

# Convention Eucharist

Our Convention Eucharist features the Wye Conservatory of Music from Old Wye Parish, Wye Mills and Queenstown. This auditioned and professionally trained group of young musicians performs music of diverse styles from over the centuries, of both a sacred and secular nature. The Choral Scholars, designed for boys and girls who like to sing and perform beyond what is offered at their school, are conducted by Bonnie Forgacs and accompanied by Amy Morgan.

The Wye Choral Scholars program, founded in 2006, is a school year-long program that offers scholarships and training in vocal music to middle and high school singers. Students selected for the program study, rehearse, and sing advanced music from diverse historical and cultural traditions. No previous performance experience is required, but students are open to the challenge of learning ensemble singing. The Wye Youth Chorale's season runs from October to May. Weekly rehearsals are held at St. Luke's Chapel in Queenstown, where the students learn a variety of repertoire that is performed in concerts throughout the season.



The Scholars receive individual voice lessons, as well as choral direction, from Conservatory Artistic Director Bonnie Forgacs, an opera singer who has performed at Carnegie Hall and has appeared as a soloist in numerous operatic performances in New York, New Jersey, and Connecticut. Heard on both radio and television, she records with the Pro Arte Singers on the Musical Heritage Label. Ms. Forgacs is a gifted voice teacher with a studio in Denton; she instructs the Choral Scholars at St. Luke's Chapel in Queenstown.

The Choral Scholars each receive eighty dollars per month as a scholarship stipend. Twenty dollars of the stipend is for their own use, and they are encouraged to spend it in pursuit of their musical interests. The remaining sixty dollars is deposited in an education fund that the Wye Conservatory establishes for each scholar.

Besides concert appearances in the region, Wye Choral Scholars sing with the Wye Episcopal Parish Choir and perform as soloists and in ensemble from September through May on the first and third Sundays of the month at the 10:00 a.m. service at historic Old Wye Church in Wye Mills, and on the second and fourth Sundays at the 8:00 a.m. service at St. Luke's Chapel in Queenstown.

The Wye Operetta Workshop (WOW!) is now in its fourth year. After debuting in 2008 with standing-room-only performances of *An Evening with Gilbert and Sullivan*, WOW! returned to Easton the following two summers with *The Mikado* and *Iolanthe*, playing again to SRO audiences.

Having performed in many Gilbert & Sullivan operettas, Ms. Forgacs enjoys sharing these works with both performers and audiences. She regards the great success of the WOW! performances as an indication of both the quality of young local talent and the interest here on the mid-Shore for this kind of theatre.

We are pleased to welcome the Choral Scholars to our Diocesan Convention.