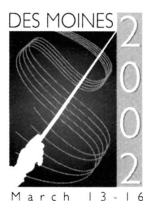


## Gustavus Choir Accepts Historic Invitation

by Tobias Stalter Tenor '02

The Gustavus Choir has been selected to perform at the 2002 North Central American Choral Association convention. The convention will be held in Des Moines, Iowa, March 13–16, 2002. The choir is scheduled to perform on Thursday, March 14, in the morning session's solo performance spot.

To be selected for a solo performance spot, the Gustavus Choir went through a rigorous selection process. Interested choirs must submit an application to a state committee. The application consists of choir recordings from the past three years and a performance proposal. The state committee in turn nominates a select number of groups to be considered by the convention's planning team. A blind audition is then held and invita-



AMERICAN CHORAL DIRECTORS ASSOCIATION

*North Central Division Convention*

tions are extended to choirs for twenty-five minute solo performance slots.

The invitation to this convention is a first for the Gustavus Choir. It is definitely an honor to be proud of. As conductor Gregory Aune commented, the invitation is an "affirmation of quality because it is selected by peers. This per-

formance is a continuation of the Gustavus Choir's effort to be as good as we can be."

The choir will be focusing its performance on Scandinavian composers. Rehearsals have already begun on some of the pieces in the set, including a work by composer Einojuhani Rautavaara.

The performance will be held at the Des Moines Civic Center. Families and friends interested in seeing the choir perform at this convention will most likely need to pay a session fee. For more information on the convention and tickets, please visit the Web at <[www.ncacda.org](http://www.ncacda.org)>.

Special thanks go to those who have helped make this possible, including Dr. Aune and members of the Gustavus Choir who have helped established an enviable reputation. Congratulations to the Gustavus Choir on this tremendous accomplishment!

## Letter from the President

by Tanner Hammerschmidt Tenor '02

This fall The Gustavus Choir was faced with an exciting and challenging agenda. In place of preparing for the Family Weekend concert and Christmas in Christ Chapel, we were busy rehearsing the *Nobel Symphony*, a tribute to the 100th anniversary of the Nobel Prize. Composed for the Nobel Conference by Gustavus Adolphus College alumnus Steve Heitzeg '82, the symphony brought a message of peace and hope, a timely statement following the attacks on New York and Washington, D.C. We performed this impressive work a second time during Family Weekend, a meaningful event for the choir and our loved ones. Premiering the symphony was a rare honor for all of the directors and musicians involved.

In addition to the *Nobel Symphony* pre-

miere, another honor was recently bestowed upon the Gustavus Choir. The ACDA (American Choral Director's Association) has selected the choir to perform at its 2002 North Central convention in Des Moines, Iowa (see above). Only one choir was selected from each state in the north central United States, putting us at the top of a long and distinguished list of ensembles from Minnesota.

Despite the whirlwind start to our first semester, not all of the G-Choir's activities have revolved around learning new music. We recently enjoyed our annual game of "two-hand touch" football. Despite blustery winds and slightly frigid temperatures, spirits ran high, revealing the comradery and good nature of this year's members. After

the game, we held our fall banquet, which served as another valuable bonding experience.

With the *Nobel Symphony* successfully behind us, the choir is currently working on music for Christmas in Christ Chapel, which has a Celtic theme this year, and the ACDA convention. The repertoire selected by Dr. Aune includes works by Einojuhani Rautavaara, Charles Villiers Stanford, Daniel E. Gawthrop, and many others. We are looking forward to a promising year of performances and tours. If you have any alumni news that you would like to post, please send us your message through mail or e-mail. Have a wonderful fall and winter, and enjoy this issue of **Echoes & Overtones**. ➤

# Conductor's Column

by **Dr. Gregory Aune** Conductor



Greetings from the Hill! As I sit at my computer writing to you I can look out my office window over the Arb on a glorious fall morning here in St. Peter. This is a wonderful place, and in the midst of the fast pace of daily life it is important for me to reflect upon this from time to time. We all take so many things for granted—certainly the ongoing events of this fall have put many of our assumptions into clear perspective.

Steve Heitzeg's *Nobel Symphony* speaks to our community and the world in the strongest possible terms. As the Gustavus Choir, Christ Chapel Choir, and Lucia Singers were warming up in Björling Hall for the Family Weekend performance of the symphony, we learned that the United States had just started the air attack on the Taliban positions in Afghanistan.

"War is wide, like the light-starved jungle"

In the midst of our anger, sadness, confusion, fear, and pessimism . . .

"I believe that unarmed truth and unconditional love will have the final word in reality"

Even as the world at large condemns terrorism and seeks justice, we see on our television a suffering people, victims of events out of their control.

"There is no democracy without respect for the identity and the dignity of all cultures and peoples."

"Peace can only last where human rights are respected."

The message of the *Nobel Symphony* is both timeless and timely. The student musicians who performed this work in October had the rare opportunity not only to premiere a major new composition, but also to experience first-hand the innate power of combined text and music. The *Nobel Symphony* reaffirms the mission of Gustavus and the fundamental truths that we do indeed take for granted, but must be reminded of during these troubled times. ➤

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For more information about the Gustavus Choir, its tour itinerary, concert appearances, or any of the articles in **Echoes & Overtones**, contact:

♪ **Dr. Gregory Aune**, Conductor  
Department of Music  
Gustavus Adolphus College  
800 West College Avenue  
Saint Peter, MN 56082-1498  
Ph.: 507/933-7347  
<gaune@gustavus.edu>

♪ **Dean Wahlund**, Tour Manager  
Office of Public Relations  
Gustavus Adolphus College  
800 West College Avenue  
Saint Peter, MN 56082-1498  
Ph.: 507/933-7520  
<dwahlund@gustavus.edu>

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## It's a Celtic Christmas in 2001

by **Annie Johnson** Soprano '03

It's that time of year again, folks! Autumn is breezing through, and Christmas is just around the bend. And with the holiday season quickly approaching, one might hear the strains of Christmas music in the air as the choirs and orchestra rehearse for an upcoming December performance. Christmas in Christ Chapel ("CinCC," as we lovingly refer to it) has been a long-standing tradition, unique to Gustavus, and 2001 marks its 29th year.

If you have ever attended this acclaimed service, you know that each year the event is centered around a chosen theme. A significant amount of time is spent on planning this enormous undertaking. Chaplain Brian Johnson, along with Gustavus Choir director Greg Aune, Christ Chapel Choir director

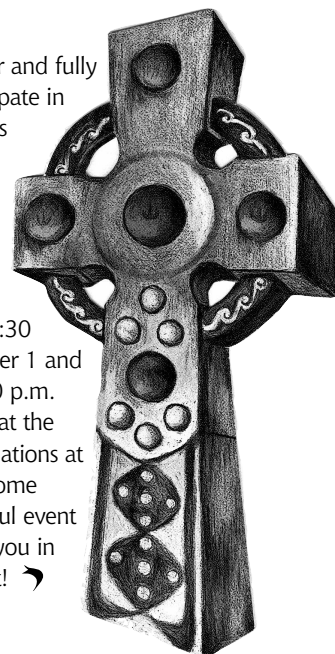
Patricia Kazarow, Gustavus Orchestra conductor Warren Friesen, Lucia Singers director Trish Snapp, choreographer Michelle Rusinko, organist David Fienen, and trombone professor Scott Moore, make up the CinCC planning committee that chose our Celtic music theme for CinCC 2001.

Kazarow says, "It is not like other Christmas programs, it's not a concert, it's a service in celebration of Christ's story—the Christmas Story." Aune explains that this year's program will tell the Christmas story with music from the Celtic tradition.

The Gustavus choir will be performing four pieces, as well as three others in combination with the Lucia Singers and Christ Chapel Choir. Having already performed one major mass ensemble work this semester, the choir

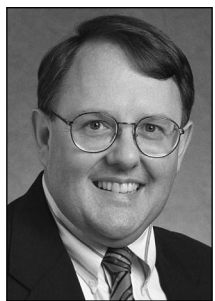
members are eager and fully prepared to participate in another CinCC. This will, undoubtedly, be a service to remember.

Performance dates are scheduled for November 30 at 7:30 p.m., and December 1 and 2 at 3:30 and 7:30 p.m. Tickets are on sale at the Office of Public Relations at \$15 per person. Come enjoy this wonderful event that is sure to put you in the Christmas spirit! ➤



# Ramblings of the Manager

by Dean Wahlund Tour Manager



After spending 23 wonderful days touring in the western United States last January, the Gustavus Choir will be on tour a bit closer to home this year. Congregations in Minnesota, Illinois, and Wisconsin will welcome the 70-voice choir to their communities the first week in February 2002.

Each year, the choir tours during the week following January Term. Every four years, however, the Gustavus Choir travels internationally for about three weeks. Since 1987, the choir has performed in Asia, South Africa, Scandinavia, the Soviet Union, Poland, and Germany. Our international destination for the year 2003 is Italy. We're not opposed to offering a "companion" tour, so if travel to Rome and Florence interests you, let us know!

As tour manager, I want to thank you for your help in identifying the best concert venues for the choir. Over the years you have provided leads and invitations to perform at churches and other concert settings throughout the country. Please know that all of your e-mails, telephone messages, and letters of invitation are kept "on file." And perhaps someday, when you least expect it, I will telephone you and say, "Greetings from Gustavus! Does your offer still stand to host the Gustavus Choir?"

Until then, we look forward to seeing you and a friend or two at a Gustavus Choir concert in February! ➤

# Our Traditions: The Annual Choir Football Game and Banquet

by Andrew Hasty tenor '03

October 14 was cold and breezy, but it was a great day for the annual soprano/tenor vs. alto/bass football game. This was the first year we played two-hand touch football. Despite the loss of physical aggressiveness towards friends and concussions, the game was full of historical moments. Between the fake field-goal throw, the attempted blitz by the S/T's, Amy Hiscock getting plowed over by Paul Biederman, Jaron Aune's persistent urge to win, Kerstin Blazina's tumor (aka...football in her shirt), S/T interceptions, the A/B's great ground game, and the colorful sideline cheers, it was a wonderfully high-spirited game. Congrats to the sopranos and tenors from keeping the altos and basses out of the end zone in the last few moments of the game!

Later that evening the ensemble met in the Dive for the annual fall banquet. This year's informal menu and banquet allowed everyone to get acquainted with others quite easily. Awards were given to both football teams (courtesy of the caf!). The skits were no let-down by any means. Who could stop laughing at the diva look-alikes, the hypnotized women crazy for Ben Rudolf, blind-date candidates from G-Choir, Gustavus music faculty on "Jeopardy," and the combination between the *Nobel Symphony* and Christmas in Christ Chapel? If this fall is any indicator of how the year will go, it's going to be a splendid year! ➤



## 2002 Midwest Tour

Friday, February 1	Normandale Lutheran Church	Edina, Minn.	7:30 p.m.
Saturday, February 2	Our Savior's Lutheran Church	Naperville, Ill.	7:30 p.m.
Sunday, February 3	Grace Lutheran Church	Love's Park, Ill.	2 p.m.
Monday, February 4	St. Matthew's Lutheran Church	Wauwatosa, Wis.,	7 p.m.
Tuesday, February 5	St. John's Lutheran Church	Lincolnwood, Ill.	7:30 p.m.
Thursday, February 7	Trinity Lutheran Church	Moline, Ill.	7:30 p.m.
Friday, February 8	St. Joseph the Workman Cathedral	LaCrosse, Wis.	7:30 p.m.
Saturday, February 9	Luther Memorial Church	Madison, Wis.	7:30 p.m.
Sunday, February 10	Augustana Lutheran Church	West St. Paul, Minn.	7:30 p.m.
Saturday, February 16	Home Concert – Christ Chapel	St. Peter, Minn.	7:30 p.m.
Thursday, March 14	North Central ACDA Convention	Des Moines, Iowa	9:35 a.m.



# Nobel Symphony Generates Excitement

by **Dan Roeder** Tenor '03 and **Paul Miller** Bass '02

The Gustavus Choir was one of four hard-working Gustavus ensembles that premiered the *Nobel Symphony* on Tuesday, October 2, in Christ Chapel. The work is scored for baritone, mezzo-soprano, orchestra, chorus, and children's choir. The performance combined the efforts of the Gustavus Choir, the Christ Chapel Choir, the Lucia Singers, and the Gustavus Orchestra, with help from the Mankato Children's Choir and the Metropolitan Boys Choir. The combined forces of more than 300 performers were an awesome sight, filling the front of Christ Chapel. The chapel was filled to overflowing for the premiere, and again on Sunday, October 8, for a second performance during Parents Weekend.

The *Nobel Symphony* was written by Steve Heitzeg, a Gustavus alumnus. It was commissioned by the College in

conjunction with the 37th Nobel Conference to celebrate the centennial of the first awarding of the Nobel Prizes. The work consists of six movements, each taking as its theme a different Nobel Prize: Literature, Chemistry, Economics, Physics, Physiology/Medicine, and Peace. Fluxuating time signatures, demanding dynamics, dissonant intervals, and the sheer magnitude of the piece made the task seem daunting at first. "At first the piece was extremely challenging and slightly bizarre, but when all the ensembles came together it became rather powerful and fit together well," said Joe Malkovich '03. Annie Johnson '03 agrees: "When we put it together with the orchestra, for the first time we could see the whole of what he was saying."

The atmosphere of the performance was definitely emotionally charged with the

backdrop of the September 11th tragedy. The performance and its message created wide public interest. The texts of the piece, quotations from Nobel laureates, really hit home. "The texts were timely and insightful," said Nathan Selander '03.

The experience as a whole was very valuable to those involved. "The opportunity to premiere a commission like the *Nobel Symphony* is a once-in-a-lifetime experience for most musicians," Gustavus Fine Arts manager Al Behrends noted. There were innumerable hours put into the work from the time the composer wrote the first theme to the time the ensemble performed the last chord. "This project speaks very highly of the character of these students and of the quality of their musicianship," said Behrends. ➤

## Reverberations: “A Moment for a Lifetime”

**Editor's Note:** “Reverberations” is a space in the newsletter where choir alumni may share their memories. Carol Hansen Benson '61 submitted the following in response to our request in the last issue. She added a postscript: “The opportunity to sing in a college choir is an indescribable experience of blending many individual voices into one tremendous sound. I'm so glad two of our sons were able to experience this as well. Thanks, Gustavus.”

**H**ave you ever had one of those awe-inspiring, once-in-a-lifetime moments while singing? I have! It occurred on tour with the Gustavus Choir under the direction of Philip Knautz in 1959, somewhere in the eastern part of Texas. (I know we had already performed at Texas Lutheran College in Seguin—the photo of Prof. K with Dr. Aune on p. 3 of the first issue of *Echoes and Overtones* jogged my memory.)

I don't remember where. I don't remember what we were singing. What I do remember was a *thrill* or a *chill* that would have “raised my hands on high,” if we hadn't had hands clasped with our singing partners on either side. And I do remember Prof. Knautz sidling up to our section after the number and indicating, as he was known to do, that someone should “cool it” and not get carried away. I did take the admonition personally—and the moment was gone...but never forgotten.

~ **Carol L. Hansen Benson '61**  
Kandiyohi, Minnesota

# GUSTAVUS ADOLPHUS COLLEGE



## A CAPPELLA CHOIR

### “Gustavus Remains Special”

[Your newsletters] found their way to my mailbox and I enjoyed them much. My name is Warren Friest and the College lists me as “x43.” Perhaps the “x” has been dropped in recent years. I attended only two years...ran out of money and World War II caught up to me. However, Gustavus remains special, and I met my wife, Ardene Claude, there too...

I have good memories of my sophomore year and being in the choir under director G. Adolph Nelson and going on spring tour. The enclosed picture will show what director and members looked like in 1941. (Oh, I'm the end person, third row right.)

Ardene and I have been back for a few of the graduation reunion weekend events—the last was our 55th reunion in 1998. And, like a few other “old timers,” I joined the choir for one of its numbers...

Best wishes to you all,

~ **Warren Friest '43**  
Rockford, Illinois

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## Tentative Touring Plans for the Years Ahead

**2003** – International (January Term)  
Italy

**2004** – High Plains (Touring Week)  
North and South Dakota,  
Montana, Minnesota

**2005** – Eastern Tour (January Term or  
Touring Week) – Middle States,  
East Coast, or Florida

**2006** – Midwest/West (Touring Week)  
– Minnesota, Iowa, South  
Dakota, Colorado

Is the Choir touring in your area? Do  
you know of a good venue? Call Tour  
Manager Dean Wahlund at 507/933-  
7521 with your suggestions. ➤

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Choir recordings,  
including  
the Gustavus Choir's  
most recent CD, *Sing  
South Africa*, are  
available from the  
Book Mark on the  
Gustavus campus.  
Phone the Book Mark  
at 507/933-7587, or  
check out their Web site at  
<[www.bookmark.gustavus.edu](http://www.bookmark.gustavus.edu)>.



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