



The Chorus Newsletter

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Welcome

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 through the evening. We have section rehearsals on selected Saturdays.

Performances are given 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!

NOVA Foundation

It may come as a surprise to some choristers that there exists a foundation that provides funds for use by the NOVA Community Chorus.

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. If you made a donation to the NOVA Foundation in the past year, be sure to take the appropriate deduction on your 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

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**Music
Humor**



Durufle

Coffeehouse

On Saturday, 6 December 2008, the NOVA Community Chorus held its premier Coffeehouse. It provided an evening of entertainment that included original music, poetry and a special appearance by rising indie trio, Jonathan Vassar and the Speckled Bird.

All this and coffee, tea and fresh home-made pastries was served in the Taylor Recital Hall.

Dr. Whitmire reported that after paying for the indie trio, the chorus netted about \$300. About 80 persons attended the coffeehouse and about 20 choristers provided food and services. In addition, he reports that we shall soon have recordings on our website of the performances of Shah Arnold, Burd Boonyoo, Jaque Holden, Kevin Montgomery, Jacob Oquendo and Mike Richards and Chris who performed their original music.

**MUSICAL
HUMOR****Maurice Duruflé**

"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

Duruflé was born in Louviers, Haute-Normandie.

In 1912, he became chorister at the Rouen Cathedral Choir School, where he studied piano and organ with Jules Haelling. At age 17, upon moving to Paris, he took private organ lessons with Charles Tournemire, whom he assisted at Basilique Ste-Clotilde, Paris until 1927. In 1920 Duruflé entered the Conservatoire de Paris, eventually graduating with first prizes in organ, harmony, piano accompaniment, and composition.

In 1927, Louis Vierne nominated him as his assistant at Notre-Dame. Duruflé became titular organist of St. Étienne-du-Mont in Paris in 1929, a position he held for the rest of his life.

In 1939, he premiered Francis Poulenc's Organ Concerto (the Concerto for Organ, Strings and Timpani in G minor); he had advised Poulenc on the registrations of the organ part. In 1943 he became professor of harmony at the Conservatoire de Paris, where he worked until 1970.

In 1947, Duruflé wrote what is probably the most famous of his few pieces: the Requiem op. 9, for soloists, choir, organ and orchestra. The same year, Marie-Madeleine Chevalier became his assistant at St-Étienne-du-Mont. They married in 1953. The couple became a famous and popular organ duo, going on tour together several times throughout the sixties and early seventies.

Duruflé suffered severe injuries in a car accident in 1975, and as a result he gave up performing; indeed he was largely confined to his apartment, leaving the service at St-Étienne-du-Mont to his wife Marie-Madeleine (who was also injured in the accident). He died in Louveciennes (near Paris) in 1986, aged 84.

Source: 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