



Volume 5, Issue 4

November 2006

The Chorus Newsletter

Published for and about the NOVA Community Chorus
www.nvcc.edu/alexandria/visual/music

Concerns

Chorus members were alarmed to learn that Dr. Whitmire's mother had suffered a stroke. He went to be with her in Texas. All Choristers express their deepest hopes for the best and sympathy for the Whitmire family.

Dr. Whitmire reported that his mother has recovered from the event better than had been feared.

Midori with Singers



Nova Singers with Midori after ASO Concert

Next page!

**Musical
Humor**

**Handel and the
Bible**

King Conducts Rehearsal

Pressed into service at the last moment, Nick King directed the rehearsal on Halloween. Well over three quarters of the singers attended this rehearsal, despite the demands of seasonal Trick or Treaters. Some singers arrived in costume, following the suggestion of Mary Yee who had posted a notice that it would be fun to do. In addition, snacks were available during the break.

The chorus rehearsed both the Copland music and the Messiah.

We thank Nick for his outstanding leadership in conducting the rehearsal.

Larry Goldschmidt, left above, tells us that Mary Yee persuaded world famous violinist, Midori to pose for a photograph or two with singers who performed the Beethoven 9th Symphony with the Alexandria Symphony Orchestra this fall.

Mary, alas, probably took the picture and that is why she does not appear in it. You will recognize others in the photograph as long time members of the Nova Community Chorus.



Midori and Alexandria Symphony Orchestra

MUSICAL HUMOR

Q: What's the difference between a banjo and an onion?

A: Nobody cries when you cut up a banjo.

Q: What's the definition of an optimist?

A: An accordion player with a pager.

Q: Definition of a gentleman:

A: One who knows how to play bagpipes but chooses not to.

Q: Know how to make a million dollars playing music?

A: Start with two million.

A musician calls the night club to talk to the owner. "I'm sorry, but he has died suddenly," comes the reply from the bartender. The musician calls back 25 more times, always getting the same reply. At last the bartender asks him why he keeps calling. "I just like to hear you say it."

Q: What happens if you play blues music backwards?

A: Your wife returns to you, your dog comes back to life, and you get out of prison.

Q: What do you get when you play New Age music backwards?

A: You hear New Age music.

Q: How many Deadheads does it take to change a lightbulb?

A: 12,001. One to change it, 2,000 to record the event and take pictures of it, and 10,000 to follow it around until it burns out.

Saint Peter is checking ID's at the Pearly Gates, and first comes a Texan. "Tell me, what have you done in life?" says St. Peter. The Texan says, "Well, I struck oil, so I became rich, but I didn't sit on my laurels—I divided all my money among my entire family in my will, so our descendants are all set for about three generations."

St. Peter says, "That's quite something. Come on in. Next!"

The second guy in line has been listening, so he says, "I struck it big in the stock market, but I didn't selfishly just provide for my own like that Texan guy. I donated five million to Save the Children."

"Wonderful!" says Saint Peter. "Come in. Who's next?"

The third guy has been listening, and says timidly with a downcast look, "Well, I only made five thousand dollars in my entire lifetime."

"Heavens!" says St. Peter. "What instrument did you play?"

Handel and the Bible

In 1738, George Frederick Handel completed one of his first great Biblical oratorios. It was entitled "Israel in Egypt," and was based on the Book of Exodus.

At this point in time, British taste for Handel's Italian-style operas had waned, and, like the filmmaker Cecile B. DeMille some 200 years later, Handel set out to entice his jaded audience back into the theaters with Biblical epics like "Saul" and "Israel in Egypt," featuring big casts, and lots of special effects.

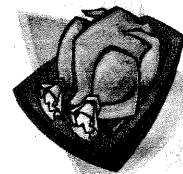
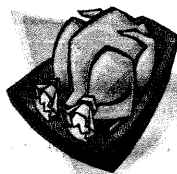
"I hear," gossiped one young British Lord to his father, "that Mr. Handel has borrowed a pair of the largest kettle-drums from the Tower of London, so to be sure it will be most excessive noisy!"

Even so, many in the audience at the premiere performance of "Israel in Egypt" didn't know quite what make of it. Some thought religious subjects unsuitable outside of a church setting; others found the music, in the words of one contemporary, "too solemn for common ears."

A few, however, were quite enthusiastic. One gentleman wrote a long letter to the London Daily Post, informing readers that the Prince of Wales and his consort attended, and appeared "enchanted" by the new work.

Even so, for later performances of "Israel in Egypt," Handel felt the need to reduce the solemnity by interpolating some totally incongruous snappy English songs and up-tempo Italian arias to keep the audience from drifting off - literally and figuratively speaking.

From: American Composers Forum



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