



THE chorister

Newsletter

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Associated Male Choruses of America

<http://amcachorus.org>
plunkett@niagara.com

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SCHOLARSHIP ISSUE

Giles Tomkins

Lester Axdahl Scholarship Award

Giles Tomkins is this year's winner of the Lester Axdahl Award valued at \$800. Giles is entering his Junior year at the Faculty of Music at the University of Toronto. In addition to the many past awards that Giles has attained in his *music career* thus far, he

was selected this summer to participate in the Oberlin College Summer music program in Casalmaggiore, Italy, working with international musicians, while studying and performing the title role in the Mozart opera "Don Giovanni" as well as playing Bartolo in "The Marriage of Figaro". These three and a half weeks proved to be an incredible experience for Giles. In addition to his various choir commitments, in which he is often the featured soloist, Giles was a featured soloist at the Queensmen of Toronto Male Chorus annual Christmas concerts and, in the spring, performed at an invitational concert hosted by the Queensmen. Last fall, Giles was also privileged to be a guest soloist with the prestigious Toronto Mendelssohn Choir.

Vocal music has been the focal point of my life and I plan to continue both studying and performing this wonderful art form.

Giles is proudly sponsored by the Queensmen of Toronto Male Chorus. This is Giles' second AMCA scholarship.

Quotations from our winners

This past year has been a lot of work, and I'm sure it will continue to be like this for the rest of my college life. I am prepared to face any challenges thrown at me with enthusiasm and determination. Katie Butler

I am planning to be a missionary and minister with music, or concentrate on music within the church. Ultimately, I want to use my musical abilities to glorify God and bring others to Him. Karen Pinkney

After studying all the fundamentals of music I will apply to the Opera School. After which I plan to enter the world of opera. I've checked all the road maps and I am going the right way. Leah Gordon

Music and singing are the only aspects of my life that can completely lift me up. Nathaniel Voelker



Katie Butler

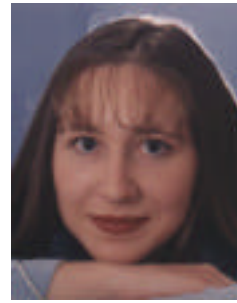
Katie Butler is entering her sophomore year in the music program at Viterbo College. In the beginning of her Freshman year at Viterbo, Katie was accepted in both the Concert Choir and the Show Choir, an accomplishment attained by very few freshmen, and performed in many performances held by both choirs throughout this past year. As a result of her sincere interest and love for music theatre, Katie is now a double major focusing on music performance and music theatre. This summer she hoped to work in a music theatre company.

Katie is proudly sponsored by the Minneapolis Knights of Columbus Male Choir.. This is Katie's second (\$500) AMCA scholarship.

**Nathaniel Voelker
(picture not available)**

Nathaniel Voelker is entering his Freshman year at The Eastman School of Music, majoring in voice performance. This past year Nate completed his high school studies at the Interlochen Arts Academy, Michigan, where he excelled in both his academic as well as artistic studies. In addition to serving as tenor section leader, he enjoyed many opportunities to perform as soloist with the choirs and in the opera workshop. He studied with all the conductors on campus and conducted major ensembles in studio and concert settings with great success. In his final year Nate served as Assistant Conductor of the Academy Choir and Chamber Singers, and as a Theory Tutor. His long term goals include graduate studies in both voice and conducting.

Nate is proudly sponsored by the Flint Male Chorus and this is his first (\$500) AMCA scholarship.



Karen Pinkney

Karen Pinkney is a Sophomore at Penscola Christian College. Karen is a multi-talented musician. In her first year of college she has continued in her vocal instruction program, accompanied (piano) fellow vocalists, participated in a strings program learning to play the cello, and played the clarinet in the college band/orchestra. One of Karen's faculty members stated that *she was a leader in my Vocal Instruction class*, and that *Karen was honestly THE favoured accompanist in the class*. This summer Karen was singing in an ensemble at the Bill Rice Ranch in Murfreesbo, Tennessee.

Karen is proudly sponsored by the Mansfield Men's Chorus. This is Karen's second (\$500) AMCA scholarship.

Leah Gordon



Leah Gordon is a Freshman at the Faculty of Music, University of Toronto. In the past Leah has established herself as a wonderfully talented musician in her high school's Integrated Arts Program performing in various vocal ensembles. Last year her contributions as an ensemble member and solist in the choir led to an invitation to MusicFest Canada, where they received a gold medal standing. Leah is active ly involved in her community, often performing as a featured solist. This past Spring, Leah performed as feature soloist at the Kawartha Male Chorus (her proud sponsors) concert. *Each time she performs, people are stunned by her musical abilities*. Leah also placed first in her category at Ontario Music Festival Provincial Competitions, similar accomplishments attained by Leah over the past two years.

More Information on the Web Site

You may look for more information about our winners (current and past on the AMCA Web Site. At the site, you will also find application forms and information for choruses on sponsorship responsibilities.

The Chorister congratulates the winners of this year's scholarships and commends the sponsoring choruses and the Scholarship committee for their hard and rewarding work.

WHAT CAN WE DO TO SUPPORT THE SCHOLARSHIP FUND?

Our motto is *Good Singing, Good Fellowship and Public Service*. Our scholarship Program is one important aspect of our public service. We need the full support of our members to maintain this very worthwhile service. How can you help? Advertise this opportunity within your own community.

Support our program through your financial contributions. Donations collected at each District and International Sing are the major revenues for the Fund. The next time the hat is passed at your District Sing please remember the importance of your donation. If we received \$5.00 from each member we would be able to increase the financial support to the many deserving young musicians who apply for consideration.

You might also consider Memorial Gifts, Recognition for years of service to choruses, collections at special concerts, Bequests to the AMCA Scholarship Fund, and making it part of your chorus' annual budget.

Donations may be sent to our AMCA Treasurer, **Norbert Lehmann, 3119 Leslie Lane, Eau Claire, WI 49001**. Please include a brief note explaining the reason for the donation. You might also state whether you wish this donation to be recognized in the Chorister.

Last year over 400 applications were sent to interested persons/colleges across the United States and Canada. Unfortunately only about one fifth of these prospective candidates lived in the areas in which our AMCA choruses are located. Please make the program known in your community. Consider informing your local community newspaper of this important public service made available by AMCA to Undergraduate Music students.

Tom Rayner
Chair on behalf of the Scholarship Committee

EIGHT IMPORTANT STEPS FOR CHORUSES

- Each chorus will receive three Application Forms and Chorus Sponsorship forms in early November. Become familiar with the contents and **Eligibility Requirements** outlined in the Application Form.
- Let this service of our Association be known in your location and actively seek appropriate prospective candidates.
- Once contacted by a candidate for sponsorship, meet with the person to learn about his/her interest in music studies. Make sure that the candidate will be enrolled in an Undergraduate Music program for the coming year.
- Invite the candidate to perform for your chorus or as part of one of your concerts.
- The Chorus must then decide whether to offer sponsorship to the candidate.
- If accepted by the Chorus, offer to assist the candidate with the completion of the application, making sure that all requested documents are available.
- Remind the candidate to mail the completed application and related documents so that they reach the Scholarship chair by March 1st.
- The Chorus completes and mails the Chorus Sponsorship Form directly to the Scholarship Chair on or before **March 1st**

KEEP IN TOUCH

Have you ever wondered what our former scholarship winners have been up to? Why not visit our web site and look up information on past winners.

If you are aware of some information about past winners that you think we should all know please inform Dave Thomas, AMCA web manager.

WE ARE THANKFUL

Every year in October in Canada and in November in the United States, we celebrate Thanksgiving. In Canada and the United States we have much for which to be thankful.

- We share the world's largest unarmed border.
- We have free elections and can live comfortably with people we disagree with and the world doesn't end if our party doesn't win the election.
- We enjoy each other's company - our visits to each other are higher than visits to any other country.
- We celebrate our diversity while maintaining our unique culture.
- Our quality of life is the best in the world.
- We can practice our faith (or not practice our faith) freely.
- As AMCA members, we are introduced to music from both countries.

I know that I am thankful for my family and the many friends that enrich my family life. I am thankful that I have been given a forum to express myself in my music and in the Chorister.

Thanksgiving is a unique American celebration which originated with the American pilgrims who wanted to thank God for a good year and it brought together people from two cultures (European and Native).

Take time out and think of all you have to be thankful for and sing zestfully to express that thanks

Dan Plunkett, Editor

The Chorister is the official newsletter of the Associated Male Choruses of America, Inc. You are encouraged to participate in the creation of this newsletter by submitting articles, letters, photographs and pictures.

Dan Plunkett
28 Ameer Drive
St. Catharines, Ontario
L2N 3S8
plunkett@niagara.com

NEXT MONTH IN THE CHORISTER

- We have mail and I'm going to print it - it's not too late to get your letter in.
- There will be a report on the meeting of the Board of Directors (Kalamazoo).
- A report from the Music Contest Committee
- Repertoire for the Lansing Big Sing (2003) American Thanksgiving and CFL playoffs - one of our choristers used to play in the CFL. Look for a profile in November.

AMCA LOGO STUFF

Canadian Choristers pay in Canadian funds but add 25% for the exchange. This is a deal.!!!

\$1.00	Red Caps and Letter Openers
\$2.00	Money Clip or Key Pouch
\$3.00	Lapel Pin
\$0.65	Salutation (Bentz) or <i>You'll Never Walk Alone</i> Stickers (per copy price only available to AMCA members)

Send your order to:

Norm Goodling
160 Edgemoor Avenue
Kalamazoo, MI 49001
e-mail ngoodling@earthlink.net

Posting and Handling is 15% to a maximum of \$5.00.

AMCA COMMITTEES

Scholarships

Tom Rayner (905) 773-7438
5 Bayswater Avenue
Richmond Hill, Ontario
L4E 2L4
trmusic@aci.on.ca
Scholarship@amcachorus.org

Music Contest Chair

Harry Learoyd (416) 626-3368
23 Dalegrove Crescent
Etobicoke, Ontario
hlearoyd@idirect.com
MusicContest@amcachorus.org

Music Reviewer

Don Crouch (414) 658-3344
4606 67th Street
Kenosha, WI 53142
Fax: (414) 878-4056
ecdwc@wi.net