

>>> Director Dr. Brian Bailey instructs the singers during one of their more difficult pieces. Before arriving at William & Mary, Dr. Bailey taught at Appalachian State University.

> Practicing a song for their concert, Katie Hidalgo and Lucy Mathias glance down at their music. The group performed classical pieces in many languages such as Spanish and German.



# bravo, encore

Botetourt Chamber Singers perform at various community events

As one of the most select vocal groups on campus, the Botetourt Chamber Singers, commonly referred to as the "Bots," were active on campus, participating in various concerts throughout the year. The group had the opportunity to perform in an assortment of venues, from Phi Beta Kappa Hall to Bruton Parish Church to the Great Hall of the Wren Building.

Leading the group was Interim Director Dr. Brian Bailey, a choral conducting doctoral candidate at The University of Iowa. Bailey filled in for Dr. Jamie Bartlett, who was on sabbatical. Because the ensemble was registered as a class taken for credit and had to balance the number of singers on each part, auditions were held. Almost all of the members participated in other music activities in addition to the Bots, such as singing with the William and Mary Choir or in a cappella groups.

The Bots held many concerts both on and off campus, and they had the opportunity to perform in a myriad of choral occasions. Their winter and spring concerts were in conjunction with the Choir and Women's Chorus, but the group also performed their own Homecoming and spring concerts.

In addition to these events, the Bots were invited to perform at Grand Illumination, Williamsburg's Christmas season kick-off event. Senior Daniel Paris recalled fond memories of this tradition. "With our sweet green cloaks, hot cider, and front row seats for the fireworks, we joined the celebration of history," Paris said. The event drew a large crowd of locals and students alike, and thus many were exposed to the Bots' singing.

Another popular event for the Bots was

their annual Gala Concert at the Kimball Theatre, this year entitled, "Our Favorites." Drawing a large local crowd, the event raised money for an international tour fund that supported the Bots, the Choir, and the Women's Chorus. The concert included jazz performances by the entire group of singers in addition to solo and small group performances by its members.

The singers were accompanied by the Jazz Ensemble and the Harris Simon Trio, and Department of Music faculty member Anne Rasmussen also performed. Junior Ben McVety, a music major, emceed the event for the night. He was responsible for introducing the acts and developing rapport with the audience. "When Professor Bartlett asked me last year to emcee, I was ecstatic," McVety said. "I love performing for audiences, and to have a major part in the Bots Gala was a great honor," McVety said. Further, the group released CDs to support the cost of their triennial tour fund.

"I think Bots is such a great group because not only does everyone work with a high level of singing expertise, but there is also such a great sense of group unity," sophomore Tim Koch said. "I am so glad that I decided to audition because thus far the experience has been wonderful. I look forward to two more years with the Bots," Koch said.

Those interested in increasing their musical ability in a dynamic setting and having fun with a hard-working group of individuals found a home with the Botetourt Chamber Singers.

>Christina Bianchi



> In order to determine what music the group performs at their spring concert, junior Thomas Brigham, sophomore Tim Koch, and freshman Tim Warguleski sight-sing new pieces. The group rehearsed for four hours each week to prepare for their well-attended concerts.

## members

- Sara Black *Soprano, 2009*
- Maurene Comey *Soprano, 2010*
- Lauren Estes *Soprano, 2009*
- Katie Hidalgo *Soprano, 2009*
- Lucy Mathias *Soprano, 2011*
- Alison Ballard *Alto, 2010*
- Kate Hibbs *Alto, 2010*
- Alyssa Shevchuk *Alto, 2009*
- Andrea Williams *Alto, 2012*
- Benjamin McVety *Tenor, 2010*
- Thomas Brigham *Tenor, 2010*
- Tim Koch *Tenor, 2011*
- Paul Stubbs *Tenor, 2010*
- Adam Clemence *Bass, 2010*
- Jake Nelson *Bass, 2011*
- Daniel Paris *Bass, 2009*
- Jacob Saracco *Bass, 2012*
- Tim Warguleski *Bass, 2012*