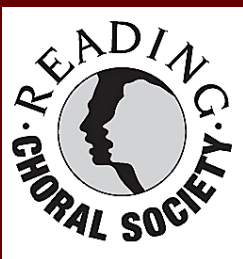


Fall 2014



READING CHORAL SOCIETY

Berks Sings

Reading Choral Society Begins 139th Season

“Just Folks” Concert with East Side Dave

On Sunday, November 23, Reading Choral Society will be joined by East Side Dave and his Mountain Folk Band in a concert titled **Just Folks**.

This concert will include folk music from around the world. Many of your favorite folk songs from the past will be sung as well as a sing-a-long with Dave Kline. The music will certainly keep your toes tapping and we are sure you will leave singing or humming one of the songs.

Dave Kline is a working musician, singer/songwriter, band-leader, booking coordinator, and talent coordinator. He is a member of The Mountain Folk Duo, East Side Dave and the Pine Ridge Mountain Boys Band, the Reading Musical Foundation Holiday Jam Band, and the Toad Creek Ramblers. He has also made solo performances at schools and festivals, performed as a side-man musician and as a featured entertainer with many other bands and shows throughout the years in the



fields of blues, rock, folk, bluegrass, alpine, country, classical, etc.

As well as sharing his musical talents, Dave serves as an Event Coordinator, a Master of Ceremonies, and an Event Spokesperson, as well as an On-Air personality for WEEU (from 1990 to the present). He is the Producer & Host of the weekly, syndicated Mountain Folk radio, web show and website.

Dave estimates that he has more than 400 career live performances/personal appearances in concert, radio, TV, theater, and the other venues. He is the founder and sole proprietor of Mountain Laurel Produc-

tions which has produced 22 albums for various artists and bands.

The Mountain Folk Band has been performing since 1989 as a five piece blue-grass band, as a duo or in other configurations. The band's repertoire includes original material, traditional material and music from Appalachian to Alpine music styles.

Join us on Sunday, November 23 at Atonement Lutheran Church, 4pm

Tickets are \$15 in advance and \$20 at the door. Student tickets are \$5. Tickets are available through the RCS office: 610-898-1939

Summer Sings a Success!

Do singers want to sing in the summer? RCS found that they do. At each of the Summer Sings that RCS held in July and August, we found that many people love to sing even in the heat of the summer. Our two sessions were led by RCS members and focused on singing and keeping singers vocally fit. Thank you to everyone that attended these sessions. More Summer Sings will be planned for next summer throughout Berks County.

July Summer Sing, Glad Tidings Church, West Lawn



Meet the RCS Music Director, Peter Hopkins



Peter Hopkins is in his 7th season as Music Director of the Reading Choral Society. A Michigan native, he has worked with choirs of all ages and experience levels in his varied career, from early elementary choristers to the all-professional Oregon Bach Festival

chorus. Past choral directorships include high school work in Traverse City and Battle Creek, Michigan, Kalamazoo College, the Kalamazoo Bach Festival and Michigan Bach Collegium, the Grand Rapids Choir of Men and Boys, and the Grand Rapids Symphony Chorus. His specialties include Baroque composers Bach and Handel and music of the English cathedral tradition, but he regularly leads performances of nearly every kind of choral music, including an all folk song program with RCS this November.

Peter especially looks forward to leading RCS in a performance of Brahms's *A German Requiem* next April. "I've been studying and preparing this masterpiece for over two decades, impatiently await-

ing the chance to conduct it," said Hopkins. "I've got the score memorized, and am already enjoying introducing it to our chorus. At the same time, we're having a great deal of fun learning our folk song program coming up in November. So many beautiful tunes! Each week I drive home with another great folk song melody in my head."

Berks Choir Games

In May 2014, Reading Choral Society hosted the 1st Berks Choir Games. This was a festival to celebrate choral music in Berks County. The culminating event of the day was a finale concert featuring the University of Pennsylvania Glee Club. This was a concert enjoyed by many!

Save the date for the 2nd Berks Choir Games: **May 9, 2015**
Miller Center for the Arts

More information will included in each newsletter.



RCS Chamber Choir

In the Spring of 2014, Reading Choral Society developed an audition based ensemble comprised of highly skilled members of RCS. The Chamber Choir helps to serve the purpose of outreach and advancement of choral music throughout the area. The premier performance of the Chamber Choir was at Berks Choir Games in May 2014.

If you are looking for a small choir to perform for your event, please consider the RCS Chamber Choir.



RCS Chamber Choir, WCR Center for the Arts

2014-15 Board of Directors

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Mission Statement:

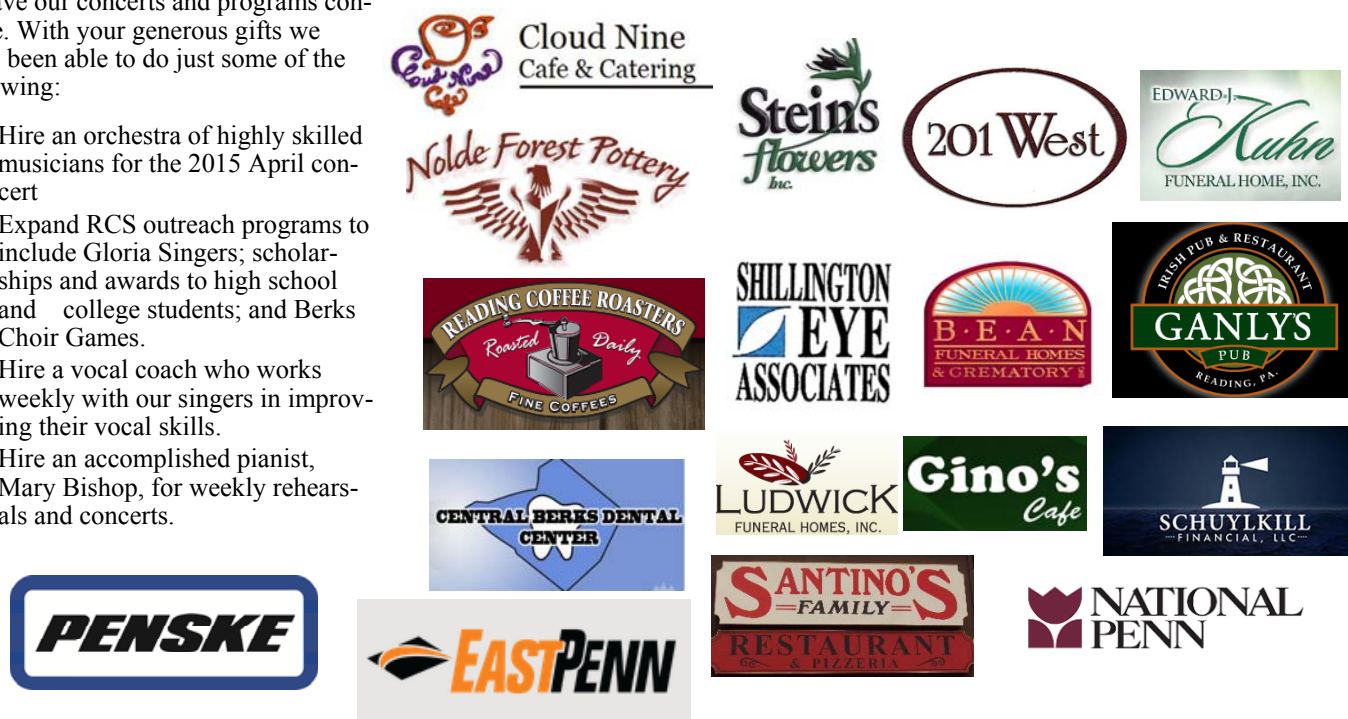
Our mission is to perform, foster and advance choral music in the Reading and Berks County Community.

Thank you to RCS patrons!

Thank you to all our patrons. Without your support we would not be able to have our concerts and programs continue. With your generous gifts we have been able to do just some of the following:

- Hire an orchestra of highly skilled musicians for the 2015 April concert
- Expand RCS outreach programs to include Gloria Singers; scholarships and awards to high school and college students; and Berks Choir Games.
- Hire a vocal coach who works weekly with our singers in improving their vocal skills.
- Hire an accomplished pianist, Mary Bishop, for weekly rehearsals and concerts.

2014-15 Business Patrons—until date of printing



2014 Business patrons—since January 2014



Volunteers Needed!

Volunteers are always welcomed to Reading Choral Society!

Non-singing members are always needed in organizations such as RCS. What can you do to help? Such opportunities as: being a board member, helping with ticket sales, assisting with concert set-up & take down, being a greeter at concerts, helping with mailings, working at fundraisers, marketing, and helping to organize receptions following concerts.

If you are interested in helping, please call or email the RCS office with the following information: name, address, email, phone number, and how you would like to help.

RCS phone number: 610-898-1939

Email: scoughlin@readingchoral.org





READING CHORAL SOCIETY

GoggleWorks Center for the Arts
201 Washington Street, Suite 504
Reading, PA 19601-4040

Phone: 610-898-1939

www.readingchoral.org

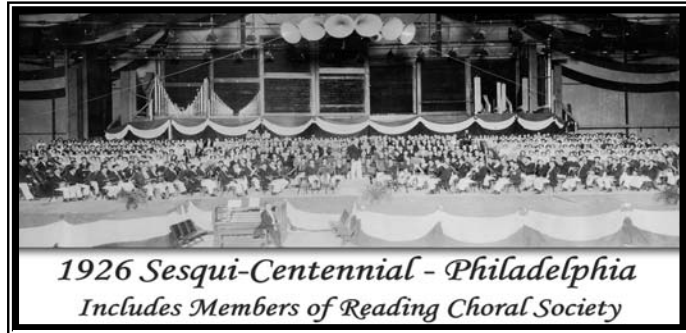
E-mail: information@readingchoral.org



Concert season is underwritten in part by grants from the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts and the Reading Musical Foundation.

Reading Choral Society receives state arts funding support through a grant from the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, a state agency, funded by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the National Endowment for the Arts, a federal agency.

Founded in 1875, the Reading Choral Society is one of America's oldest musical ensembles, and from its earliest days has pursued performances characterized by vocal excellence and musical distinction. Under its current director, Peter Hopkins (the eleventh person to hold this position), approximately 65 dedicated semi-professional singers perform in the RCS. Through the RCS performances, the members enrich and enliven the musical life of the greater Reading community and the surrounding counties.



RCS Fundraisers

RCS holds various fundraisers throughout the year to bring in increased revenue. Here are a few of our current fundraisers:

Applebee's Flapjack Fundraiser Saturday, October 18, 8-10AM
Wyomissing \$7 a breakfast

Boscov's Coupon Sale Day Tuesday, October 21. \$5 coupons

Holiday Extravaganza with the RCS Chamber Choir at the
Hendel House, Friday, December 5 6-9pm.

For more details about these FUNDRAISERS: www.readingchoral.org

Singing is Good for your Body & Soul

"While singing alone is good, singing with others can be even better."

Scientists have shown that not only does singing in a choir make you feel good, it offers health benefits, too. Researchers at the University of Gothenburg, Sweden, found that choristers' heartbeats synchronize when they sing together, bringing about a calming effect that is as beneficial to our health as yoga.

"Song is a form of regular, controlled breathing, since breathing out occurs on the song phrases and inhaling takes place between these," says Dr Björn Vickhoff, who led the study. "It gives you pretty much the same effect as yoga breathing. It helps you relax, and there are indications that it does provide a heart benefit."

Taken from article in The Telegraph written by Sarah Rainey.



*RCS members, Berks Choir Games
Miller Center for the Arts*

*Love to sing & looking for a
chorus to join?*

Consider joining RCS!

*More information about
auditioning is on the
RCS website.*

Like us on Facebook &
Follow us on Twitter

