



# masterworks matters

masterworks chorale ▪ toledo, ohio ▪ february 2010

## I HATE and I Love



*Catullus and Clodia, ancient Roman lovers, as depicted by the 18th century Italian artist, Luigi Schiavonetti*

*I hate and I love.  
Perhaps you will ask how that can be possible.  
I do not know;  
But that is what I feel and it torments me.*

The ancient Roman poet Gaius Valerius Catullus (c. 84 – c. 54 B.C.) was probably about 18 years old when he wrote the lines above. If you’ve ever been a teenager, you’ll understand his poems about his love affair with a girl called Clodia — a passionate relationship that had its bumps.

Two thousand years later, American composer Dominick Argento (b. 1927) translated seven of Catullus’s poems and set them for mixed chorus and two percussionists.

Yes, percussionists! Wind chimes portray breezes on a warm day as, ever hopeful, Catullus woos the girl: “Let us live, my Clodia, and let us love.” Later, a bongo punctuates the end of Catullus’s query: “Was it a lioness from the mountains of Libya...who gave birth to you with a heart so cold, so black?” (bongo roll)

In this 18-minute “poetry reading,” enhanced by Argento’s artistry, listeners should be able to understand many of the words because much of Argento’s setting is homophonic — that is, the whole choir sings the same words at the same time. The poems will appear in the program, and listeners might enjoy following along.

Argento’s rhythms and harmonies expand and enrich the verses’ meaning. In “Was it a lioness...?” Argento’s stealthy pace brings to mind a lioness’s stalking. When Catullus laments that his lover’s pledges of undying love may as well be written “on the wind or swift-running water,” Argento’s fluid notes give flow and swirl to the words. In other verses, the rhythms are almost conversational.

The composer also uses harmony — or the lack of it — to expand meaning. In the first poem, for example, the word “hate” is sung in a spiky series of clashing, dissonant tones. In contrast, the word “love” will bathe listeners in a progression of lush harmonies ending in a soothing major chord.

*I Hate and I Love* is one of many pieces — ancient and modern — that the Chorale will perform on March 13 in its program *Living: Hope, Passion, Wisdom*. Catullus’s poems are nothing if not full of hope and passion. As for wisdom, that is to be found in Argento’s brilliant setting of Catullus’s verses. ▪ Tom Sheehan



### arts school choir to join chorale

Singers in the Concert Choir at the Toledo School for the Arts rehearse a Bulgarian folksong for their upcoming performance with Masterworks Chorale. The TSA choir, led by Jamie Dauel, will also sing a Japanese children’s song as well as two pieces with the Chorale at the March 13 concert.

celebrating our thirty-seventh year of choral music for toledo

# from the director *i have had singing*

Dear Friends,

It's quiet and I have opportunity to reminisce. As my thoughts turn to my own life's path, I am reminded of how many moments of my life are marked by music.



Donna Tozer Wipfli,  
Artistic Director and  
Conductor

My mother was a singer of simple children's folk songs that kept my brothers and me entertained and comforted. Standing as a 12-year old next to the best alto in the adult church choir, Mrs. Monsees, I became convinced that singing alto was a wonderful career choice! Knowing that a piece from my wedding had been sung at my great-grandparents', grandparents', parents', and siblings' weddings connected me with my family. Upon hearing "The Navy Hymn," I am reminded of my family's service to our country. At each of our anniversaries, I sing for my husband the same piece that I sang to him at our wedding reception. We celebrated the birth of our daughter by listening to a recording on which both my husband and I were singing. The organist at my mother's funeral played a piece I heard my mom play a hundred times. There are so many more moments.

I imagine that you have had similar moments in your life. This concert will explore life's amazing journey — from birth to adulthood, grief to hope, love to wisdom.

Come to our concert and enjoy a little time to reminisce.

Peace,

Donna

## living: hope, passion, wisdom

Saturday, March 13, 8:00 pm  
First Presbyterian Church, Maumee

Greeting Leonard Bernstein  
Hope, Faith, Life, Love Eric Whitacre  
Haec Dies William Byrd  
If Ye Love Me Thomas Tallis  
Hallelujah Luke D. Rosen\*  
Ergen Deda Petar Liondev†  
Hotaru Koi arr. Rō Ogura†  
I Am but a Small Voice  
arr. Roger Whittaker  
I Have Had Singing Steven Sametz  
Sing Me to Heaven Daniel Gawthrop  
I Hate and I Love Dominick Argento  
Soon and Very Soon Andrae Crouch  
In Remembrance Eleanor Daley  
The Promise of Living Aaron Copland‡

\*Composer Luke D. Rosen is a member of the Chorale's tenor section.

†Performed by the Toledo School for the Arts Concert Choir, Jamie Dauel, director

‡Performed by Masterworks Chorale with TSACC

## chorale soprano soloist, teacher, creative force

Continuing a series of spotlights on Chorale members, *Masterworks Matters* co-editor Betsy Kolasky spoke with soprano Joan Layne in her Perrysburg home.

*You wear so many different musical hats — teacher, soprano soloist, Opera Chorus member, Masterworks Chorale member, church choir section leader, museum Music Performance Docent and creator of music/art events — which of these identities is most important to you as a musician?* Music is central to my life, and all those roles are important parts of my musical journey. When I was younger, I considered myself a choral singer. As I progressed, I became more of a soloist. Church, Opera Chorus and Masterworks have afforded opportunities. I began my own private voice studio in 1994, and teach students of all ages. For the



Joan Layne

last few years I have created a Great Gallery Series at the museum integrating the visual and musical arts.

*What are the musical highlights of your year?* Masterworks' Christmas concert is always a highlight. I connect with our audience, who come year after year, sitting in the same seats. The Opera Gala at the Peristyle is also special. A career highlight was singing the role of the High Priestess in *Aida* with the Toledo Opera in 1994.

*Are there some new challenges you'd like to take on as a performer?* It's fun to do things better and better every year, to sing pieces I might not have tried earlier, and I enjoy the musical challenge.

*What advice do you give to young singers thinking about a career in music?* I tell my talented students how gifted I think they are. I also caution them about the hurdles all young singers face. But I never tell anyone they cannot succeed.

music to lift your spirits

## beyond concerts outreach to seniors ... and others

In addition to concert audiences, Masterworks Chorale shares its art with many different area groups and organizations.

Summer of 2009 found us singing the National Anthem at Fifth/Third Field for thousands of Mud Hens fans and popular tunes at the Arts Gone Wild festival at the Toledo Botanical Garden.

Last fall a Chorale quartet sang the National Anthem for eighteen thousand participants and spectators at the Race for the Cure, and an ensemble sang Chinese folk songs for hundreds of Chinese students at the celebration of the Mid-Autumn Festival held at the University of Toledo.

In December, Chorale members sang at the lighting of the Toledo Zoo's Christmas tree and caroled throughout the zoo (a tradition since 2006); a group regaled visitors to the Manor House at Wildwood Metropark with songs of the season; a quartet serenaded shoppers at The Andersons Market in Sylvania with carols as they shopped for holiday treats, and an ensemble sang carols for residents of two area nursing homes.

All these activities are in addition to Masterworks' ongoing outreach to youth via yearly carol sharing with residents of the Lucas County Youth Treatment Center, our "artnership" with Toledo School for the Arts, and our High School Intern Program.



*Singers from the Chorale sang for seniors at two area nursing homes in December.*

## join us in may for the big sing!

Calling all regional adult choirs and interested individuals! Please join the Chorale for *The Big Sing!*, a celebration of choral music, at the Valentine Theatre on May 23. Chorale Artistic Director and Conductor Donna Tozer Wipfli will coach each participating choir in an afternoon clinic. Each choir will perform individually at an evening concert, and the combined choirs will also sing. Interested? Call or email Molly Wassermann, the Chorale's outreach director, at (419) 866-6624 or thebigsing@bex.net. The clinic is free; concert ticket prices will be modest. Come sing or listen!

## giving matters



*Julia & David Baldwin*

*We support Masterworks because we appreciate the quality of the programming, the joy of listening to the singers, and the fact that Masterworks supports the future of vocal music through its student intern program. - Julia & David Baldwin*

Did you know that ticket sales cover less than half of the Chorale's expenses? Please consider a generous donation.

Sponsor up to \$99	Patron \$100 - \$249	Benefactor \$250 - \$499	Special Friend \$500 - \$999	Director's Circle \$1000 and over
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Check to Masterworks Chorale - Masterworks Chorale, Box 114, Toledo, OH 43697

My employer matches charitable gifts.

Please contact me regarding a gift to the Masterworks Chorale Endowment Fund.



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Donna Tozer Wipfli  
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Contributing to this issue of *Masterworks Matters*: Betsy Kolasky and Tom Sheehan, editors • Steven Tozer Wipfli, logo design • Anne Morris, Phil Podlish, Peggy Sheehan, and Regina Stevenson-Healy, proofreaders

come and hear our singing again or for the very first time



# Masterworks Chorale

P.O. Box 114  
Toledo, Ohio 43697  
(419) 242-0800

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Organization  
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## Masterworks Chorale

**northwest ohio's premier chamber choir**

### Calendar: Glorious concerts & more!

Living: hope, passion, wisdom

Saturday, March 13 at 8 pm

First Presbyterian Church, Maumee

### Collage III

Saturday, May 8 at 8 pm

Maumee Center for the Performing Arts

### The Big Sing! choral festival

Sunday, May 23. See "join us" on page 3 for details.

### Broadcast

WGTE, FM 91.3, will broadcast the Chorale's March 13 concert on Thursday, April 15 at 8 pm.

### Please come to a rehearsal


You are cordially invited to attend the first half of rehearsal on February 22 or March 1 from 7:30 to 8:45 pm in the choir room of Ottawa Hills High School. Please call (419) 242-0800 to let us know you're coming.

**have you heard us lately?**

### Tickets for the March 13 concert

For tickets for the March 13 concert only: Reserved (assigned row) seating \$25; general admission \$20; student price, K-12 or with current student ID \$12 at the door. Order by phone at (419) 246-8000 or 1 (800) 348-1253.

### Disabilities

 If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please advise the Chorale's business office at (419) 242-0800 at least two weeks before the concert. For TYY/TDD use Ohio Relay Service at 1 (800) 750-0750.

### Private label wines at The Andersons

The next time you buy wine, consider purchasing Masterworks Chorale Private Label wines, available at any local Andersons store. The Chorale will receive \$2.00 per bottle from The Andersons. Very drinkable, reasonably priced bottles of Chardonnay, Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, and White Zinfandel are available.