

Blue Ridge Chorale



of Culpeper, Inc.

First rehearsal this Monday, Aug. 27th!

www.brcsings.com, or call 540-948-4573

Fall Schedule

Rehearsals start (Open Door, 6:30pm)	Mon, Aug 27
Youth Chorale start (Open Door, 6:30pm)	Mon, Sep 17
Holiday Marketplace (The Depot, Culpeper)	Sat, Nov 17
Caroling at Tree Lighting (The Depot, 6pm)	Sun, Nov 18
Concert Evening Out (Prince Michel Vineyards)	Fri, Dec 7
Concert Afternoon (Reynolds Mem., Sperryville)	Sun, Dec 9

CHORALE

NOTES (&Photos!)

August, 2012

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Chorale's Got Wheels!

Because of special donations from our members and friends this summer, the Chorale was able to buy a 12' long cargo trailer to store and transport our risers and other concert equipment. Besides solving the problem of finding storage for our concert gear, the trailer offers the great advantage of making concert set-up and take-down much less difficult. Until now, concert equipment had to be stored in two places (for security

purposes), from which it would be loaded onto a borrowed trailer, and driven to concert venues, usually three locations each season. Between concerts that trailer, which has open sides, had to be parked under roof in case of rain or snow, and after the last concert the equipment would be unloaded at the storage areas. Now, at each concert venue, Chorale members can pitch in as usual to unload and later load the equipment back onto the trailer, and it will be ready to go for the next concert. Besides doing the towing, for many concert seasons, **Wanda Osborn** and her family have generously lent us their trailer and parked it, filled with risers and other equipment, in their barn, and **Charlie Pringle** and **Alex ter Weele** in particular have helped hugely in all this equipment wrangling. Thank you to them and to all of our generous donors and friends who help keep the Chorale rolling along!

Our Fall/Winter 2012 season starts Aug 27th. Youth Chorale (ages 7 -14) starts Sept 17th. It looks like we'll have a record turnout this season, but even so, Open Door's larger spaces allow us to still have openings in both our Youth and Adult Chorale.

Learn more about us on our website, www.brcsings.com and if you love to sing, come sing with us!

The Director's Corner - Carole Tomhave

Hello singers and music lovers,

It may still be 90 degrees outside and humid, but Noel is definitely in the air! My home stereo and car CD drive are filled with the strains of Christmas music. This year for our holiday concert, we will focus on French carols—with their haunting melodies and thick harmonies, they bring an old-world charm that seems to evoke candlelight and thick fur blankets.

From the Baroque masterpiece “Messe de Minuit” (Midnight Mass) by Marc Charpentier to the well-known “He is Born, the Divine Christ Child” and “Bring a Torch, Jeanette, Isabella” accompanied by handbells, the Chorale will celebrate the contributions that France has made to the Christmas repertoire. We will also have a sing-along with the audience, of course, and some lighter pieces to round out the concert.

Does this sound inviting? We would love to have you sing with us! Rehearsals begin on Aug. 27 at our new home, Open Door Baptist Church, but we will still accept new members for a couple of weeks thereafter. In addition to stretching ourselves musically and artistically, we have a lot of fun and fellowship, and we even get silly from time to time! Singing every Monday night is a great way to start off the week. And we have our terrific Youth Choir as well, as a great opportunity for those younger singers in our lives. Let's swell our ranks, and put the Culpeper on the map as the new mecca for joyful singing!

In music, Carole Tomhave



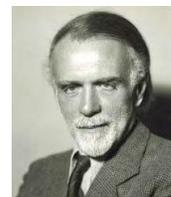
Youth Chorale Director Earns Kodály Method Certification

Congratulations to our Youth Director and Chorale member **Cathy ter Weele**. In July, Cathy attended James Madison University for an intense two-week program of study and achieved Level One Certification in the Kodály Method. In upcoming years, she plans to raise that level with further studies. In this course of study, Cathy is learning techniques which she can apply in the classroom and with the Blue Ridge Chorale's youth programs.

The Kodály concept is an internationally lauded philosophy of music education which was inspired by Hungarian composer, ethnomusicologist, and educator, Zoltán Kodály (1882-1967). The Method emphasizes singing as the foundation of each child's musical development. Based on the developmental readiness of the child, the Kodály approach

involves a sequential layering of skills and concepts designed to build success for every student. Instruction is based on multicultural folk song repertoire and art music, and includes singing, dancing, game-playing, improvisation, composition, and musical instruments. Comprehensive musicianship, music literacy, and love of music are the ultimate goals.

Source: “Kodály at James Madison University” www.jmu.edu/music/summerprograms/kodaly12.pdf



Composer and educator
Zoltán Kodály
Google Images



July 4th this year was a picture-perfect, sunny day when we assembled at the Culpeper Courthouse to sing at the Minute Men Reading of the Declaration of Independence. When we weren't singing, we had a lovely, shady spot to sit and enjoy the pageantry.



Scott Tester directed us, and it was fun to sing those favorite, classic patriotic songs.

The Culpeper Minute Men Chapter of the Virginia Society Sons of the American Revolution presents a celebration of the Declaration of Independence each July 4th at the Courthouse in Culpeper. It's a great way to remember what July 4th is all about.

July 4th, 2012

When Scott gave the cue, the Minute Men's musketeers fired their salute, timed exactly with the closing of "America the Beautiful!" It was just perfect!



Many thanks to Tim Carlson and Studio C for sharing these great July 4th photos with us!



This drawing is thought to be of Charpentier.

- Wikipedia.org

Meet the Composer: Marc-Antoine Charpentier

Our concerts this season will feature selections from the "*Messe de Minuit pour Noël*" (Midnight Christmas Mass) composed by Marc-Antoine Charpentier (1643–1704). A French musician and composer of the Baroque era, Charpentier was prolific and versatile, composing in several genres. Charpentier's compositions include oratorios, masses, operas, and a variety of smaller pieces.

The Parisian Charpentier studied in Rome for several years at the onset of his career, learning techniques of the then-new forms of opera and oratorio. Returning from Rome, Charpentier became the *maître de music* (music master) for a noble family in Paris. Over the years he became the *maître de music* of at least two churches, which spurred the composition of many of his religious pieces, and he also taught music to nobles. In 1672 he started collaborating with the playwright Molière, composing prologues, entr'actes and incidental music for several of Molière's plays, and continued collaborating with the *Comédie-française* after Molière's death. King Louis XIV enjoyed Charpentier's theater music and granted

him a pension in 1683. Despite his prolific output, Charpentier was only somewhat successful as a composer in his lifetime. He died leaving actually very few published works, but a huge volume of works in manuscript. In the late twentieth century, Charpentier's music started to receive significant attention. Themes from Charpentier's work have been picked up in popular culture, and his compositions are now often sung in choral concerts.

Charpentier composed his *Midnight Mass* using an innovative approach, basing the Mass itself on themes from popular *noëls* (Christmas carols). Tying carols into church music was already an accepted practice: midnight masses had long integrated both playing and singing carols, and complex carol arrangements were not unusual. Charpentier's idea of basing an entire mass on these songs, though, was completely original. Altogether in his *Messe de Minuit pour Noël* there are eleven carols. These melodies have a dance-like character, reflecting the carols' secular origins. Along with the carol melodies he adapted to fit various parts of the mass, Charpentier introduced his own compositions, such as the slow sections in 'Et in terra pax' at the beginning of the Gloria and 'Et incarnates est' in the Credo. Charpentier's craftsmanship is evident in how these very different idioms blend so beautifully.

Sources: en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Christmas_carol, en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Marc-Antoine_Charpentier, www.naxos.com/person/Marc_Antoine_Charpentier/25945.htm, www.hoasm.org/VIIB/Charpentier.html www.choirs.org.uk/prognotes/Charpentier%20Messe%20de%20Minuit.html (John Bawden's notes)

Mark Your Calendars! Holiday Marketplace November 17th

Where can you go to find unique holiday gifts and foods, support local artists, farmers and businesses, and share in an accessible, enjoyable holiday event? At The Depot in Culpeper on November 17th from 11:00 AM to 5:00 PM, that's where! We had so much fun at last year's Holiday Marketplace that we're doing it again. About 20 local artisans, artists, specialty farms and handcraft vendors will be offering their best to make your holidays bright!

There is no cost to attend this event, and it's a lot of fun! Make your calendars for Saturday, November 17th and plan to stop by and see us!