

Abington Choral Club presents 2015 Spring Concert

**Songs For the Young and
the Young At Heart**

Peter Hilliard, Director | Robert Gajdos, Accompanist

May 2 at 7:00pm



Abington
Choral Club

abingtonchoralclub.org

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Abington Choral Club 2015 Season

May 2, 2015 7:00 PM

ACC Spring Concert
*Songs For the Young and
Young at Heart*
Abington Senior High School
Abington, PA

June 3, 2015 7:30 PM

ACC Spring Concert
*Songs For the Young and
Young at Heart*
Rydal Park
Rydal, PA

August 15, 2015 7:05 PM

ACC performs National Anthem
Trenton Thunder Baseball Game
Arm & Hammer Park
Trenton, NJ

December 5, 2015 7:30 PM

ACC Winter Concert
Abington Senior High School
Abington, PA

December 9, 2015 7:30 PM

ACC Winter Concert
Rydal Park
Rydal, PA

December 14, 2015 7:00 PM

Holiday Caroling
Location TBD



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WHO'S WHO



Peter Hilliard, Director

Peter Hilliard is deeply involved in the musical life of the greater Abington area and is also active on a national scale. Originally from California, Peter holds a bachelor's degree from the San Francisco Conservatory of Music and a Master's in Musical Theatre Writing from NYU. His musicals, *Don Imbroglgio* and *Going Down Swingin'* appeared in the New York Musical Theatre Festival, and his opera *The Filthy Habit* has received multiple productions across the U.S. and was a finalist in the National Opera Association Chamber Opera Competition. It will receive a new production this fall in the Chicago Fringe Festival.

He is currently writing a series of new operas for Urban Arias in Arlington, VA. The first of these operas, *Blue Viola*, funded by a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts, received a reading in January at the prominent Arena Stage in Washington, and a full production in March directed by acclaimed opera director Tazewell Thompson, accompanied by the Grammy Nominated Inscape Orchestra with a cast including rising star Alicia Olatuja.

In their review, DC THEATRE SCENE wrote: "*Topping all of these achievements, however, is Hilliard, who has managed to make a bluesy-jazzy modern opera... Full of feeling, yet never sentimental, and permeated with muted colors, complex guitar licks, and enigmatic leitmotifs, it's worth the price of admission just to hear.*" MD THEATRE GUIDE wrote that the opera "*fills the Artisphere's Black Box with deep, resonant voices; an accessible, compelling narrative; and exquisite music.*" Selections from the opera will be performed at the Opera America Convention later this month.

Peter's music was featured in the York Theatre's prestigious Neo 4 concert where he accompanied Broadway legend Christiane Noll. He has provided vocal arrangements and orchestrations for the Barrymore Awards and Another Holiday Show with the Swing Club Band at Theatre Horizon as well as orchestral music for the Old York Road Symphony, the Abington Symphony and the Ocean City Pops.

His choral music has been performed by numerous choirs including The Mendelssohn Club, The San Francisco Choral Artists, and the Choral Arts Society of Philadelphia. His music has also received awards and nominations from the National Association of Teachers of Singing, the Turner Classic Movies Young Film Composers Competition, Vocal Essence, The Young New Yorker's Chorus, and the Ned Rorem Award.

He has music directed on both coasts and Off-Broadway, and was assistant music director for a workshop of *Saturnalia* by acclaimed percussionist/composer Susie Ibarra and Pulitzer Prize winner Yusef Komunyakaa at the Music Theatre Group in New York. Peter is an adjudicator for the Todd Thomas Music Scholarship and the Mario Lanza Scholarship, serves as accompanist for the choirs of the Abington School District; is the minister of music at Berachah Church in Cheltenham, the Music Director of The Savoy Company, an adjunct professor of Orchestration at Cairn University, and a Visiting Assistant Professor at Villanova, where he teaches music history and is the musical director of the Graduate Theatre Program.

Peter's recent projects also include a commissioned work for the Upper Dublin High School Band, Orchestra and Chorus, and the 3-year restoration of Victor Herbert's lost 1911 opera *Natoma*, which was heard for the first time in over 80 years in a reading in July 2014 in New York with full orchestra, chorus, and soloists.

Opera News wrote: "...[Hilliard and his collaborators] are owed a debt of gratitude, as *Natoma* turns out to be a real piece of buried treasure. Herbert's score is gorgeous... there is plenty of dramatic tension in the score, as well as moments of heart-stopping beauty... [Natoma] is definitely overdue for a full recording. People are going to be surprised by just how good much of this music really is." The new performing edition, built from the original parts at the Library of Congress, is an important addition to the study of American Opera, and Peter lectured on the production history of the work this February at a conference on American Opera at Towson University in Maryland.

Peter works and teaches in Glenside where he also lives with his wife Allison and their four children.



Roburt Gajdos, Accompanist

Roburt Gajdos, studied piano forte with Mathilde McKihney of the Westminster Choir College of Rider University, and at Oberlin College with Joseph Schwartz and Albert Stanziano.

On scholarship to Philadelphia College of Performing Arts he continued his studies with Susan Starr. He studied composition with Dr. Eugene Copeland for an M.A. at New Jersey College. From his earliest studies, Roburt realized a powerful attraction to the romantic composers and a startling ability to comprehend and interpret their music. Already in command of such works as the Liszt Concerto No. 1 in E flat and the Grieg Concerto No. 1 in A minor, he began appearing as a soloist with local symphony orchestras and was the winner of numerous awards and scholarships.

Roburt commands a vast repertoire, including the many works of Rachmaninoff, Liszt, Scriabin and Chopin. In addition to radio and television appearances, he performs extensively throughout the Delaware Valley in public and private recitals. A native of Pennington, NJ, he is currently on the faculty of the Central Bucks Conservatory and the Wendy Hellyer Music Studio. Roburt has been the pianist and organist for St. Philip's Episcopal Church in New Hope, PA since 2001. He has accompanied many musical revues in Phillips Mill, PA. He is currently performing in Duo d'Esterhazy with violinist, Alexandre Djokic. The duo has performed extensively in Philadelphia, Chicago, New York City and Bucks County, PA.



Keith Beale, Assistant Director

Keith Beale is a graduate of West Chester University of Pennsylvania with a B.S. in music education. Keith has had a varied career, teaching music in public schools, working for Verizon Communications, and, after retirement, serving as part-time administrator at the Church of the Open Door, where he was also choir director and worship leader. He is now director of finance and marketing at CLC Ministries International and the Chairman of the Board at West Chester University. Mr. Beale has sung the lead in a few operas,

performed many concerts as a core soloist with the Choral Arts Society of Philadelphia, sang with the Philadelphia Orchestra and was the interim director of the Abington Choral Club. He currently sings with Abington Choral Club, where he is also the Assistant Director; he sings with the Ambler Choral Society and he is the choir director at Church of the Open Door. He is also an accomplished organist and pianist. His wife, Nancy, often accompanies him as a pianist.

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Julia Haywood
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Soprano II

Chris Hemsley
Ellen Herr
Eileen Jaffe
Maggie Keenan
Ann Krill
Suzy Moore
Gwen Rinaldi
Annie Scozzare
Konnie Stark
Jane Storck

Alto I

Mary Campana
Linda Craig
Victoria Craig
Loretta Fox
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Kristen Kreamer
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Alto II

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Sharon Dicker
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Peter! Your creative spirit, passion for music and boundless energy (even after a long day) are an inspiration to us all. We are so lucky to have you as our Director! Thank you for all that you do!

– Abington Choral Club

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Abington Choral Club 2015-2016 Season

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COMMUNITY OUTREACH

In addition to our two scheduled concerts per year, Abington Choral Club enjoys giving back to our community by performing in various events throughout the year. Here are a few of the things we've done:



Photo courtesy of Heddy Bergsman



- Performed National Anthem at Temple Owls football game.
- Featured on a recent ABC-TV news segment , *The Art of Aging*.
- Performed National Anthem for past five years at a Trenton Thunder game, and at a past Philadelphia Phillies game.
- Joined Opera Company of Philadelphia in singing Handel's Messiah at Macy's for a "Random Act of Culture" (600 voices!)
- Performed at the Abington Township July 4th celebration.
- Featured at Breakfast with Santa at Ambler YMCA.
- Perform community carol sings at local retirement centers.
- Performed at Fox Chase Cancer Center's Tree Lighting ceremony.
- Perform with Independence Sinfonia, Old York Road Symphony and local youth choral groups.

PROGRAM NOTES

"Stop and smell the roses."

"Be kind to people."

"Try to make the world a better place."

"Learning is important."

"Keep your family close."

These ideas are so familiar that we often dismiss them as platitudes. Young people often strongly embrace these ideas, (in principle if not always in practice) because they haven't yet had the kind of experiences that make a person question their validity. And after a lifetime of experiences, one frequently comes around to some of the same answers about what's important. Our concert tonight is built around the young and the young at heart. We'll be bringing you children's music from a long time ago, and the Disney music young people know and love today. We'll be singing 12 very short pieces of advice from one of the first important American female composers Carrie Jacobs-Bond (1862-1946) and we're delighted to be presenting a brand new multimedia piece combining the advice of the young and the young at heart. We hope this concert will take you down memory lane and bring together some valuable perspectives in a unique way that will warm your heart and make you smile.

- Peter Hilliard

The Abington Choral Club enjoys singing concerts twice a year at Rydal Park Retirement Community. After each of these concerts, I try to chat with residents. I've met so many interesting people with fascinating insights, advice, and stories, and I have often felt like the things we were talking about were really important and worth preserving. I'm also the parent of four wonderful kids, and as anyone with children knows, young people are frequently hilarious, witty and surprisingly wise. In thinking about this upcoming concert, I realized I wanted to combine the perspectives of both generations in one piece, and to use video and music to bring their thoughts together. Thanks to the generous support of Rydal Park Retirement Community, Abington's Copper Beech Elementary School, and our many ACC supporters and friends, we are proud to be presenting to you "Life Lessons and Advice", a unique multimedia piece that is closely tied to our own community.

- P. H.

Nancy Huttlin (1934-2015) ACC 2 Term President



Photo Collage by Tally Vassalluzzo

Thank You



A big thank you to ACC President Jack Enea for four great years....

and to Vice President Rachelle Leese, and Board Directors Laurie Pellicore and Diane Dilks.

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CONCERT PROGRAM

Pre-Concert Piano Selections Robert Gajdos

President's Comments Jack Enea

Polly-Wolly-Doodle Gail Kubik

Soloists - Tom Hasani, Laurie Pellicore, Sue Schmid, Tina Sirkin

Row, Row, Row Your Boat Arranged by Earl Rogers

Narrator - Ken Hunkins

Five Nursery Rhymes Ralph Hunter

Mr. Frog A Courtin' He Did Ride Arranged by Livingston Gearhart
Appalachian Folk Song

I Bought Me A Cat Irving Fine
Adapted by Aaron Copland

Half Minute Songs (1910) Music by Carrie Jacobs-Bond
Arranged by Peter Hilliard

CONCERT PROGRAM

A Word From Our Sponsor Peter Hilliard

When You Wish Upon a Star Music by Leigh Harline
Lyrics by Ned Washington
Arranged by Clay Warnick

Whistle While You Work Frank Churchill

Can You Feel The Love Tonight Music by Elton John
Lyrics by Tim Rice
Arranged by Keith Christopher

Music From "Frozen" Music by Heimr Arnadalr and Christophe Beck
Lyrics by Christine Hals
Adapted by Roger Emerson

Music and Lyrics by Kristen Anderson-Lopez and Robert Lopez
Arranged by Mark Brymer

Life Lessons and Advice* Peter Hilliard

*Premiere of a creative collaboration among the ACC, Rydal Park Retirement Community, Copper Beech Elementary School, and ACC Music Director and Composer Peter Hilliard.

-- There will be no intermission during the concert. --

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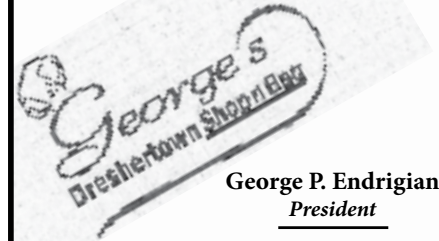


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For over 60 years the ACC has presented two concerts a year to the community without requiring an admittance fee - a unique accomplishment for a community chorus. There are virtually no community choruses that do not sell tickets. In addition to continuous fundraising activities, the ACC relies heavily on the generosity of its patrons and audiences to keep the music going.

Auditions for the 2015 Fall season will be held in September.

Visit our website for updates
www.abingtonchoralclub.org

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Sunday, May 17, 2015, 2:30 PM

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Featuring three Competition Winners

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Schumann Symphony

Classical Carnival and Winter Daydreams

Saturday, March 28 at 8PM
Mimi Stillman, Flute Soloist
Berlioz Roman Carnival
Tchaikovsky Symphony No. 1, "Winter Dreams"

All of the above concerts at Abington Junior High School

Also, plan to attend our Holiday concert, including audience sing-a-long
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Thursday, December 11 at 7:30PM. Tickets \$10 at the door.

www.oyrs.org

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