

S.D.C.S. – Chamber Ensemble

The Chamber Ensemble is a small group of approximately 12 to 16 members of the S.D.C.S. whose members are auditioned for inclusion in the group. The audition requires a candidate to sing a prepared piece in front of the conductor and other candidates followed by reading a simple piece from sight. The Ensemble was originally set up with a twofold purpose: to provide an outlet for more advanced musicians in the Choral Society to be able to sing and perform more frequently than the full SDCS group is able to do; and, by being able to learn the full group's concert music quickly, to help the full group advance to performance level more efficiently.

Since last September the Chamber Ensemble has performed separately on two occasions:

- 1- Prior to the December concert the Ensemble sang a Christmas Concert in the Georgetown Correctional Facility. The Facility's chapel was filled and the group's performance was extremely well received. After the SDCS presentation – which involved including the audience's participation in singing Christmas carols with the group, we were serenaded by some very advanced musicians from the Facility's choral group.
- 2- The second occasion took place at the end of May when the pre-Revolutionary War church in Laurel (Christchurch) gave a fund-raising concert. The Chamber Ensemble sang (unaccompanied) four pieces from the Christmas Oratorio (two choruses and two chorales.) Again the performance was well received by those in the audience, which included prominent local dignitaries and other performers.

Auditions for the Chamber Ensemble usually take place early in the season (late September) and all those interested are encouraged to try out.