SC at ACDA: July 12
Sursum Corda will perform as part of the Alabama Choral Director’s Association’s annual Summer conference in Tuscaloosa. Join us at 7:30 p.m. on July 12, at First United Methodist Church!

Another SC album?
Thank you for making our first album, *Illumine our Hearts*, a success! Copies are available, as always, in the narthex before and after the concert. We hope to get another album recorded this Winter--sign up online for our email list so we can keep you posted at sursumcordaal.com.

Also, keep us up to date with your email--there is a lot more exciting news for the Fall in the works!

Sursum Corda’s first concert was in December 2006. Begun as an ensemble of twelve singers, in the past five years the group has produced a well-received compact disc and performed nationally, including a prestigious appearance last March at the national conference of the American Choral Directors Association in Chicago. *Gramophone* noted the group’s “seamless phrasing and sensitive blend…they sing with warmth and clarity, …wonderfully exuberant and euphonious,” and The Birmingham News noted its “assertive and confident singing (and) impeccable ensemble.”

Sursum Corda is supported overwhelmingly by individual donations. Contributions are tax-deductible. Donations can be made online at our website, or checks may be sent to: Sursum Corda, 720 Shades Crest Road, Birmingham, AL 35226.
hope, faith, life, love

Eric Whitacre (b. 1970)

Warum ist das Licht gegeben?, Op. 74, no. 1

Johannes Brahms (1833-1897)

Why is light given to the sufferer, and life to the bitter in spirit; to those who wait for death but it does not come, who search for it more than for hidden treasure, who rejoice to exultation, and are glad to reach the grave; and to the man who has lost his way, whom God has hedged about? (Job 3: 20-23)

Let us lift up our hearts with our hands to God in heaven. (Lamentations 3:41)

Remember how we regard those who have endured as the blessed ones. You have heard of the patience of Job, and understood the Lord’s purpose, realizing that the Lord is kind and compassionate. (James 5:11)

With peace and joy I now depart, as God wills it; my heart and mind are at peace, calm and still. When God calls me to his home, then will the sleep of death overcome me. (Martin Luther, 16th c.)

Quatre petites prières de St. François d’Assise

Francis Poulenc (1899-1963)

Drew Watson, tenor solo

Hail, Holy Lady, most holy queen, Mother of God. O Mary, who art ever-Virgin, chosen by the most holy Father in heaven, whom He consecrated with His most holy, beloved Son, and with the Holy Spirit; in you there was, and is the fullness of grace and every good. Hail His Palace! Hail His Tabernacle! Hail His Home! Hail His Robe! Hail His Servant! Hail His Mother! And hail, all you holy virtues, which through the grace and light of the Holy Spirit are poured into the hearts of the faithful, so that from their faithless state you may make them faithful to God. Amen.

God all-powerful, most holy, sublime Ruler of all, You alone are good, supremely, fully, completely good. May we render to You all praise, all honor and blessing; may we always ascribe to You alone everything that is good! Amen.

Lord, I beg You, let the burning and gentle force of Your love pervade my soul, and withdraw it from all that is beneath heaven, that I might die through love of Your love, since You deigned to die through love of my love.

O my dearest brothers, and blessed children throughout the ages: hear me, hear the voice of your Father: We have been promised great things, and we are promised even greater things. Let us keep the first, and yearn for those to come. Pleasure is short, punishment is eternal; suffering is light, and glory infinite. Many are called, few are chosen; all will receive according to their merit. Amen and Amen.
Missa Brevis
Kyrie
Gloria
Sanctus
Benedictus
Agnus Dei
Agnus Dei: Dona Nobis Pacem

Raymond Chenez, countertenor; Mark Libby, percussion

**Kyrie**
Lord, have mercy upon us. Christ, have mercy upon us. Lord, have mercy upon us.

**Gloria**
Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will to all. We praise, bless, adore and glorify You; we give thanks to You for your great glory. Lord God, heavenly King, God the Father almighty; Lord, the only-begotten son, Jesus Christ, Lord God, Lamb of God, son of the Father: you take away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us and receive our prayer. You sit at the right hand of the Father, have mercy upon us. For you alone are holy; you alone are the Lord. You only, O Christ, with the holy Spirit, are most high in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

**Sanctus**
Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of hosts: heaven and earth are full of Your glory. Hosanna in the highest!

**Benedictus**
Blessed is the one that comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest!

**Agnus Dei**
Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us. Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us. Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world, grant us peace.

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**faith**

**life**

O kum, shoyn shtiler ovnt

Traditional Yiddish, arr. Mark Zuckerman

O come quiet evening, and rock the fields to sleep.
We sing praises to you, O lovely twilight.
How quiet it has become; the air is turning cool.
In the woods, the nightingale has ended its song.
The meadow turns dim as night comes on;
The white birch stays standing alone in the field.
(Daniel Charney, *Zamblukh fun kinder lider*, 1917)
Yerushalayim shel zahav  
Naomi Shemer (1913-2004), arr. Eric Dinowitz

The mountain air is clear like wine; the scent of pine carried
by the evening breeze to the sound of bells.
In the sleeping of trees and stone, captive within her dreams,
the city sits forsaken—at its center, a wall.
Refrain: Jerusalem of gold, of bronze, of light: am I not a lyre for all your songs?
Oh, when I come today to sing and bind crowns for you,
I become smaller than the least of your children or poets.
For your name burns the lips like the kiss of a seraph if I forget you, Jerusalem of gold.
(Refrain)

Soon one mornin’  

Flower of Beauty  
John Clements (1910-1986)

Fields of Gold  
Sting (b. 1951)
Angel Baker, Rebecca Harris, Jennifer Faulkner, Jane Seigel, soloists

Oh dear! What can the matter be?  
Traditional, arr. Gail Kubik

When I have sung my songs to you  
Z. Randall Stroope (b. 1953)

Please join us for a reception in the downstairs parlor after the concert.

Ray Chenez, countertenor, is an emerging artist in both opera and oratorio. Most recently, in 2012, he was a Studio Artist with Opera Santa Barbara. Concert highlights include Bach cantatas 62, 133, and 153, Handel's Messiah, Handel’s Judas Maccabaeus, the Monteverdi Vespers of 1610, Bernstein's Chichester Psalms, Bernstein's Missa Brevis, Britten's Canticle II, and Canticle IV. Operatic roles include Arsamene in Handel’s Serse, Oberon in Britten's A Midsummer Night's Dream, Purcell's Dioclesian, and Orphée in Gluck's Orphée and Eurydice. Ray Chenez is a prize-winner of numerous competitions including the Opera Birmingham Competition, Orpheus Vocal Competition, Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions, and Suncoast Opera Guild Competition. Ray Chenez currently serves on the voice faculty at the University of Alabama. He received a D.M. in vocal performance and an M.A. from Florida State University, where he studied under Wanda Brister and Roy Delp. He holds a B.M. in vocal performance from SUNY Fredonia, where he studied with Michael Dean and Delia Wallis.
Originally from Madison, Wisconsin, Mark Libby is Principal Percussion of the Alabama Symphony Orchestra. A graduate of the Cleveland Institute of Music and Cleveland State University, Mr. Libby was a student of Richard Weiner, Paul Yancich, and Tom Freer, all of The Cleveland Orchestra. Mr. Libby has performed in concert, on tour, and in recording with The Cleveland Orchestra, and has also appeared with the Minnesota Orchestra, the Ohio Chamber Orchestra, and the Wisconsin Chamber Orchestra. Before joining the Alabama Symphony, Mr. Libby was a member of the Dayton Philharmonic Orchestra for three seasons. In his free time, Mark likes to golf, play tennis, and read.

Kirk Alford, tenor, is a graduate of Birmingham-Southern College where he studied voice with Andrew Gainey and was in the concert choir under Hugh Thomas. He has also studied voice with Ben Middaugh and Anne Bell-Alford. Kirk is a registered piano technician with the Piano Technicians Guild. Among his clients are UAB, the Alys Stephens Center, the Alabama Symphony and Opera Birmingham. Kirk and his wife Anne have two daughters, Jane and Aidan.

Angel Baker, soprano, wife of James and mother of Bella Grace and Benjamin, has returned to her native Alabama after enjoying artistic endeavors in New York and Boston. As a soloist and member of various ensembles she has performed in numerous choral, opera, and musical theater productions as well as oratorios, symphonic works, and studio recordings. In her position with the Boston Symphony Orchestra she served over 64,000 children annually through youth concerts, fine arts education and performance opportunities, and development of curriculum resources for teachers, as well as reaching hundreds of thousands of children and adults each year through community outreach programs.

Ted Clark, baritone, holds a BA from BSC, and is at UAB as a personnel generalist in the Department of Medicine. He has had the good fortune to sing with many choral organizations. Pursuing his affinity for sacred music of the Renaissance, he attended the Tallis Scholars Summer School in Seattle during the summers of 2005, 2006, and 2007 studying with Peter Phillips, Andrew Carwood, Jan Coxwell, David Woodcock and Patrick Craig. Ted is also obsessed with change ringing on tower bells.

Brian Keith Denton, tenor, is a graduate of UAB, where he received his Bachelor of Arts degree in Music Education. Brian was formerly involved with the UAB Concert Choir and UAB Chamber Singers under the direction of Dr. Philip Copeland Dr. Brian Kittredge. He studied voice with Dr. Kristine Hurst-Wajszczuk and performed with UAB Opera also under her direction. In addition to performing with Sursum Corda, Brian performs with the Alabama Symphony Orchestra Chorus, Opera Birmingham, and is a staff singer at Cathedral Church of the Advent.

Jennifer Faulkner, soprano, is a Birmingham native and a graduate of DePauw University, where she majored in voice performance. She received a Masters degree in Music Performance from Birmingham-Southern College, and teaches voice and piano for the BSC Conservatory of Music. She also sings with Canterbury Methodist and Opera Birmingham, and will be starting at UAB School of Medicine this Fall.

Virginia Goodall, alto, is a Birmingham native and graduate of Birmingham-Southern College where she studied voice under Rachel Mathes and the late Andrew Gainey. Ginger has enjoyed over thirty years of performing as dramatic soprano throughout the Southeast in opera, symphonic works, oratorio, musical theater and in recital. She spends most of her time in the Department of Pathology at the University of Alabama at Birmingham.

Rebecca Harris, soprano, graduated from BSC with a degree in Musical Theatre. After working behind the scenes in costuming and make-up for several productions in college, she developed a taste for the art of make-up design. She spent 2 years in Los Angeles, California getting her certification for Special Effects Make-up Design in theatre, film, and TV. Rebecca worked on many films and large theatre productions throughout Los Angeles, as well as working for both Warner Brothers and Paramount Pictures. She has sung for Canterbury United Methodist Church since 2001.

David Higginbotham, tenor, is a member of the Canterbury Church chancel choir and is a frequent soloist. David has performed locally on the stage of Virginia Samford Theater and in New York at Lincoln Center. Professionally, David serves as vice president of sales and marketing for Alabama Title Co., Inc. A graduate of BSC, David earned his MBA from the Manderson Graduate School of Business at the University of Alabama. David is married to local singer Kristi Tingle Higginbotham.
Caitlin Huie, soprano, graduated in December of 2008 with a degree in Vocal Performance from Samford, where she was a member of the A Cappella Choir. In February of 2007 she received second place in the NATS regional voice competition. She is an avid performer who favors opera; some of her favorite roles include The Mother in Menotti's Amahl and the Night Visitors and Rosalinda in Johann Strauss' Die Fledermaus.

Randy Mayo, bass, is currently a nurse working at St. Vincents Hospital. Mr. Mayo has an extensive performing resume as well. After receiving his Master of Music degree from Indiana University, Mr. Mayo performed featured roles in operas such as Tosca, Madama Butterfly, Salome, Turandot, Rigoletto, and Falstaff, among others, with companies including Utah Opera, Virginia Opera, New Orleans Opera, Pensacola Opera, Hawaii Opera Theatre, Chautauqua Opera as well as Opera Birmingham. Thanks to Carin, Jimmy and Mom for all y'all's support.

Stan Nelson, tenor, holds degrees from the University of Montevallo and the Florida State University. Active in all aspects of Birmingham's musical scene, he is well-known as a producer, director, educator, and performer. Recent performances have included featured roles in Trial by Jury, Iolanthe, Fiddler on the Roof, and The Music Man, as well as the starring role of Cosme McMoon in Souvenir. Other choral activities include the Lee Scott Singers, Canterbury UMC, and Temple Emanu-el. Mr. Nelson is the owner of Nelson's Interiors, Inc., and works as an associate at Greenbrier Furniture.

Gloria Parvin, alto, has performed as a mezzo soprano soloist in numerous oratorio performances throughout the south with The Nashville Symphony and the Alabama Symphony Orchestra, Huntsville Symphony Orchestra, Asheville Symphony Orchestra, Arkansas Symphony Orchestra, Chattanooga Symphony, and Louisville Orchestra. Having had an extensive background in healthcare services, Ms. Parvin is a Social Worker at Baptist Medical Center, Princeton. Ms. Parvin earned a Master of Social Work at The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Bert Pitts, bass, earned a voice degree at BSC. He has studied voice with Andrew Gainey, Jane McCoy (Eastman School of Music), and Dewin Tibbs. Bert has been a church, oratorio, opera, and musical theater soloist for over 30 years. He has soloed with the ASO and in choral/symphonic works in Montgomery, Tuscaloosa, Chattanooga, Waco, TX, and Rochester, NY. Bert sang the role of Jesus in Dave Brubeck's “Beloved Son” with the Dave Brubeck Quartet, Tuscaloosa Civic Chorus, and orchestra. Bert is a psychologist and practice owner in Homewood.

Daniel Seigel, baritone, is a graduate of BSC and earned a MM and GPD in opera from the Peabody Conservatory in Baltimore. Recently he has performed with Opera North, NJ Opera, Mobile Opera and Opera Birmingham, where he was a finalist in the 2008 and 2009 Vocal Competitions. He also won the National Federation of Music Clubs Biennial Young Artist Competition in 2009, a prize that led to a Carnegie Hall solo recital debut in October 2010.

Jane Seigel, alto, earned her MA in Counseling at UAB, and was a mental health counselor at BSC and Samford University where she specialized in personal and academic issues. As an undergraduate, Jane received a BA in Theatre at BSC; and her subsequent stage credits include over 70 roles in opera, musical theatre and dramatic performances, including a national tour. Ms. Seigel was cantor of Birmingham's Temple Emanu-El for twelve years and taught music and drama at the N.E. Miles Jewish Day School.

Ellen Thomas, soprano, is a native of Birmingham. She received her undergraduate degree from Auburn University where she studied voice and was a member of the Concert Choir. She earned a Master of Arts in Public and Private Management from BSC. Ellen was employed at U.S. Pipe for 28 years and is currently retired. She and her family are active members of Canterbury United Methodist Church where she sings in the Chancel Choir and plays in the Handbell Choir.

Drew Watson, tenor, holds a BA in French from Columbia University and studied vocal performance at The Juilliard School. He was a foreign exchange student in Paris for his final year at Columbia, studying French literature at the Université de Paris VII and vocal performance at the Conservatoire National de Paris. Drew frequently performs with Opera Birmingham and has appeared in numerous productions with the company. An active recitalist and avid interpreter of the mélodie française, Drew has sung numerous concerts and recitals in both Europe and North America, most recently at Le Balbec Normand international Marcel Proust colloquium in Cabourg, France. He is also a staff singer at the Cathedral Church of the Advent in Birmingham.

Joy Ryder Wood, soprano, holds a BA in vocal performance from BSC where she was a voice scholarship recipient and performed leading roles in several main-stage musicals and operas. She participated in the school's choral program, sang at Canterbury United Methodist and performed frequently as a soloist. While living in Tuscaloosa, she was the choir director at Big Sandy United Methodist Church for three years. She now sings in the Canterbury and BSC Alumni choirs and will join Opera Birmingham's chorus this spring. Joy is the Area Director of Property Management for Bayer Properties and General Manager of The Summit Birmingham.
Lester Seigel’s work revolves around three primary areas: at Birmingham-Southern College, he is the Joseph Hugh Thomas Professor of Music and chair of the department, conducting the College’s famed Concert Choir, Hilltop Singers, and teaching related courses. He is the longtime Organist/Choirmaster at Canterbury United Methodist Church, and since its founding in 2006, conductor of Sursum Corda. His other work is primarily as an opera conductor, including recent productions for Opera Birmingham and BSC, and as a recital accompanist and chamber music performer, including a recital with baritone Daniel Seigel at Carnegie Hall, a critically-acclaimed program in 2010, and numerous appearances as part of the Alabama Symphony’s “Concertmaster and Friends” Series. He is the father of three and a grandfather of five, and credits what continuing professional success he has to his beautiful spouse and creative partner of thirty-six years.

Sursum Corda

would like to extend a special thanks to
Mark Lawrence
Canterbury United Methodist Church
Birmingham-Southern College
Stan Nelson and David Higginbotham
Debbie Lofton
and Carolyn Davis

Find us on the web at
www.SursumCordaAL.com

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