristers’ lives, Ms. Bryant-Scott is going on to pursue a career in media.

Colin MacKnight
After a jam-packed year teaching music theory and serving as assistant organist, Mr. MacKnight leaves us to concentrate on completing his doctorate at Juilliard.
JOHN SCOTT PORTRAIT

Last year we profiled Benjamin Arnold, a painter who was commissioned to make a portrait in oil of John Scott (Summer/Fall 2017 Newsletter, p.8). At that point, Mr. Arnold was up to his elbows in paint, but he took a day to come to the school and tell the boys about his process – how he was educated as a painter and how exactly he was going about creating a portrait of their beloved choirmaster and friend. This spring, the finished portrait at last arrived!

It will eventually hang in the Choir School, but through this fall, it can be seen at the church in Andrew Hall. At the coffee hour honoring Mr. Arnold (and unveiling the painting), parishioners were awed by the work and felt that it movingly captured Mr. Scott and his spirit.

Back at the school, art teacher Mr. Eppley has also been thinking about the process of portraiture, and after Mr. Arnold's visit, he designed a project through which the boys could also make a portrait of Mr. Scott using the grid method. He combined art with writing and invited the boys to attach memories to pieces of the portrait – an inventive and fitting response to the new portrait.

REACHING THE CHORISTERS OF TOMORROW

If you haven't visited the Choir School website recently, you are in for a pleasant surprise. Over the last year, faculty and staff have worked hard to develop new content, scope, and depth for the website. It now presents a dynamic and vivid picture of life at the school to friends, supporters, and alumni, but most important, to prospective parents and boys. For years, it was difficult to understand what life was like inside the school, even for Saint Thomas parishioners and friends. Now the website provides a window into everyday life, using text, image, and video to animate the admissions process, curricula, daily life, and the diverse adults who teach and care for the boys.

The website is not simply a nifty marketing front; it is also a valuable tool for anyone – family member, parishioner, friend, or stranger – who might know boys that could benefit from a Saint Thomas education. Often people ask how they can support the school, and while donations always come to mind – and they are crucial! – perhaps even more crucial for the future of the school and choir is the personal connection with future families. That means you, reader, could be the key to building the school up for its second century, and changing the life of a boy who might, today, know nothing of the school but who might, tomorrow, wind up a chorister.
Over the last fifteen years, the boarding school landscape in the United States has changed dramatically, as fewer families send their children to board. Even more dramatic has been the disappearance of the “pipelines” Saint Thomas historically used for recruitment, word-of-mouth channels within the Episcopal church and choirs. We asked Father Wallace how the student body had changed since he first arrived in 2004, and he told us that when he became Headmaster, the vast majority of boys were baptized and came from two-parent households. These days, the profile is different. More boys come from single-parent households, some are adopted, and quite a few come from non-Christian backgrounds.

Families who choose the Choir School are attracted to its reliable, steady, and healthy environment. Parents appreciate the school’s family atmosphere, its consistency, and its curriculum, which takes the best of contemporary thought and places it within the framework of a proven, traditional education. These days, a typical Choir School recruit might be a boy who has artistic leanings or interests but who has not been able to find an outlet for them in his previous school, a school which might, in addition, be under-resourced academically. The Choir School is a place to become a well-rounded young man while also receiving a first class academic preparation and a one-of-a-kind music education.

Even though the recruitment landscape has changed, Father Wallace is enthusiastic about the quality and character of the families he’s working with. The Choir School is certainly not for every boy, but for those suited to it, the school has been quite literally a home and a one-of-a-kind music education.

FOCUS ON MATH

In previous issues, we have interviewed the teachers of English and history for an in-depth view of their curricula. This time, we paid a visit to the “Math Lounge” to speak with math teacher Noah Appleton about his program for mathematics across all of the grades. Mr. Appleton was excited to speak with us because this fall – his seventh at the Choir School – he is introducing new textbooks to the mathematics curriculum. “I’ve been looking for a textbook since I arrived at the school,” he said. “The thing is, the math hasn’t changed in a couple of thousand years. Only the presentation has changed, and these days, a lot of textbooks present the material in a comic-booky way, which I find busy and distracting.” Mr. Appleton told us he didn’t want to reinvent the wheel when it came to a math curriculum, but he did want to find a coherent, flexible, proven series of textbooks. While visiting the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics conferences, he had time to speak with many publishers, and it was there that he met representatives of the Singapore math program.

What is Singapore math? It is the mathematics curriculum used in public schools in Singapore, put forth by the Singapore education ministry. Sometimes known as The Singapore Model Method for Learning Mathematics, it is a pictorial method used in many countries, including US independent and charter schools and homeschooling. The Singapore Model Method uses a framework for the process of mathematical problem solving, as expressed in the diagram here. It aims to get students comfortable with mathematical concepts and then to spiral back to them, over several years, in deeper and more complex ways as their knowledge base grows towards mastery. The textbooks are more visually calm than many books, so they’re focused and attractive. The examples they present are designed to pick apart an important, specific fragment of the skill they are teaching – to analyze how it works and then apply it to harder, more general problems – in other words, to provide a learning base, an extension, and a challenge.

Mr. Appleton explained that the overall goal of the Saint Thomas curriculum is for the students to complete an Algebra I program by the end of eighth grade. “Everyone who graduates from Saint Thomas will go on to high school with the flexibility to take whatever they want in mathematics, whether that means a further exploration of Algebra or taking more advanced courses so that they can take AP mathematics in their fourth year of high school.” Beyond this concrete goal, Mr. Appleton asked himself, “How do I make learners? How do I educate today’s kids to compete in a professional work environment that is changing so quickly?” His answer: “I change things quickly, in the classroom and conceptually, and ask the students to adapt.”

Mr. Appleton teaches students how to solve problems: how to pull them apart, walk through them, and apply heuristics – a process that can be applied outside the math classroom to computer programming, science, history, anywhere problems exist. He is teaching attitudes as well as skills. “When trying to solve a problem,” he explains, “if it doesn’t work, you don’t give up. You try a new plan. That’s perseverance; it’s an attitude.” (See “attitudes” in the framework.)

The Singapore Math Dimensions program comprises six textbooks, which will be stretched over four years (grades 5-8). Beginning this fall, Mr. Appleton will also be teaching the third and fourth grades together as a unit, building up their mathematical and reasoning skills to prepare them for Dimensions in fifth grade. He explained that part of teaching the third and fourth grades is cultural. “Can a boy get on
OUR MISSION

The Saint Thomas Choir School houses, nurtures, and educates the boy choristers of the world-renowned choir of Saint Thomas Church Fifth Avenue. Through rigorous musical training and highly individualized classroom instruction in a familial, Christian environment, the school instills in its students the intellectual skills and ethical values that will enable them to embrace life with confidence, responsibility, and joy.

CONTEST RESULTS

In the last newsletter (Winter/Spring 2018 pp. 8-9), there was a contest that invited readers to match last year’s faculty and staff with their favorite childhood books (and their photographs!). This issue we reveal the answers:

Mrs. Allman, Housemother A-3
Mr. Appleton, Math B-6
Ms. Bryant-Scott, office manager C-5
Mr. Carpenter, history D-11
Mrs. Enlow, admissions E-17
Mr. Eppley, art F-14
Ms. Francisco, English G-1
Dr. Gilbert, science H-15
Mr. Hyde, Director of Music I-8
Mr. Jarrett, PE J-13
Hubert Kretzschmar, chef K-16
Mr. MacKnight, music theory L-10
Mr. McDowell, third and fourth grade M-7
Ms. Ratze, Latin N-2
Mrs. Rosenthal, counselor O-12
Mr. Sheen, organist P-18
Heidi Thomas, chef Q-9
Fr. Wallace, Headmaster R-4

While he was keen not to conflate math and music, Mr. Appleton did emphasize the way certain attitudes – resilience, perseverance, determination, flexibility, just to name a few – become cultural at the Choir School. “In math as in music, there is a language to be learned, there are skills to be honed, and there are attitudes to be exhibited. When you’re solving a problem just as when you’re performing a piece of music, you need to apply all the tools you have to succeed. You’re not just adding a fraction or singing a scale, you’re putting it all together, adapting to what’s happening, recovering from error, managing pressure and other factors out of your control. All of this starts as metacognition and eventually becomes habit.”

We look forward to hearing more from the students after they’ve had a chance to crack open the new books.
This past spring the boys had a busy music schedule, as usual. In addition to the flood of music in Holy Week, they travelled to Pennsylvania in March for several Treble concerts. Unfortunately, a blizzard and subsequent state of emergency shortened their schedule somewhat, but they did get to sing at First Presbyterian Church in Bethlehem and at St. Stephen's Pro Cathedral in Wilkes-Barre and meet the communities there.

Back at the church, the full choir performed Brahms's *German Requiem* on March 22. To switch things up, Mr. Hyde chose to present the version Brahms arranged for two pianos, which allows for a degree of precision and contrapuntal clarity that cannot be achieved in the orchestral version. Berkshire Fine Arts wrote, "Brahms's exquisite farewell to his mentor and his mother was a marvel in the hands of conductor Daniel Hyde. Its setting in Saint Thomas Church enriched the meaning."

May 9 was the choir’s last concert of the season, *Music for the Eve of the Ascension*, featuring the music of Bach and Vivaldi. Notably, this was the first time the choir sang with the Orchestra of St. Luke's playing on baroque instruments.

Finally, this spring Mr. Hyde accepted the call to return to the UK next October (2019) to take the reins of the choir at King's College, Cambridge. This is a premiere post, and our pride for Mr. Hyde is exceeded only by our sadness at the prospect of saying farewell after three short years. Mr. Hyde is naturally excited about the opportunity and happy to be returning to King's (he was Organ Scholar there as an undergraduate under Stephen Cleobury), but he made a point of reminding us that he will be engaged at Saint Thomas 100% for the duration of this school year and choral season – and he will need at least 100% as the new organ is brought into full use and as the Choir School begins its Centenary year. The search is underway for Mr. Hyde's successor, and we will have an update on that in the next issue.
THE NEW ORGAN BREATHES

After what has seemed like an eternity of dreaming, planning, fundraising, designing, deconstruction, installation, and voicing, this fall the Miller-Scott organ will finally have its debut. The church website has a wealth of information about the organ itself, design, photographs, videos, anything you could want, but when we discussed the organ with Mr. Hyde, he was focused on how the organ will affect the boys, and their education. He explained that the Miller-Scott organ was specifically designed to accompany our choir, and while the previous organ was magnificent, now Saint Thomas boys will have a truly world-class instrument to sing with. “Children pick up what they hear,” Mr. Hyde said, “and they copy what they hear. So having this extraordinary instrument accompany them on a daily basis is an experience few get, children or adults.”

When we asked about some of the major differences this organ will present, Mr. Hyde explained that “we have cases on both sides of the choir stalls now, and where the pipes are located within those cases really enables the sound to get out, so there’s a much greater amount of support for the choir. There will be a much greater breadth of sound due to the way it’s laid out and designed.”

The celebrations for the new organ begin on October 5 with a dedicatory organ recital: Mr. Hyde will pull out all 102 stops to demonstrate the many colors and sounds of the new instrument. October 7 is Dedication Sunday, with a Solemn Eucharist at 11am. On October 18, the choir will open its concert season with At a Solemn Musick: The Miller-Scott Organ in Concert – a program of Parry, Bernstein and more – with full choir, the new organ, and the Orchestra of Saint Luke’s.

Mr. Hyde emphasized that “the organ will really come into its own in the daily round of services and evensongs, just as the school is fully itself in its daily commitment to education and development. The organ is not just about the big showcase events; it’s about the daily worship and practice. It will be a benefit every day, not simply on Sundays and at concerts.” Mr. Hyde is keenly aware of the educational enhancements the new organ can offer. In addition to the benefits of singing with it, he hopes that it will make more boys want to learn the organ. (It’s hard to imagine who would pass up the opportunity to learn on such an instrument and under the instruction of Mr. Sheen, who quite literally travels the world as a concert organist and is considered by many to be the top organist of his generation.) For the Centenary, several alumni will be returning to Saint Thomas to play organ recitals on the new instrument (see p.12 for more on the Centenary).

Having seeing parts of the organ case as it was installed, including a carving of John Scott, we were surprised and delighted to discover a carving of our current music team as well. Neither Mr. Hyde nor Mr. Sheen had mentioned the fact to us, but readers can trust the intrepid reporting of the Choir School News to circumvent the humility of our friends.

SAINT THOMAS GIRL CHORISTER COURSE

The annual Girl Chorister Course returned to the Choir School this July, bringing twenty-eight girls from across the country for a busy week of music and friendship. This year saw the return of many familiar faces and the arrival of new ones, including choristers from several parishes who had never sent girls before. Over the course of the week, the girls studied music history, analyzed scores, received individual voice lessons, and visited several New York sights – including, this year, a quick trip next door to MOMA before rehearsal at church.

For the first time, the music was directed by Saint Thomas’s own Daniel Hyde, with Lorraine Enlow, the Choir School Admissions Director, continuing in her third year as Course Director. The girls sang two evensong services, on July 24 and 26, and Choral Eucharist on July 29, recordings of which are available to stream on the Saint Thomas website. Their repertoire this year, from Mendelssohn to Mozart, rang through the halls of the Choir School all week. Mr. Hyde remarked that “they were a particularly capable group, who were not only musically interested, but also interesting.” We look forward to having the girls with us again next year!

—Angharad Rebholz, Assistant to the Course Director
Dana S. Bailey ’73 wrote us this February to tell us how much he and his wife had enjoyed last fall’s Creation concert – they even followed along in his mother’s old score from the 1960s, when she sang with the Saint George Choral Society. His mother, Faye F. Bailey, passed away in January, 2018 at the age of 93, and Mr. Bailey, along with several of his friends, generously sent the school donations at her request and in her memory. He writes: “As I look back now 45 years to my eighth grade class, I can state without any reservation that the impact this school has on its students never fades. We students have been truly blessed.” Our condolences also to Evan Horton ’73 and his brothers, Rick ’63 and Glenn ’69. Their mother Joan “Jody” Horton died on February 21, also at the age of 93. What wonderful mothers were Mrs. Horton and Mrs. Bailey to give their sons the gift of a Choir School education.

Tom Stires ’76 got married to Pam on St. Patrick’s Day in Asheville, NC. The wedding photos were done by Lisa Hancock, the daughter of Gerre and Judith Hancock, and Choir School attendees included Tom’s brother, Wicks ’70, and Chip Lamb ’92. Saint Thomas Choir School represents!

Congratulations to Dana Marsh ’79 on his appointment as Artistic Director of the Washington Bach Consort in Washington, DC. Dana continues as Associate Professor of Music and Chair of the Early Music Department at the Jacobs School of Music at Indiana University.

Keith Dewar ’82 found himself in a “like father, like daughter” moment when his daughter Olivia attended the Girls’ Course this summer.

Congratulations to Tom Carroll ’88, who was inducted into the American Laryngological Society this spring. Tom is pictured here with two voice physician colleagues in Xiamen, China, after giving academic talks at meetings on voice disorders in Guangzhou and Xiamen, China.


Jim Douglas ’99 wrote to say, “I have accepted the call to be the next Director of Music & Organist at Saint Margaret’s Episcopal Church & Day School, Annapolis, MD, beginning in October. I am grateful for the opportunity to come on board during an exciting time in the history of Saint Margaret’s, and I look forward to carrying on and enhancing an already vibrant music ministry.”

George Toothman ’02 wrote to tell us he was singing in the Morning Prayer Choir at Chautauqua this summer. He was also pleased to attend church in Darien, CT with Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Jelliffe ’46.

Lt. John Burdick ’04 received his promotion to Lt. in the Choir School library and then promptly proposed to Dakota! Richard Jarrett ’05 and Aaron Primero ’05 were in attendance. Soon afterwards John and Dakota were married!

Cathy Doyle, mother of Daniel DeVau ’10 wrote to say that Danny graduated from Duke University in May. He sang with the Duke Evensong and Vespers choirs all four years and was a regular cantor. This summer, he traveled with the Evensong choir to the UK to sing at Gloucester Cathedral and Westminster Abbey. In August, he began work with Appian, a tech company. Cathy writes, “I do believe [former math teacher] Mr. O’Keefe strengthened Danny’s problem solving skills and laid the groundwork for the computer skills which were his major study area at Duke. Jazzy guitar is his current passion!”

Joseph Burdick ’14, Thomas Burdick ’14, Kit Noble ’14 and Richard Lippold, a Gentleman of the Choir, were together for two weeks this summer in the western Midlands of England on a choir tour with Peter Stoltzfus Berton, who served as Assistant Organist at Saint Thomas Church from 1993-1995. In addition, Thomas wrote us with a full update on himself and his brother, Joseph: “I conducted Palestrina in front of Saint Peter’s tomb in St. Peter’s Basilica in the Vatican. I’ve gone to a rap concert, been to Six Flags a few times, wrote a musical that was performed at Heinicken, and became editor-in-chief of my school’s poetic/art magazine. Joseph and I have also built our own recording studio and are releasing our second album this summer on Spotify, Apple Music, Amazon.
etc., under the stage name Stray Endeavor. This fall, my brother, sister, and I are all going to Gordon College in Wenham, MA. I’m double majoring in vocal performance and composition, and minoring in theology (I love doctrine!). Joseph is majoring in vocal performance and minoring in either European History or English.”

Dylan Cranston ’17 sent in this picture of himself and J-C Ramirez ’14 enjoying a break from rehearsals with the 2018 CT All-State Choir at the CT Convention Center in Hartford.

Carl Erickson ’17 and Noel Patterson ’13 attended a week-long RSCM choir course in Washington, DC.

FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE ALUMNI BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Dear Alumni, Parents, and Friends,

I hope the summer offered good things for you. It will feel like fall soon, with its more forgiving sun and our mild laments for leisure and youth. Then October, November, December, and – even before the seersucker has found the back of the wardrobe – it will be 2019, marking the 100th year since the Choir School’s founding.

I hope you can join us in New York to celebrate this achievement, at Founders’ Day (March 3) or the host of events whose details will follow. In the meantime, please feel free to reach out to either Susan Hill PA ’97, ’98 shill@choirschool.org or me aprimero@choirschool.org with any questions, thoughts, or photos you are keen to share.

Sincerely,
Aaron Primero ’05, Alumni Association President
aprimero@choirschool.org

CENTENARY PLANS

Everyone is getting excited about 2019, the 100th anniversary of the Choir School’s opening. There will be no alumni weekend this fall so that we can focus our energies on planning for the Centenary. Below is a preliminary list of events, and we hope that our alumni, families, and friends will join us for as many as possible. We’re also collecting remembrances of the Choir School, and we would love to hear yours and to see your pictures. Whether you are a former student, teacher, family member, or friend, please send memories and photos of school life to Susan Hill, our alumni director shill@choirschool.org. NB: if sending photos electronically, please send the largest file size possible. Thank you!

Centennial Events (as of October 2018)

Sunday, March 3, 2019
11am Festal Eucharist followed by Founders’ Day Reception and Lunch at Choir School
For lunch, RSVP to Susan Hill shill@choirschool.org.
4pm Evensong, sermon by the Reverend David Cobb PA ’01, ’03
5:15pm Organ Recital by Young Alumni (TBA)

Sunday, March 10, 2019
4pm Evensong, sermon by the Reverend Geoff Simpson ’78
5:15pm Organ Recital by Virginia Bolena PA ’20

Sunday, March 17, 2019
5:15pm Organ Recital by Dr. Dana Marsh ’79

Sunday, March 24, 2019
4pm Evensong, sermon by the Reverend Sean Mullen ’81
5:15pm Organ Recital by Edward Landin ’02

Sunday, March 31, 2019
4pm Evensong, sermon by the Right Reverend William Stokes ’71
5:15pm Organ Recital by Erik Suter PA ’16

Sunday, April 7, 2019
4pm Evensong, sermon by the Reverend R-J Heijmen ’90
5:15pm Organ Recital by Julian Wachner ’83

Wednesday, April 17, 2019
5:15pm Office of Tenebrae
6:30pm Alumni Dinner

Saturday, June 8, 2019
11am 100th Commencement Ceremonies: Prize Day Reception to follow

November 9-10, 2019
Alumni Reunion Weekend

If you wish to support the Choir School or any of its designated funds — such as the Girl Chorister Fund, the Camp Fund, the Learning Assistance Fund — please visit our website (www.choirschool.org) and click the Giving tab.
A NOTE ABOUT GIFTS TO THE CHOIR SCHOOL

All of us at Saint Thomas Choir School are deeply appreciative of the many contributions received throughout the year from generous and thoughtful alumni, parents, alumni parents, parishioners and friends. These gifts are critical to the school’s ability to advance its mission. The list below includes everyone who has given to the school through a pledge to the 2018 Annual Appeal or gifts made to other funds in the period of July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2018. There will be no donor lists in the next Winter/Spring Newsletter as the Summer/Fall 2019 Newsletter will list all gifts to the 2019 Annual Appeal and to other funds in the period of July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2019.

Great effort has been made to present accurate and complete listings of donors. However if you wish to report a discrepancy, please contact Kevin Hearne khearne@SaintThomasChurch.org or Ann Hall Kaplan akaplan@SaintThomasChurch.org.

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Annual pledges provide for the ongoing expenses of the school through the General Operating Fund.

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Mr. James B. Van Gaasbeek ’62

Scholarship Fund
This fund is supported by parents, parishioners & friends of the Choir School.
Mr. & Mrs. Ernest Ellison
Miss Sherry Matthews
Ms. Phyllis Mattill
Ms. Kristine B. Sauter
Mr. Bernard S. Tuohy
Dr. James L. Tuohy
Mr. & Mrs. Dwayne Ross PA ’10
Mr. Joshua Tobin, Jr.

**State-of-the-Art Learning Environment Fund**

*This fund was established with a generous gift from alumnus Philip H. Baldwin, Jr., ’57 in memory of his father, Philip H. Baldwin. It provides for the purchase & maintenance of state-of-the-art teaching tools.*

Mr. Philip H. Baldwin, Jr. ’57

**Other Restricted Gifts**

- Mr. G. W. Haas &
- Mr. George J. Moeschlin III
- Ms. Marilyn J. Heineman
- Mr. & Mrs. Donald Rowland Hill, Jr. PA ’97, ’98
- Mr. William Wickliffe Hill ’97
- Miss Bronwen E. Hobbs
- Dr. John Kittrell
- Mr. Kenneth F. Koen
- Mr. William R. Miller
- Mr. Peter Nadosy
- Dr. & Mrs. Karl C. Saunders
- Eleanor, Lady Shearing
- Dr. James L. Tuohey
- The Dana Foundation

**Memorial Gifts**

*We are grateful for the thoughtful gifts made in memory or honor of family & friends.*

- Mr. Dana S. Bailey ’73 in memory of Faye E. Bailey
- Mr. Jonathan W. Chapman ’74 in memory of Gordon Clem
- Mr. Jack Faragasso in memory of Marion Gaccione
- Mr. Robert L. Fardelmann, Jr. ’65 in memory of Rand Castile
- Ms. Laurie Heinz in memory of Chief Ron Spadafora
- Mr. & Mrs. Donald Rowland Hill, Jr. PA ’97, ’98 in memory of Louis Beal, Rick Slattery, Michael Margolin
- Mr. & Mrs. Bill Holland in memory of Stephen Bonta
- Mr. Seamus Kelly in memory of Chief Ron Spadafora
- Ms. Regina Ketting in honor of G. William Hass, Esq
- Ms. Phyllis Mattill in memory of Gerre Hancock
- Mr. & Mrs. Roger E. Nott in memory of John C. Nott
- Mrs. Carolyn G. Roberts in memory of F. Hood Roberts
- Mr. & Mrs. Dwayne Ross PA ’10 in memory of Forest P. Warren
- Mr. Treadwell Ruml II ’66 in memory of Gordon Clem
- Ms. Kristine B. Sauter in memory of Harold William Benson
- Mrs. Cecilia D. Sweeney PA ’82 in memory of Bromley Wharton Lowe
- Mr. Joshua Tobin, Jr. in memory of Ogden Northrop Lewis
- Ms. Susan Wipper in memory of Chief Ron Spadafora

**Gifts Made in Memory of Henry (Hank) Charles Rosenthal**

*Many Alumni & their parents were saddened by the sudden & tragic death of Hank Rosenthal ’05 & made gifts to the Choir School in his memory.*

- Ms. Deborah Albury
- Mr. & Mrs. James H. Blow
- Ms. Emma Bregler
- Ms. Mary Brennan
- Ms. Claire Cardone
- Mr. & Mrs. John Carlson
- The Rev’d & Mrs. David C. Cobb PA ’01, ’03
- Mr. Christopher M. Devito & Mrs. Elaine Devito
- Mr. Wall Edward
- Ms. Kyllyn Everson
- Mr. & Ms. Scott F. Eyerly
- Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Ferrari
- Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Goldman
- Ms. Janette Grundon
- Ms. Margaret Hanington
- Mr. & Mrs. James S. Hedges II PA ’93
- Ms. Kathryn A. Higgins PA ’13
- Mr. & Mrs. Donald Rowland Hill, Jr. PA ’97, ’98
- Ms. Alexa Kaiser
- Ms. Mary Ann Jones

**Boys Education Fund**

*This fund was established by members of the Choir School community to support an enriched education for every boy.*

Mr. & Mrs. Doug Daugherty ’48
Mr. Ronald E. DeVau & Ms. Catherine Doyle PA ’10
Mr. & Mrs. Joseph G. Pike
Dr. Douglas L. Relyea ’52
Mr. Harold Weinstein

**Boys Recruitment Fund**

*This fund was inspired by a generous gift from Frank Goodwin, a long-time friend of the school.*

Mr. & Mrs. Chad Newsome ’81 & PA ’13

**Girl Chorister Course Fund**

*These gifts support the Choir School’s annual nine-day residential summer course for girl choristers.*

The Rev’d & Mrs. David C. Cobb PA ’01, ’03
Mrs. Cecilia D. Sweeney PA ’82

**Incarnation Camp**

*Every year after the final term has ended, the Boys spend a week together at Camp Incarnation in Ivoryton, CT. This is one of the most treasured traditions of the Choristers. Thanks to these generous donors for making this possible.*

Mr. Anthony Joseph Accinno ’93
Mr. Jonathan W. Chapman ’74
Mr. David K. Dimmock
Mr. & Ms. Jonathan D. Hall
Ms. Laura J. Pels
Ms. Juliet M. Stautner PA ’05
The New York Community Trust – Albion & Natalie Metcalf Fund

**Learning Assistance**

*This fund was established with a gift from Johnnie Zorn, in memory of her son, Trent, a faithful parishioner & supporter of the Choir School.*

Ms. Cathrin Bombardier
Ms. Gloria Kierniesky

Mr. & Mrs. Dwayne Ross PA ’10
Mr. Joshua Tobin, Jr.
Ms. Laura Kelly
Mr. & Mrs. John Klinger PA ’12
Mr. & Mrs. James Kollin PA ’16
Mrs. Irene Kramer
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Mrs. Rachel Snyder
Ms. Juliet M. Stautner PA ’05
Mr. Jim Van Arsdale
Mr. & Dr. Gordon L. Youngs Jr.
Mr. Lowell Wolfson

**Other Gifts to Invested Funds**
Mr. Philip H. Baldwin, Jr. ’57
*The William A.M. Burden III Scholarship Fund*
Dr. Richard Heschke*
Mr. Michael Hunter*
Mr. Richard Nye
*The John Scott Memorial Choristership Fund*

Edmée B. Reit
*The John Scott Memorial Choristership Fund*
Mr. Ronald Lee Thomas
*The William C. Stubing & Ronald L. Thomas Fund*

**The T. Tertius Noble Guild**
The T. Tertius Noble Guild acknowledges & thanks those who have chosen to remember the Choir School in their estate planning.
The Reverend John B. Birdsal ’40
Mr. Nicholas G. Browne
The Reverend & Mrs. R. Craig Burlington PA ’84,’91
Mr. Darby Cannon III
Dr. Barry John Capella
Mr. & Mrs. Charles W. Clute, Jr.
The Rev’d & Mrs. David C. Cobb PA ’01,’03
Ms. Martha J. Dodge
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Mr. Donald H. Goodyear, Jr.
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Ms. Elaine Liner
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Ms. Janice Parkinson-Tucker
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Dr. Stephen G. Schaeffer ’61
Miss Susan E. Seaman
R. Stephen Seibt, MD
Eleanor, Lady Shearing
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Slattery PA ’01
Mr. Charles W. Soldis ’52
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Mr. & Mrs. Neal Stuber PA ’86
Ms. Theresa S. Thompson
Mr. J. Stanley Tucker
The Reverend Charles Wallace
Ms. Charlotte Wiggers
Mr. John R. Wilson, Jr.

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Upcoming Dates
2018-2019

NOTABLE SERVICES

Sunday, October 7 • 11am
Dedication service for the Miller-Scott Organ

Sunday, November 11 • 11am
Fauré Requiem for Remembrance Sunday

Saturday, December 15 • 4pm
A Service of Lessons and Carols

Wednesday, December 19 • 12:10pm
A Service of Lessons and Carols

Sunday, December 23 • 4pm
A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols

CONCERTS

October 18 • 7:30pm
At a Solemn Musick: The Miller-Scott Organ in Concert

December 4 & 6 • 7:30pm
Handel’s Messiah

December 11 • 6pm
Choristers sing at the Metropolitan Club, NYC

December 13 • 5:30pm
A Ceremony of Carols
Alumni Dinner following at the Choir School.
For more information please contact Susan Hill at shill@choirschool.org.

February 1, 2019
Choristers sing at Episcopal Church, Wappingers Falls, NY

February 8, 2019
Choristers sing at Saint Luke’s Church, Darien, CT