



# Portrait!

## CHORALE

## NOTES June, 2015

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At our May 3<sup>rd</sup> concert at the State Theatre, the Chorale posed for its first portrait in many years. Photographer Sara Rayaprol kindly donated her services for this project; the State Theatre was a fine setting; and the Youth Chorus, the Chorus and our Directors (Bob Burnett and Cathy ter Weele) and Accompanist (Brittany Bache) all looked pretty darn good. We'll try it again another season with some different lighting and a little placement tweaking, but this was not bad for our first try, and it's certainly nice to have a Chorale portrait!



And, the concerts were terrific, and so much fun to sing! Kudos to all our singers - with special applause for our wonderful Youth Chorus; to our Directors and Accompanist - Bob Burnett, Cathy ter Weele, and Brittany Bache; to guest accompanists Tyler Johnson (bass guitar) and Jeff Wolf (percussion); to the State Theatre for being wonderful, and to everyone whose work, support, attention and enthusiasm made these concerts possible.

***'Wonderful* was exactly the right name for this concert!**

## Director's Corner – Bob Burnett

“The song has ended, but the melody lingers on” wrote Irving Berlin in 1927. This lyric seems so appropriate to the 2015 Spring concert, an outstanding performance whose memories will linger in me for a long time to come. Congratulations and deep thanks to all participants!

Other memories... on July 4, 2014, performing fine old patriotic songs amid swirling winds and musket fire... what a thrill for me to direct the BRC for the first time; a thrill which, a year later, still more than just “lingers on”.

I so look forward to our rehearsal on June 29<sup>th</sup> in preparation for this year's July 4<sup>th</sup>... no musical surprises, but perhaps some refinement of last year's program. And then, fast forward to August 24<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 at Open Door Baptist Church to begin out Christmas Concert preparations. Speaking of which, some burning questions for the upcoming season:

**ARE** the Fa-La-Las in jeopardy? **WHAT** could the future hold for the Three French Hens?  
**IS THERE** more than one way to Handel a Beethoven piece?

These questions will be answered in time... stay tuned...

We're planning a composite number for the Adult and the Youth Chorus, as well as two or three songs from the Blue Ridge Choristers (a.k.a. “The Pullout Group”). This auditioned 11-14 SATB ensemble will be formed early in the rehearsal schedule, and potential members must demonstrate a proficiency in reading music in both traditional and contemporary harmonic settings. And the entire Chorale will enjoy a range of seasonal songs, sounds and ideas.

This report would not be complete without my expressing sincere appreciation to the Chorale's Board of Directors for its direction and support, and special heart-felt thanks to the BRC *virtuosa* accompanist, Brittany Bache.

*Bob Burnett June, 2015*



### Get Your Red, White and Blue On...

...because the Chorale's going to be singing on July 4<sup>th</sup>! Come rehearse with us at Open Door Baptist on Monday June 29<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm, and join us on the Courthouse Lawn at 11:15 am on July 4<sup>th</sup>. We'll sing patriotic songs to accompany the Sons of the American Revolution - Minuteman Chapter's annual Reading of the Declaration. The word's going around that there will be a mystery guest from the past to add a unique perspective on Revolutionary times...we'll see. But, we know there will be Chorale singers, current and past, and Chorale friends getting together to enrich their Independence Day celebration in this very meaningful way. Singers of all ages are welcome to join us in the singing, the history and the fun!



### Give Local – Piedmont Benefitted BRC

On May 5<sup>th</sup>, Give Local Piedmont held its annual fundraiser for non-profits in this area. This was the BRC's first involvement in Give Local, and we had 13 donors give the Chorale a total of \$670, and a 14<sup>th</sup> donor who was not able to donate on that day mailed us another \$100. So, effectively, Give local Piedmont raised us \$770. This all happened because Chorale members and friends stepped forward to make and also request, donations. Thank you to all who participated!

## Fall Season News

The Chorale's Fall/Winter Season will begin with **our first rehearsal, on Monday, Aug. 24<sup>th</sup>** at 6:30 pm at Open Book Baptist Church (around the side). We will meet each Monday through the season, from 6:30 to 8:30 pm. Our **concert dates** will be **Friday evening Dec. 4<sup>th</sup> at Prince Michel Vineyards**, and **Sunday afternoon, Dec. 13<sup>th</sup> at the State Theatre**. The **Youth Chorale** will also meet on Mondays at Open Door, from 5:45 to 6:15 pm, starting on **Sept. 7<sup>th</sup>**. Do you love to sing? Does your child love to sing? Come, sing with us!



## Singing our '*SWonderful* Concert at Culpeper Baptist Retirement Home

April 27, 2015

Photos by Svitozar Nenyuk

*We had a very full house, and a very warm welcome.*

Photos:

Top - Bob Burnett directing the adults.

Right - Cathy ter Weele leading the Youth Chorus.

Bottom - Here's how the whole Chorale looked, (except Bob Burnett, who was off to the side).



# Singing our 'S Wonderful Concert at Dogwood Village of Orange County

May 1, 2015

Photos by Svitozar Nenyuk



*Singing at Dogwood  
Village is always so  
much fun!*

Photos:

Top – Charity Sillero and Cathy ter Weele singing Cole Porter’s “Dream Dancing”.

Side – The adults, with Brittany Bache and guest accompanists Tyler Johnson on bass guitar and Jeff Wolf on drums.

Bottom – Cathy ter Weele leading the Youth Chorus.



## Chorale Receives the President's Volunteer Service Award

In April the Blue Ridge Chorale was awarded the President's Volunteer Service Award, Gold Level, for volunteer service in 2014. This singular honor comes through a drive to recognize and promote volunteerism which was initiated by President George W. Bush in 2002 and announced in his 2003 State of the Union Address. The award recognizes hours of unpaid service, and in this area is certified by the Piedmont United Way. Thank you to our singers and especially to our hard working volunteers!



Chorale President Jodi Stone with the President's Volunteer Service Award letter and certificate

### The Chorale's Golden Hours

Of the Chorale's 3,667 hours of unpaid, volunteer time calculated for 2014, the hours estimated for time spent in rehearsals or singing in concerts is 2,310, about the equivalent of a full time job with 5 hours of weekly overtime. But the balance, 1,357 hours (the equivalent of a half-time job plus 6 hours of overtime each week), were additional hours given by less than 15 Chorale member volunteers (which includes our hard-working Board), plus about 6 non-member volunteers.

And... the hours calculated when we applied for this award only reflect actual, calculable time spent on Chorale projects and activities. The Chorale is also greatly supported when our folks take the time to spread the word about concerts, recruit singers, share in fund raising activities and promote ticket sales. And our Directors, Bob Burnett and Cathy ter Weele and our Accompanist, Brittany Bache all generously go above and beyond their job descriptions to increase the Chorale's value to our community and to enhance our experience as singers. Thank you to all of you who make this difference!

## Editor's Note: "Step Up, My Friend"

You may remember those words from the popular Richard Rogers' musical, *No Strings*, the bittersweet story of a romance between two Americans in France. A successful novelist and a fashion model on the fringe of the European Jet Set, the lovers get caught up in a distracting, frenetic social whirl. "Step up, my friend" is the recurring phrase in a song called "Be My Host," in which the writer sardonically comments on going to yet another event. He's tired of the whirl, has writer's block, and knows he is becoming less and less of a person by not doing anything more than just being there. The story ends when he finally returns to America to start writing again, leaving the romance in limbo.



At a recent Board meeting, a very overextended Board member asked "How can we get more Chorale members to step up to do what needs to be done?" and my wandering mind went right away to that musical memory and what it implied. It's terrific, isn't it, that the Blue Ridge Chorale received the President's Volunteer Service Award? But ask yourself how much you've given to the chorus to deserve that award, beyond rehearsing and singing in concerts. Do you even stack your chair after rehearsals? That's common courtesy, and the least you can do. Do you sell concert tickets to friends and family? Do you distribute posters and fliers to get the word of concerts out to our audience? Have you asked any Board members how you could help out with fundraising? Do you talk about the Chorale to recruit new singers? No one person or small number of people can do those tasks adequately to really meet the Chorale's needs – it takes everyone.

There's an adage: "If you want something done, ask a busy person." Okay, you feel that you're too busy to help the Chorale, but so do the 15 Chorale members who make the time to help out anyway. It's time for you, too, to Step Up!

## Arts and the Community — The Four County Players (Barboursville)



Going into its 43<sup>rd</sup> season, the Four County Players is Virginia's oldest continuously operating community theater. The volunteer-run organization (for convenience, often called 4CP) is based in an old school building in Barboursville, in Orange County. There, it annually offers 4-5 Mainstage shows, usually including musicals, dramas, and a Christmas program, as well as the offerings of the smaller Cellar Theater: smaller productions, experimental works and special events.

The 4CP's upcoming production, The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee, starts July 24<sup>th</sup>, and the fall season will feature among other shows a Big Band fundraiser for building improvements, Shakespeare's *Macbeth* and *HONK! The Musical*. This summer 4CP is offering 3 theater camps for aspiring young acting and technical theatre folk.

The 4CP website, <http://www.fourcp.org/> gives you much more information and insight into this cultural resource.

### Interview with **Edward Warwick-White**, FCP's Marketing Coordinator

*Which are the Four counties?* Originally, Orange, Greene, Albemarle, and Louisa. However it's wider than those four. Think of us as "all county players." We have actors, designers, crew members, and audiences from Nelson, Augusta, Culpeper, Madison, Warrenton, Fluvanna, etc.

*What is 4CP's mission?* 4CP was founded on the mission 'Creative arts need to be a part of the area's rural communities.' In a society of budget cuts and standardized testing, we offer an important community resource, offering not only an outlet for many to express themselves, but we're opportunities for children, teens, and adults to learn and practice their craft, on stage or behind the scenes. The theater is all about community and building community--allowing folks to connect, learn, and grow in a safe, healthy environment that nurtures and supports creativity and self-expression. We're proud to be a cultural hub of the community.

*How does Four County Players fit into this community?* We're lucky to be a part of a community that truly supports the arts. There is so much interest and so much talent in our area. People come to see our various shows, and say "I can't believe I'm seeing this in an old school house in the country" or call it "Broadway in Barboursville." We're not only able to put on plays and musicals, we host concerts, summer camps, and other events for the community. The respect and need for the arts drives our great volunteer support-- so many are folks you'll never see on-stage, but who care deeply about theater. They do everything from painting sets to hanging posters to popping popcorn. At our annual Volunteer Appreciation Party, the theater was filled with so many wonderful volunteers. There's so much love for this old theater. "As an organization and theater, we continue to grow and thrive. An example of this was in 2009, the theater opened up a 2nd performing space in the lower level of the theater (basement)--the former cafeteria of the old Barboursville High School. With hard work, paint, risers, lights etc, we now have "the Cellar"--our black box theater which allows us to do smaller, more intimate shows and experimental works that wouldn't work on the Mainstage. Now, audiences can be treated to an intimate show with an audience of 60 in the Cellar or enjoy a traditional proscenium theatrical experience (velvet curtains and all) on the Mainstage which seats over 200.

Continued next page

*"We're all about creating art and community at the same time. The two go hand in hand, and they each make the other better and stronger."*



### Four County Players, cont'd - (interview with Edward Warwick-White)

At Four County Players, we truly believe that the arts are for all. Whether it's volunteering to work on a show, donating resources, or being a member of the audience, we believe there is a place for everyone. We're all about creating art and

community at the same time. The two go hand in hand, and they each make the other better and stronger. There's just something so special and magical about this theater--this little school house in the country that puts on these incredible shows, grows, and thrives. I've never been a part of anything else like it.



Singers include (from left): *Front row* Jaynie Jackson, Director Lauren Estes. *Middle row* Accompanist Faye Utz, Zan Thomas, Sallie Morgan, Kim Beach, Bernice Walker. *Back row* George Carroll, Brad Jackson, Fred Kinnaman, Ginny Koontz, Judy Elias, Betty Rollins, and Jim Wingo

### Arts and the Community — Bel Canto Vocal Ensemble (Madison)

*Bel Canto Vocal Ensemble, an auditioned, mixed voice chamber choir, was formed in 2003 by members of the former Montpelier Singers. Based in Madison, Virginia, members of the group are drawn from the surrounding counties. The ensemble is currently directed by Lauren Estes and accompanied by Fay Utz. The Ensemble sings a wide range of music, "ranging in character from the silly to the sublime"*

You can learn more about Bel Canto Vocal Ensemble at <http://belcantovocalensem.wix.com/belcanto>

### Interview with Lauren Estes, Director

*What is the mission of Bel Canto?* Bel Canto seeks to bring primarily secular choral works - from the Renaissance to contemporary times - to local audiences and do so with joy and zeal for both weighty compositions and lighter fare.

There are several choirs in the area that perform primarily sacred repertoire, so our concerts provide an opportunity for musicians to perform and audiences to hear different repertoire. Bel Canto is also one of only a few chamber choirs in the area, so we can dig into the rich troves of music for smaller choirs.

*How would you describe arts in this community?* Lively! I can't go a week without hearing about something else musical or theatrical going on - usually because one of Bel Canto's members is involved in yet another arts-related activity.

*Where do you perform?* We usually perform in Orange and Madison, though our intent is to do at least one concert in Charlottesville for our next cycle.

***"Bel Canto couldn't exist without the community's interest in and support of what we do."  
Lauren Estes, Director***

*Does Bel Canto have particular plans or aspirations you can tell me about?*

We've discussed doing some benefit or service-related performances. Honestly, this idea is generated by the generous nature of Bel Canto's members. Most of them are involved in at least one charitable, community, and/or service-related activity or organization, and it only seems natural to match their love of music with the desire to give back.

*How do you get the word out?*

We have a great mailing list that we've cultivated over the past 10 or so years, but I think it's the personal connections people have to Bel Canto's members and word-of-mouth that get auditionees and audience to Bel Canto's auditions or performances.

## The State Theatre, Culpeper, May 3, 2015 Concert Photos



Top left – Peggy Carpenter and Patti Christie ham up the lead-in to “It Was Just One of Those Things”.  
Left – Dorothy Wright and Steve Clapp duet – “You Do Something to Me”.  
Below – the Choristers (BRC “pull out” group)



Photos are courtesy of Sara Rayaprol Photography

## The State Theatre, Culpeper, May 3, 2015 More Concert Photos



## The State Theatre, Culpeper, May 3, 2015 more Concert Photos



Chorale President Jodi Stone

## and...The Last Page

### Credits:

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- **Edward Warwick-White** of Four County Players, and

- **Lauren Estes** of Bel Canto Vocal Ensemble.

\*Photos of Four County Players are from their website.

\*Photo of Bel Canto Vocal Ensemble is from their website.

**Art quotes from:** <http://creatingminds.org/quotes/art.htm>

*The whole problem can be stated quite simply by asking, "Is there a meaning to music?" My answer would be, "Yes." And "Can you state in so many words what the meaning is?" My answer to that would be, "No."*

- Aaron Copland

**Arts and the Community:** In the August Newsletter, we'll visit arts organizations in Rappahannock and Fauquier Counties, as well as Firnew Farm in Madison. In the Fall issue, we'll revisit Culpeper, Orange and Madison Counties to see more of the arts organizations there, and in the Winter issue we'll revisit Fauquier and Rappahannock. Your suggestions of groups to contact would be welcome!

*"Art is the signature of civilization."* - Beverly Sills



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Chorale Notes is the newsletter of the Blue Ridge Chorale, a community chorus serving Culpeper, Fauquier, Madison, Orange and Rappahannock Counties and their surrounds. We're non-auditioned, non-affiliated, and not for profit. We just love to sing! Join us!  
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