

# The Chorus Newsletter

Published for and about the NOVA Community Chorus  
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## Welcome Singers

### Busy Singing Summer

Although summer may be a time for relaxation and renewal...a lazy time of the year for dreaming and slowing down, for some of our singers it was a time for continued music making.

For example, Christine Hagan, our accompanist and Terri La Goe, frequent soprano soloist, appeared in a performance of a women's choral group known as Philomela. As choristers, they sang an eclectic group of songs under the direction of Kathy Kessler Price. Chris also accompanied the group on some songs, and performed in a trio. Terri sang a solo.

Others NOVA choristers sang in the Summer Sing series in Washington, directed by leaders of famous Washington Choruses.

**W**elcome new and returning singers to the Northern Virginia Community Chorus under the direction of Dr. Mark Whitmire. Christine Hagan returns as our accompanist, and Fred Wulff returns as our Stage Manager without whose help we would wander aimlessly backstage as we prepared to perform, and without whose efforts to make rehearsal CDs and tapes we would not be so well prepared.

**T**he highlight for this year will be the performance of the Mozart Requiem. This beloved work is a great favorite with choruses and with audiences.

For those who are new to the chorus, we suggest that you bring a pencil to rehearsals so that you can mark the score according to Dr. Whitmire's suggestions.

Section leaders will take attendance early in rehearsals so that your presence is recorded. If you need to miss a rehearsal, please inform your section leader.

Many choristers have been singing with the NOVA Community Chorus for years. And, although it is not required to audition to sing with us, many of our singers have sung with local choruses that do require auditions and are able singers.

We know you will enjoy yourselves.

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## Music Humor

From <http://www.keller.com/bass/musician-jokes.html>

**Adagio Formaggio:** To play in a slow and cheesy manner.

**AnDante:** A musical composition that is infernally slow.

**Angus Dei:** To play with a divine, beefy tone.

**Anti-phonial:** Referring to the prohibition of cell phones in the concert hall.

**A Patella:** Unaccompanied knee-slapping.

**Appoggiatura:** A composition, solo or instrument you regret playing.

**Approximatura:** A series of notes played by a performer, not intended by the composer.

**Approximonto:** A musical entrance that is somewhere in the vicinity of the correct pitch.

**Bar Line:** What musicians form after a concert.

**Concerto Grossissimo:** A really bad performance.

**Coral Symphony:** (see Beethoven-Caribbean period).

**Cornetti Trombosis Disastrous:** entanglement of brass instruments that can occur when musicians exit hastily down the stage stairs.

**Dill Piccolino:** A wind instrument that plays only sour notes.

**Fermantra:** A note that is held over and over and over and...

**Fermoota:** A rest of indefinite length and dubious value.

**Fog Hornoso:** A sound that is heard when the conductor's intentions are not clear.

**Frugalhorn:** A sensible, inexpensive brass instrument.

**Gaul Blatter:** A French horn player.

**Good Conductor:** A person who can give an electrifying performance.

**Gregorian Champ:** Monk who can hold a note the longest.

**Kvetchendo:** Gradually getting annoyingly louder.

**Mallade:** A romantic song that's pretty awful.

**Molto bolto:** Head straight for the ending.

**Opera buffa:** Musical stage production by nudists.

**Poochini Musical:** performance, accompanied by a dog.

**Pre-Classical Conservatism:** School of thought which fostered the idea, "if it ain't baroque, don't fix it."

**Spritzicato:** Plucking of a stringed instrument to produce a bright, bubbly sound, usually accompanied by sparkling water with lemon (wine optional).

**Tempo Tantrumo:** When a young band refuses to keep time with the conductor.

**Tincanabulation:** The annoying or irritating sounds made by extremely cheap bells.

**Vesuvioso:** A gradual buildup to a fiery conclusion.

From <http://www.keller.com/bass/musician-jokes.html>

Thanks to Ellie Briscoe

## The Requiem

Perhaps the most significant work that the chorus will sing this season is the Requiem by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart. What is a requiem, anyhow?

*"The Mass for the Dead (Missa pro defunctis), called Requiem after the first words of the introit (Requiem aeternam dona eis Domine, "Grant to them eternal rest, o Lord.) The term has also been used in the 20th century in works not strictly liturgical but written in honor of the dead, as in Britten's War Requiem (1962), and Stravinsky's Requiem Canticles (1965-1966.)....Brahms's Ein Deutes Requiem op 45 (1868), employs German texts drawn from the Bible or from chorales.*

*After the Requiem Mass was liturgically fixed, the number of settings increased dramatically.....Many important requiems were composed in the 18th and 19th centuries (by Mozart, Berlioz and Verdi, to name a few.)"*

The Day of Judgment, or Dies Irae was often the focal point of these works. Berlioz, for example used four brass bands, 16 timpani and 10 cymbals in his orchestration of this movement. On the other hand, Gabriel Fauré chose not to set the Dies irae at all.

Source: New Harvard Dictionary of Music 1986



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](mailto: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](mailto:Rctrex@aol.com)