

# Settlement's Marsha Hogan anticipates Jenkintown Branch move

BY MICHAEL CARUSO

As the entire Settlement Music School system celebrates the 100th anniversary of its founding, the big news is that the Jenkintown Branch expects to move to an entirely new facility at 318 Davisville Road in Willow Grove in September 2009.

The \$8 million construction project features a 25,000 square-foot building that boasts 29 studios for individual voice and instrumental instruction as well as group classes in fundamentals of music, dance, percussion, chamber music, and creative-arts therapy. There will also be a music resource library and parking for 110 cars. Perhaps the most needed offering of the new Branch building will be the 320-seat Leonard Mellman Recital Hall. The current facility, which shares the old Alverthorpe Manor with the Abington Arts School, lacks a proper recital hall. It is hoped that the new auditorium will be used by other area non-profit arts and civic organizations.

It is anticipated that the Jenkintown Branch's current enrollment of 800 students will grow to 1,500 by 2012, and the current faculty is expected to increase from 50 to 75. Settlement also hopes that the new facility will permit greater collaborative enrichment projects with local schools and community organizations.

Directing the Jenkintown Branch as it prepares for its move into dramatically improved circumstances is Marsha Hogan, who has been with Settlement since 1989. A member of the school's voice faculty, as well as its head, she holds bachelor's and master's degrees from Brigham Young University, and studied in Munich, Germany.

"My family was very musical," Hogan said. "It wasn't unusual to drive ninety miles to Salt Lake City to hear the Utah Symphony under Maurice Abravanel and then come back late at night. My mother was a pianist — I remember hearing lots of Chopin and Chaminade. Three of my siblings — I

was the youngest of five — played string instruments, so there was a lot of music around."

An uncle who directed a music school in Salt Lake City was an influence on Hogan, as was an older sister who was both a violinist and a singer studying at Juilliard. Another sister sang in the Tabernacle Choir, and Hogan sang with Karl Richter and the Bach Choir of Munich. Several nieces and nephews are professional musicians, and a brother-in-law is on the faculty of the North Carolina School of the Arts.

Hogan studied piano and voice as a college student and remembers the rich opportunities she had to hear all kinds of music at Brigham Young University where Harold Christensen — dubbed the "Sol Hurok of the West" — directed a concert bureau that brought all the great artists coming from New York City on their way to Los Angeles via Chicago.

"I liked singing in choirs and that's part of why I went to Brigham Young; they had a very good music department there and singing in the university's choir was a real pleasure. We toured a great deal and sang some wonderful music."

While Hogan's sister was living in Germany, Marsha visited her there, eager to see Europe for herself. She took advantage of this opportunity and auditioned for Karl Richter, stayed for two years, sang, and studied with a teacher at the Hochschule in Munich before returning to complete her graduate studies. She taught high school choral music for a year, then married and came to New York, where her husband was in graduate school. She immersed herself in the early-music world, working with Jean Hakes and the lutenist Joseph Iadone from the New York Pro Musica, among several others. Subsequent years found her teaching voice at the Hartt College of Music in Hartford, Trinity College, and the University of Connecticut. She sang with various chamber

