



The Chorus Newsletter

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Welcome

NOVA Foundation

A hearty welcome to singers who are new to the NOVA Community Chorus, and to all the returning singers from prior years. The chorus is under the direction of Dr. Mark Whitmire. Our accompanist is Chris Hagan. Fred Wulff is our Stage Manager. He will guide us to our places for performances. Each section of singers has its section leader who keeps track of choristers' attendance. Kate Cantrell manages the chorus website Bob Trexler publishes this newsletter at the start of the semester and on the first rehearsal of each month thereafter, August through May. We normally have a break in the rehearsal about half way though the evening. We have section rehearsals on selected Saturdays, and perform at Bishop Ireton High School in Alexandria, and at the Church of the Epiphany in Washington, DC.

The Washington Metropolitan Philharmonic, a full symphony orchestra accompanies us. In addition, we will sing a program with the College Band.

Please remember to bring a pencil with you to mark your scores. Dr. Whitmire will give you information about how a passage is to be sung and you should record that in the score. Enjoy yourselves!

The NOVA Foundation is an organization known by the Federal Government as a 501c3 organization. This means that any money donated to the Foundation can be deducted from one's Federal income tax. What a wonderful way to support the financial needs of the chorus, and at the same time seek relief from taxes!

Many senior citizens who sing with the chorus make a donation, instead of paying tuition. If you made a donation to the NOVA Foundation in the past year, be sure to take the deduction on you tax return, and consider making another donation this year.

Dr. Whitmire would like you to give him the check so that he can record them and make sure they end up in the right account.

Source: email from Dr. Whitmire

Next page!

Music Humor

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Brahms

Summer Sings

Choristers were not silent during the summer. A few of us attended choral Sing-a-Longs. The Washington choral scene has for many years held four weekly chances to sing the a few of the great choral masterpieces. These ad hoc meetings are generally held in the Western Presbyterian Church in Washington, D.C. This year, the opening chorus was the Mozart Requiem, a long time favorite of many local singers. The choruses are directed by some of the well known Washington Choral Directors

Choralis, a Virginia Chorus, sponsored its first-ever Sing-a-Long. Again, a diverse group of choral singers responded to the notice of its schedule, and a couple of the NOVA Community Chorus singers attended.

**MUSICAL
HUMOR****Johannes Brahms**

"I write [music] as a sow piddles." -- Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

"My sole inspiration is a telephone call from a producer." -- Cole Porter

"I would rather play Chiquita Banana and have my swimming pool than play Bach and starve." -- Xavier Cugat

"[Musicians] talk of nothing but money and jobs. Give me businessmen every time. They really are interested in music and art." -- Jean Sibelius,

"The amount of money one needs is terrifying..." -- Ludwig van Beethoven

"Only become a musician if there is absolutely no other way you can make a living." -- Kirke Mecham, on his life as a composer

"Chaos is a friend of mine." -- Bob Dylan

"I am not handsome, but when women hear me play, they come crawling to my feet." -- Niccolò Paganini

"Of course I'm ambitious. What's wrong with that? Otherwise you sleep all day." -- Ringo Starr

"Flint must be an extremely wealthy town: I see that each of you bought two or three seats." -- Victor Borge, playing to a half-filled house in Flint, Michigan.

"Critics can't even make music by rubbing their back legs together." --

Mel Brooks

"Life can't be all bad when for ten dollars you can buy all the Beethoven sonatas and listen to them for ten years." -- William F. Buckley, Jr.

"You can't possibly hear the last movement of Beethoven's Seventh and go slow." -- Oscar Levant, explaining his way out of a speeding ticket.

"Wagner's music is better than it sounds." -- Mark Twain

From the WEB

Johannes Brahms (7 May 1833 – 3 April 1897), German composer and pianist, was one of the leading musicians of the Romantic period. Born in Hamburg, Brahms spent much of his professional life in Vienna, Austria, where he was a leader of the musical scene. In his lifetime, Brahms's popularity and influence were considerable; following a comment by the nineteenth century conductor Hans von Bülow, he is sometimes grouped with Johann Sebastian Bach and Ludwig van Beethoven as one of the Three Bs.

Brahms composed for piano, chamber ensembles, symphony orchestra, and for voice and chorus. An accomplished pianist, he gave the first performance of many of his own works; he also worked with the leading performers of his time, including the virtuoso pianist Clara Schumann and the violinist Joseph Joachim. Many of his works have become staples of the modern concert repertoire. Brahms, an uncompromising perfectionist, destroyed many works and left some unpublished.

Brahms was at once a traditionalist and an innovator. His music is firmly rooted in the structures and compositional techniques of the Baroque and Classical masters. He was a master of counterpoint, the complex and highly disciplined method of composition for which Bach is famous, and also of development, a compositional ethos pioneered by Beethoven. Brahms aimed to honor the "purity" of these venerable "German" structures and advance them into a Romantic idiom, in the process creating bold new approaches to harmony and melody. While many contemporaries found his music too academic, his contribution and craftsmanship have been admired by subsequent figures as diverse as the progressive Arnold Schoenberg and the conservative Edward Elgar. The diligent, highly constructed nature of Brahms's works were a starting point and an inspiration for a generation of composers.

From Wikipedia

The Chorus Newsletter welcomes news, articles and photographic contributions. Are you planning a recital? Tell us when and where and we will get the word out. Call the editor, Bob Trexler at 703 978-9171 or e-mail at Rctrex@aol.com.

The Chorus Newsletter contains information about and for members of the NOVA Community Chorus. It is privately published monthly except during June and July. The College has no responsibility for its content. Members are encouraged to contribute articles and news about musical offerings and musical topics to Robert Trexler, editor and publisher, at Rctrex@aol.com