

The Chorus is now at the forefront of the youth chorus movement. We have pioneered new frontiers in music education and choral performance. Our ambitious commissioning program has enabled us to develop bold new choral repertoire that engages our singers and audiences. Collaborations with the great musical artists of our time have widened the artistic horizons and imaginations of our singers and through workshops and demonstrations, we are extending Dianne's unique, trademarked Cross-Choral Training® pedagogy for voice and musicianship to educators across the country.

In this anniversary season we continue to build on the success of our past productions—*Tell the Way* (St. Ann's Warehouse, 2011) and *Black Mountain Songs* (BAM, 2014). We will present our most ambitious multi-composer concert series, *Silent Voices*, which will pre-

miere at BAM in May 2017. We will reach our largest audiences through our year as Artists-in-Residence with WQXR, New York, featuring live concerts and broadcasts of our events. We will also celebrate the release of our first full-length album, *Black Mountain Songs*, released on the New Amsterdam label. And, perhaps most impactful for our future, Brooklyn Youth Chorus will continue its outreach to children in classrooms and community centers across the borough with new public school partnerships and expanded scholarship opportunities.

While we celebrate a remarkable history of accomplishments and our most ambitious season to date, we also recognize we did not get here on our own. At 25 years, our most hearty applause goes to YOU—the many individuals, organizations, artists, and families who have championed our work and supported our growth.

Photo Credits: Andrea Arvalo, Juliana Cervantes, Frank Impelluso, Jay Maisei, Steve Pisanò, Julienne Schaefer



Last May, thanks to the generosity of TD Bank, Brooklyn Youth Chorus held its inaugural Public School Outreach Programs in PS 1, PS 93, and Excellence Boys Charter School performed alongside the Men's Ensemble and Teen Level 6. This year the Chorus is pleased to extend its services to students at PS 1 in East Flatbush, PS 15 in Red Hook, and PS 1 in Sunset Park.



PUBLIC SCHOOL PROGRAMS



1) Alumni Ciara Cornelius '15 and Deanna Goudelias '15 and (2) Pre-Teen Level 3 chorister Midori Myrtil perform at Brooklyn Youth Chorus's first Community Potluck and Talent Show. 3) Choristers participating in a potato sack race at our End of Year Picnic at Brooklyn Bridge Park.



COMMUNITY EVENTS

87% of our choristers report that they are better at setting and achieving goals

90% of our choristers report having higher expectations of themselves

100% of our choristers plan to attend college

THIS SEASON

Brooklyn Youth Chorus's transformative choral music education program will reach over **650 young New Yorkers**. We will offer over **\$310,000 in financial aid to over 40% of our choristers**. Choristers in our ten divisions hail from all five New York City Boroughs

Brooklyn Youth Chorus formed its official Alumni Association and Leadership Council in 2015. In its inaugural year, alumni came together for a series of happy hour social events, program meetings, and to cheer on current choristers at season concerts. The Association met its first fundraising challenge for the Spring Gala which was matched by gifts from generous Chorus board members.

This fall marked the launch of the Alumni Chorus, organized and conducted by its own members—Molly Goldberg '08, Raquel Klein '12, and Maddy Accola '03. The Alumni Chorus meets every other week and will make its debut at the annual Holiday Harmonies concert in December.

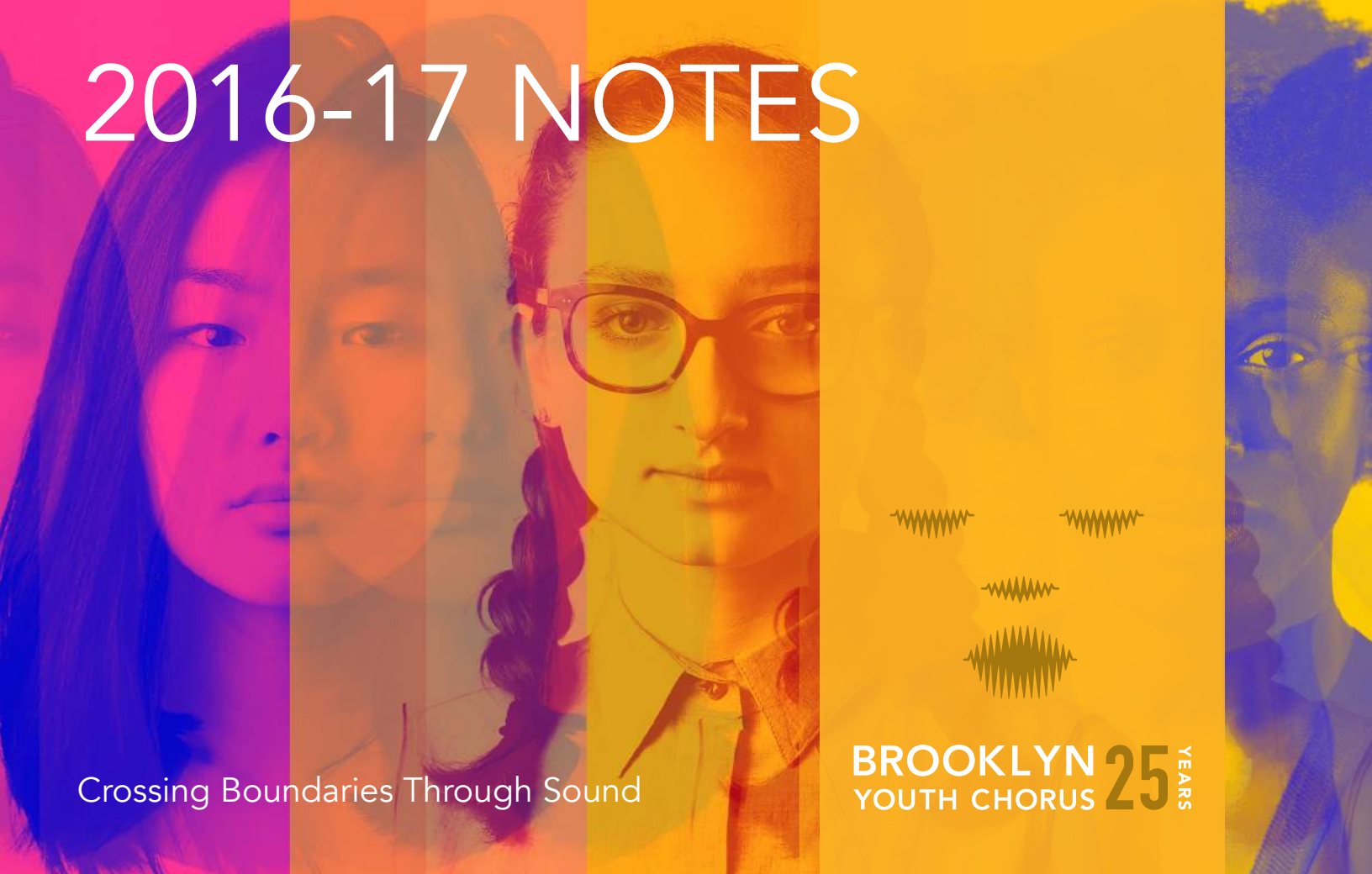
“Brooklyn Youth Chorus has made me a better leader. It has made me more confident, passionate, dedicated, professional and mature. I've learn how to work hard to overcome challenges and have felt the pride that comes with accomplishing those challenges.” —Camille Johnson, Class of 2016

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BROOKLYN YOUTH CHORUS ALUMNI ARE BACK AND ORGANIZED



2016-17 NOTES



Crossing Boundaries Through Sound

BROOKLYN YOUTH CHORUS 25 YEARS

25 TRANSFORMATIVE YEARS

Nearly 25 years ago in early 1992, Dianne Berkun Menaker and early supporters launched Brooklyn Youth Chorus at a press conference at Brooklyn Borough Hall. Although the organization's artistic vision has vastly expanded, the founding ideas remain the same—to be a chorus of and for Brooklyn, offering the highest quality music education for children, representing our diverse communities, and welcoming all students who have the desire and commitment to participate, regardless of ability to pay.

On the occasion of this anniversary, Dianne spoke about the development of Brooklyn Youth Chorus.

“I have always believed in the transformative power of music in young people's lives, how music study can elevate our emotional and creative sensibilities as well as contribute to our intellectual and cognitive development. Developing one's unique voice can help form the foundation of personal identity, while singing together strengthens bonds through common interests and teamwork—a harmony that can extend to the social fabric of our society. The sound of the young voice, tapped to its true potential, can be powerful yet pure and emotionally rich. I formed the Brooklyn Youth Chorus to help young people know themselves as artists and be educated as musicians.”

(cont.)

~~silent~~ voices

New music that matters

Entrusting the vital issues of our day to our astonishing young singers, *Silent Voices* tackles systemic injustice in soaring harmony. The centerpiece of the Chorus's 25th anniversary season, *Silent Voices* features newly commissioned works in a series of multimedia concerts at National Sawdust and FIAF, culminating in the world premiere at the BAM Opera House.

Incorporating historical text and interviews, original writings by Hilton Als, Claudia Rankine, and Max Posner, and music by wild Up and International Contemporary Ensemble, this series places narratives of racial, gender, and economic disparity at the center of our discourse, giving resounding voice to the so-often voiceless.

Silent Voices was conceived by Dianne Berkun Menaker to engage our young singers artistically with the subjects and issues about which they are most passionate. She and stage director Kristin Marting have co-curated the project, bringing together an unusually wide range of artistic collaborators spanning musical genres and art forms.

Commissioned composers include Sahba Aminikia, Jeff Beal ("House of Cards"), Rhiannon Giddens (Carolina Chocolate Drops), Alicia Hall Moran, Mary Kouyoumdjian, Ellis Ludwig-Leone (San Fermin), Nico Muhly, Shara Nova, Toshi Reagon, Ellen Reid, Kamala Sankaram, Caroline Shaw and Paul Miller/DJ Spooky. Video projections by Peter Nigrini and photo portraiture by Jay Maisel will be integrated throughout. All concerts will be hosted by Helga Davis, and the Chorus will be dressed by rag & bone.

Silent Voices will showcase the Chorus as both a powerful lead performer and as a bold commissioner and producer, stretching the artistic boundaries of the youth chorus.

PERFORMANCES INCLUDE:

National Sawdust, **November 20, 2016, 3 pm:** a concert exploring gender, sexuality, and age

French Institute Alliance Française (FIAF), as part of PROTOTYPE: Opera/Theatre/Now 2017, **January 14 & 15, 2017, 5 pm:** a concert focusing on the voices of African-American and immigrant men and women in America

BAM Opera House, **May 12 & 13, 2017, 7:30 pm:** BAM presents the world premiere of *Silent Voices*

WQXR NAMES BROOKLYN YOUTH CHORUS ARTISTS-IN-RESIDENCE

Brooklyn Youth Chorus will serve as WQXR's 2016-17 Artists-in-Residence, the third ever in the history of the radio station. The WQXR Artist-in-Residence program supports the creative process of an artist or ensemble over the course of a year and provides audiences with exclusive access to original material—from live performances and broadcasts, to artist interviews and editorial features.

The centerpiece of the Chorus's residency is our anniversary project, *Silent Voices*. Q2 Music—WQXR's online music channel dedicated to musical discovery and living composers—will document the creative process of the composers and choristers through online audio and video features over the course of the residency. In addition, Q2 Music will stream all *Silent Voices* concerts at National Sawdust, FIAF, and BAM.

Brooklyn Youth Chorus will also present a holiday concert on Thursday, December 8 featuring Britten's *A Ceremony of Carols* and celebrate the Chorus's first album, *Black Mountain Songs*, on Friday, March 31, 2017. Each performance in The Greene Space will be offered as a live video webcast at wqxr.org and thegreenspace.org and will be available for on-demand viewing afterwards at q2music.org.



2016 SPRING GALA DAZZLES

The 2016 Spring Gala, co-chaired by Jacqueline Aguanno, Brooke Joslyn, and Salomé Galib, was a joyous celebration of 24 years of transformative music education and the exceptional contributions of our honorees Congresswoman Nydia M. Velázquez, Pro Bono Counsel Cleary Gottlieb Steen and Hamilton, and Composer Caroline Shaw. A highlight of the evening was hearing about the impact of our programs on the lives of our choristers and learning about the exciting opportunities coming up in our 25th Anniversary Season.

"So many low income young people never even have the opportunity to get close to a piano. Think about what music can do in these young peoples' lives. It opens new doors of opportunity. Brooklyn Youth Chorus exemplifies what arts and music education is about—investing in our youth." —Nydia M. Velázquez

"The future of this organization relies on your ability to go out and help us underwrite performances and scholarships to ensure this organization continues to create greatness for our children—not only by training them, but allowing them to perform and present to you their humanism, their talent, and their love of giving and making music." —Charles J. Hamm

"From the first time I worked with Brooklyn Youth Chorus, I was so struck by the dedication of the young singers and the whole organization, but also the incredible talent and work they put into making my music beautiful. I can't wait to see what you all do in your music careers and in your lives." —Caroline Shaw

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sun, Nov 20, 2016
SILENT VOICES FIRST LOOK PRESENTATION #1
National Sawdust

Fri, Dec 2, 2016
MARTIN SEDEK'S A GREAT LIGHT WITH BALDWIN FESTIVAL CHORUS OF NEW YORK (WORLD PREMIERE)
Immanuel Lutheran Church

Thu, Dec 8, 2016
WQXR HOLIDAY HARMONIES
The Greene Space

Sat, Dec 17, 2016
HOLIDAY HARMONIES
Brooklyn College

Sat-Sun, Jan 14-15, 2017
SILENT VOICES FIRST LOOK PRESENTATION #2 AT THE PROTOTYPE FESTIVAL
FIAF

Sat, Jan 28, 2017
AGING MAGICIAN ON TOUR (AZ PREMIERE)
ASU Gammage

Thu-Sun, Mar 2-12, 2017
AGING MAGICIAN (OFF-BROADWAY PREMIERE)
New Victory Theater

Fri, Mar 31, 2017
BLACK MOUNTAIN SONGS ALBUM RELEASE
The Greene Space

Fri, May 12, 2017
25TH ANNIVERSARY GALA
Gala tickets include VIP admission to the *Silent Voices* World Premiere

Fri-Sat, May 12-13, 2017
SILENT VOICES (WORLD PREMIERE)
BAM Opera House

STAY CONNECTED



Visit brooklynyouthchorus.org for updates and to sign up for our eNews.

THANK YOU TO OUR RESONANCE PARTNERS

Our generous Resonance partners support our events with in-kind donations and offer standing discounts and perks for our families. Join us in creating a tight-knit community that celebrates each other's successes, works, and resonates together. Contact Hannah Margolies at hmargolies@brooklynyouthchorus.org to learn more. We are so grateful for the support of our 2015-16 partners including Askanya Les Chocolateries, Brooklyn Strength, Brooklyn Wine Exchange, The JakeWalk, KIND Healthy Snacks, Michel et Augustin, Sahadi's, Shelsky's, Smith & Vine, Stinky Brooklyn, and Trader Joe's.

SAVE THE DATE

FRIDAY, MAY 12, 2017
25TH ANNIVERSARY GALA
SILENT VOICES WORLD PREMIERE

Gala tickets include VIP admission to the performance



1) Aneka Turner '04 and Manyam Amatullah-Wali '99 2) Councilmember Matthieu Eugene, Executive Director Elise Bernhardt, Congresswoman Nydia M. Velázquez, Councilmember Carlos Menchaca 3) Men's Ensemble and Teen Level 6 welcome the guests with song. 4) Elise Bernhardt, Founder & Artistic Director Dianne Berkun Menaker, Trustee J. Barclay Collins, II, Adam Max, Trustee Emeritus Charles J. Hamm, Irene Hamm, Susan Kneip, and Fred Kneip 5) Dianne Berkun Menaker introduces Concert Ensemble member Lily Pisano '16 who presents Artistic Honoree Caroline Shaw with an original portrait illustration.