



CHORALE NOTES

August, 2015



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Let's Get Started.....



Summer is drawing to a close, and the Blue Ridge Chorale starts rehearsing next Monday, August 24th.* It's time to find our name tags, cleanup the music bag, stretch those vocal chords and get back into singing: a relaxing and gratifying start into autumn. BRC is non-affiliated, non-auditioned: a true community chorus; and we have a lot of fun! We welcome new as well as returning members, and we hope we'll see you!



*Fall Season !!

The Chorale's Fall/Winter Season will begin for adults with **our first rehearsal* on Monday, Aug. 24th** at 6:30 pm at Open Door Baptist Church (go 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. 4th** at **Prince Michel Vineyards**, and **Sunday afternoon, Dec. 13th** at **the State Theatre**.

The **Youth Chorale** starts on Monday, Sept 7th (yes, it's Labor Day). They will meet to rehearse on Mondays at Open Door, from 5:45 to 6:15 pm each week. Do you love to sing? Does your child love to sing? Come, sing with us!

Visit our website www.brings.com to learn more, and "Like" us on Facebook, please!



Photo information and credits are on the Last Page

Director's Corner – Bob Burnett

The season of Christmas Joy is approaching, and the BRC will be honoring composers such as J.S. Bach, G.F. Handel, L.v Beethoven and.. Hoyt Axton...Who?... Stay tuned.

JOY will be musically affirmed by "Heaven and Nature", "Stars and Angels", "Sheep", and even a "Bullfrog"..... in short, a wide ranging Christmas music program: Well-known carols (sung by all), lesser-known carols (sung by the BRC) in addition to Gospel, Plainsong, Broadway melodies and Spirituals - all invoking traditional lyrics and harmonies will be incorporated in the BRC's 2015 Christmas program.

Among our musical offerings, we will 'glorify' a Fruitcake, offer an alternative version to "The Twelve Days OF Christmas" gently, but firmly request a lessening of sung "Fa-la-las" and encourage (if not exhort) the considered use of a Smart Phone in conveying a traditional Christmas greeting.

As always, the Youth Group under the inspired direction of Cathy ter Weele will present its own special program, finishing in concert with the Ensemble in a lovely setting of "Silent Night".

We look forward to repeat participation by bassist Tyler Johnson, percussionist Jeff Wolf, and we are truly blessed to have such a committed and talented musician as our accompanist Brittany Bache.

Joy to you from me... bob



Notes from the President – Patti Christie



Greetings!

I am happy to become your new president and at this point all I can say is, "I will do my best."

For those who were not able to be there for the event; we had a grand Fourth of July celebration. Even the weather cooperated, as it was raining when we first got to the Courthouse, and then it stopped. The ceremony was moving and the music was uplifting and fun to sing.

At the rehearsal for the Fourth, on June 29th, Bob gave us a preview of his plan for the upcoming holiday concert. His excitement was contagious, and this concert will be filled with joyful music. It is grand to kick off the holiday season, with a *delightful choral presentation!* If you're singing with us this season, we're going to have fun. If you won't be singing with us this season, plan to attend, and bring some friends! I am looking forward to seeing you all.

Patti

Note from the Editor

You'll encounter Bob and Patti and the rest of the Chorale's professionals* and Board on pages 4 through 7. Every so often it's good to publish a "Who's Who" in any volunteer organization. Roles change, people come and go, and we all add to our skills and experience. We anticipate some new singers this fall, and this information will hopefully be helpful to them, but it also offers us all a chance to refresh our understanding of, and learn more about, how the Chorale works. We'll look at other Chorale members in future issues.

* The distinction between volunteer and professional can get blurry at BRC. Many of our volunteers bring us amazing professional skills, while our professional staff consistently, voluntarily and with great grace goes above and beyond job descriptions. And that's a big part of what makes our Chorale Family!

The Chorale Report: What We Did This Summer

(up to the first half of August)

- 1) We got a new President!
- 2) We got a new Treasurer!
- 3) We got a new Concert Master!
- 4) We didn't (yet) get a new Fund Raising Chairman. Wanna help out?
- 5) We had fun singing on July 4th!
- 6) We ran information tables both at the Culpeper Business, Information and Education and at the Madison Schools Vendors' Event!
- 7) We ate Patti's terrific ham and chicken salad biscuits at the August Board meeting (and had a great meeting, too!).
- 8) Meanwhile, Bob, Cathy, Brittany and Diana prepared and prepared and prepared for the fall season!
Not bad for "vacation" time...



↑ July 4th, 2015 (above) Here we are, ready to sing! Our wonderful accompanist, Brittany Bache, was ready for anything, keeping the key board out of the threatened rain, and the music wind-resistant with clothespins. Bob Burnett directed a great program!

← Talking with the teachers: (left top) Patti Christie, (middle) Peggy Carpenter and (bottom) Carolyn Osborne getting the word out about BRC to the schools.

Blue Ridge Chorale **Who's Who**



Music Director – Bob Burnett

This fall, Bob Burnett starts his third season with the Blue Ridge Chorale. A native of New York City, Bob developed an interest in choral singing in school. At Yale, he was part of the acclaimed Yale Russian Chorus, and with them sang his way through Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union. Bob and his wife Betsy have lived in this area since 1966. In the 1980's Bob was able to again turn his direction to music as a profession. He earned his master's degree in conducting at Shenandoah University and took additional classes at Westminster Choir College in Princeton, New Jersey. Before starting with the Chorale, Bob conducted at the Culpeper Thanksgiving Music Festival, St. Paul's Episcopal Church (Haymarket), Grace Episcopal Church (The Plains), and Culpeper Presbyterian Church. Bob is also a volunteer music teacher at Wakefield Country Day School and sits on the School's Board. Bob brings enthusiasm, energy and a gifted approach to his role.

Youth Director – Cathy ter Weele

Cathy has been with the Chorale for 12 years, as a singer and also as our Youth Director. Cathy and her family live in Culpeper, and she teaches Music in the Culpeper Schools. Cathy earned her Bachelor of Music Education degree from Shenandoah Conservatory (where she graduated Magna Cum Laude), and has recently finished the third, and top, level of certification in the Kodaly Method (a highly regarded, developmental approach to introducing music to small children) through James Madison University. An enthusiastic and talented singer as well as director, she is a vital part of the Chorale.



Accompanist – Brittany Bache

Brittany has been the Chorale's Accompanist since 2011. A life-long Culpeper resident, Brittany studied piano throughout her school years, and minored in music at James Madison University. She has accompanied the choir at Open Door Baptist Church since she was in high school, and is the Church's pianist. Brittany is a very talented, hard-working, dedicated and flexible pianist and accompanist, and we love having her in the Chorale family!



The Board

The Blue Ridge Chorale's Executive Board is made up of volunteers. It's a hard working Board and is critical to the Chorale's survival and its success. Here are our current Board volunteers, what they do and who to contact about what. Note: Director Bob Burnett and Youth Director Cathy ter Weele also participate in Board meetings.

The Chorale Board President – Patti Christie

The President does many things in his or her role (hopefully, not too much of any one thing, as the Board and committees carry out their tasks). The President is the chief executive officer of the Chorale, is an ex-officio member of all Chorale committees, and has active management of the affairs of the Chorale. He or she manages the Chorale's contracts with professional staff, and appoints chairpersons for committees not currently chaired by a Chorale officer.

Our new President, Patti Christie, grew up in Orange and studied at Grace Nursing School in Richmond. She worked as a medical surgical nurse in several states, especially in New England, and returned to this area in 2000, where she worked as a nurse in Culpeper until her retirement. Christie was active in the Rumford (Maine) Association for the Advancement of the Performing Arts, which combines chorus and drama

activities, where she was a performer and a Board President. The Chorale welcomes her fresh perspective, enthusiasm and experience.

You'll see Patti involved in many activities, but should if possible direct your questions and suggestions to the Board member responsible. Since Fund Raising is not filled at this time, though, talk with Patti about Fund Raising issues and thoughts.

The Chorale Manager – Dorothy Wright

The Chorale Manager processes paperwork such as member information rosters, attendance/sign-in, and name tags. The Chorale Manager works closely with the Social Chairman and the Treasurer about the registration and attendance recording process, concert dress orders and member requests for assistance in these areas. She also handles various members' concerns as they arise, and informs the Director about attendance problems.



Dorothy Wright has been the Chorale Manager since this position was formed in 2011; she joined the Chorale in 2010. Dorothy works for the Charlottesville City School system as an instructional aide for Special Needs kids. She enjoys reading mystery novels, cooking, keeping tropical fishes, and spending time at her vacation home at Smith Mountain Lake.

Dorothy's the one to get in touch with if any of your contact info (email or phone number, for instance) has changed, if there will be a problem with attendance, or if you are unhappy or uncomfortable with a Chorale process.

The Chorale Secretary – Carolyn Osborne

The Chorale Secretary handles correspondence on behalf of the Chorale, takes minutes at Board meetings, composes and publishes the Chorale Newsletter, maintains the Chorale's current history records, sends out holiday and birthday greetings from the Chorale and maintains the member and community contact lists needed to do these things.



Carolyn Szabad Osborne has been on the Chorale Board since she joined the Chorale in 2009. She was Chorale President from 2011 to July 2013 and has held the Secretary role since then. Carolyn has lived in Hood (in the southwest corner of Madison County) since 1972. She retired in 2007, having worked primarily in the areas of human resources, volunteer management, administration and inter-staff communications. She loves cooking, keeps chickens and reads a lot of science fiction.

Carolyn's the person to contact if you have a newspaper clipping about the Chorale (**please** clip items for the Chorale's records!), information about new contacts (members, prospective members and community contacts), ideas about the Newsletter, and any changes in your contact info (be sure you let Dorothy Wright, the Chorale Manager, know about those, also).

The Chorale Treasurer – Wanda Osborn

The Chorale Treasurer keeps BRC's financial records. Her duties include reconciling the monthly bank statement, giving monthly reports on the cash position at board meetings, working with the BRC President to prepare the annual budget, tracking income and expenses, contacting our insurance agent annually to renew BRC's policy, and checking the PO Box as needed.

Wanda Osborn accepted the Chorale Treasurer position in July 2015. Wanda has been a member of the choral since 2005. She served as BRC President between 2006 and 2011. She lives in northern Culpeper County with her husband Steve, two ponies, a dog and a cat. She works for the Wells Fargo Bank Corporation as a Business System Consultant attached to the Insurance Brokerage division. Wanda enjoys staying busy and will always be there to help with fundraising events, concert equipment setup and recording of our performances. She is the grandmother of seven and loves spending weekends entertaining them and watching them grow. If you have a check or cash for the Chorale, or a question about a check, talk with Wanda.



The Music Librarian - Diana Cmeyla

There are about a dozen tasks associated with this position; but primarily it involves pulling the Chorale's music scores for each concert season, stamping and numbering new pieces, and seeing to it that each singer receives a folder and all the music needed for that concert. Then at the end of each concert, the music is collected, reorganized and returned to its place in the storage unit after the appropriate information is entered into our music database (which contains more than 2,00 different compositions).



Diana Cmeyla has been Music Librarian since a year or so after joining what used to be called the Culpeper-Piedmont Choral Society, in 1991. Managing the BRC Library is really a job for two or more people, and Diana relies on help from other members. Currently, Joyce Calhoun lends a hand and enters the new information into the database.

Diana is a Children's Library Assistant at the Culpeper County Library. The BRC's Storage Unit is just a few blocks from the Library, which makes it convenient for working in the Unit where our music is stored, and a central place for people to contact and to return music to her. Diana is looking for someone to be co-Librarian: to learn the position, back up Diana, and eventually take the position when she retires from it.

**The Concert Master/Production Chairman – Peggy Carpenter**

This position was developed out of the Production position in 2011, and until this season has been filled, splendidly, by Kathy Tester. Regarding performances and rehearsals, the Concert Master is the bridge between the Chorale's Board and volunteers, and the Director. She has a critical role in concert planning and execution, making concert location (venue)

recommendations to the Board; working with the chosen venues - dealing with scheduling, the guest accompanists, the venue's requirements, charges and assets; and managing the Chorale's stage logistics directions and production support.

Our new Concert Master, Peggy Carpenter, has lived in Brightwood, since she was 12 years old and lives there now in the house her husband built 50 years ago. She retired in 2009 from 30 years of nursing at Culpeper Regional Hospital, and has worked two days a week for the past five years at Pepperberries, "Culpeper's Best Gift Boutique". Peggy is currently treasurer at Madison Church of the Brethren where she has been a member for the past 40 years and also volunteers at The State Theatre. She loves to sing and has sung with the BRC for three seasons now. Peggy especially likes reading inspirational material, and hand quilting. She has two children and three grandchildren, one dog, Snowflake, and one cat, Little Kitty.

If you have questions or concerns about the logistics of a concert, or need special accommodation (like a stool), it's the Concert Manager you should contact. You will also find Peggy directing volunteers (hope you'll be one of them!) in set-up and take-down, developing and directing the concert seating plan and making sure we're all in line in the right order for entrances and exits. When we are in concert mode, in particular, the Concert Master's word is the **law!**

The Fund Raising Chairman – open position

The Chorale is supported financially in four ways: concert tickets proceeds; registration fees; donations from Chorale members and friends; and Fund Raising activities. Our Fund Raising proceeds constitute a large percentage of our annual budget. Many wonderful Chorale volunteers (and often, their families) pitch in to help with various projects. The Fund Raising Chairman is at the center of this process: developing and planning events, seeing that they are carried out and assessing the results. The Chairman works with a committee of fund raising volunteers.



This vital position is currently not filled. If you can help us, please let us know. Thoughts and suggestions, too, for fund raising activities can be emailed to info@brcsings.com



The Programs Chair – Jack Garber

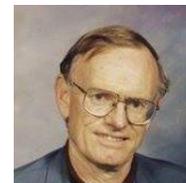
The Programs Chair is responsible for all aspects of production of the concert programs, from layout and organization to printing. The Programs chair also produces posters, flyers, tickets and other graphic and print design work for the Blue Ridge Chorale.

Jack Garber has been Programs Chair since the Spring of 2011, when he took over the responsibilities from Renate Chapman. Jack joined the Chorale in the Spring of 2008 and performs as a bass/baritone. Jack is Executive Director of the Piedmont United Way and lives in Jeffersonton with his wife Wendy. He is a member of the Rotary Club of Culpeper and served as President of that organization from 2012 to 2015. Jack also served as a board member and President of the Windmore Foundation for the Arts. Besides singing with the Blue Ridge Chorale and the choir at St. Stephen's Church, Jack enjoys gourmet cooking, fishing, gardening and reading.

Publicity Chairman – Steve Clapp

The Publicity Chairman is responsible for the Chorale's publicity through public media, such as radio, television, newspapers and on-line, bulletin boards and newsletters, and participation via booths or tables at in community activities.

A relative newcomer to this area, Steve Clapp and his wife moved to Jeffersonton quite recently and are gradually building relationships in the area. Steve joined the Chorale two years ago and was recruited as Publicity Chairman because he's a journalist by profession who has written and edited many news releases. Steve is also secretary of the Peace Corps Nigeria Alumni Foundation and vice president of the Friends of Nigeria, an alumni organization for returned Peace Corps volunteers who served in that country.



There are several Chorale members who carry out different aspects of Publicity, implementing Facebook, website, newspaper contracts etc. If you have questions or ideas, and/or would like to help with Publicity, contact Steve.



Social Committee Chairman – Margie Blankenship

The Social Committee Chairman coordinates the Chorale's Refreshment Nights and other social events.

Margie Blankenship has been on the board in this position since joining the Chorale in the Spring of 2006. Margie lives in Aylor which is in Madison County near Graves Mountain Lodge. Margie enjoys her numerous pets, photography, charcoal art and of course SINGING!

Margie is your go-to gal if you are interested in serving on this committee or have ideas for bringing our choristers together in fun ways.

*This summer four very valuable Board members finished their terms and left the Board. We want to thank **Jodi Stone**, President; **Johncie Carlson**, Treasurer (and President before that); **Kathy Tester**, Concert Master; and **Joyce Calhoun**, Fund Raising Chairman for all they have done for us. All of you are major supporters of the Board and the Chorale (and fine singers, too!) and we're glad you'll continue your involvement in the BRC. Thank you all for your excellent service through the Board!*

Arts and the Community: Firnew Farm Artists' Circle

(Madison County)

"Firnew Farm Artist Circle, a boisterous and talented group of artists based in Madison County, VA which comes together once a week to be inspired and to critique each other at Trish and David Crowe's Firnew Farm." (Firnew Artists Circle Facebook Page)

Firnew, a lovely old farm on the banks of the Conway River in southern Madison County, took on a new role in 2003. Trish Crow, herself an artist, decided to provide a place where area



Firnew Farm by Trish Crowe

artists
can
meet,

learn from each other, and display their work. The Artists' Circle meets weekly, in a sunny building that was formerly a milking parlor.

I was invited by Trish to attend a Circle meeting there early in April. The drive in was lovely with spring flowers, and the setting was beautiful. That day, 14 of the 30+ members of the Artists' Circle (a diverse and interesting group, who work in paints, photography, sculpture, electronic, textile and fabric and mixed media) arrived. There was a lot of that chatter you have at any congenial meeting: folks who have become friends greeting each other, sharing thoughts and news. Anne Dean (you can see her work on her Facebook page - *Watercolor by Anne*) brought in a book of her work which had just been published: page after page of glorious flowers in watercolor. After the group had circulated a while, they settled in and Trish got the meeting started. She reported on a number of art shows where members currently are exhibiting their works, on upcoming show opportunities, including one at Firnew for Mother's Day, and about the Tucker Hill scholarship, which is awarded annually to a college student through the Artists' Circle. It was a congenial and interesting get-together.

The Circle meets weekly, with usually 12-15 artists attending, and most meetings include a critique session. One meeting each month, though, is given over to Art History taught by Circle member Leslie Barham. The meeting I attended included a very interesting lecture (with slides) on the transitions of style in early Greek art and the work of its Roman imitators.

Membership in the Artists' Circle is through application, and there is a waiting list. To learn more about this wonderful system for growing and supporting art in our area, and to learn about the members, go to <https://firnewfarmartistscircle.wordpress.com/> and visit (and Like!) their Facebook page.

Firnew Farm Artists' Circle
Painting and Photography

SPACES & PLACES

Sculpture by Alex Vargas *Photograph by John Berry*

Baker Gallery & Upper Walker Gallery
Walker Fine Arts Center, Woodberry Forest School

September 5 - October 25, 2015

Check out this upcoming exhibition.



A photo of the milking parlor at Firnew, where the Artists' Circle meets.

Arts and the Community: The Warrenton Chorale (Fauquier County)



Like the Blue Ridge Chorale, the Warrenton Chorale is a non-auditioned community chorus. It was founded in Warrenton in 1953, when Dick March invited church choir members to form a community choir to sing Christmas songs. Over time, participation grew from 12 singers to over 100. The Warrenton Chorale performs a Saturday matinee as well as two evening performances of their annual *Christmas in Music* concert, and they also perform a spring concert. The Chorale's current director is John Maerhofer.

The Youth Chorale, originally the "Children's Choir," was added in 1967, and the Warrenton Chorale Handbell Choir in 1974. Both the Youth and Handbell Choirs have significant roles in the Christmas in Music concert, presenting their own solo pieces as well as performing with the other choirs.

The mission of The Warrenton Chorale is "To enrich the lives of our singers, audiences and community by performing diverse styles of choral music."

Photos and information are from the Warrenton Chorale webpage, www.warrentonchorale.org



and...The Last Page



Credits:

*Thank you to **Svitozar Nenyuk** for Youth Chorale photos on page 1 and Carolyn's photo on page 5; to **Sara Ryaprol Photography** for Bob's photo on page 4, and the Youth photo on this page; to **JoAnn Calhoun** for Margie's and Jack's photos on page 7; and to **Patti Christie** and **Peggy Carpenter** for the photos on page 3.

*Thank you to **Studio C Photography** for Bob's portrait on p. 2.

*Thank you for sharing your time, thought, and hospitality to **Trish Crow** and the **Firnew Artists' Circle**.

*Photos and information about the Warrenton Chorale are from their website.

“Art happens—no hovel is safe from it, no prince may depend upon it, the vastest intelligence cannot bring it about.”

- Voltaire

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

“It is art that makes life, makes interest, makes importance, for our consideration and application of these things, and I know of no substitute whatever for the force and beauty of its process.” - Henry James

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

A last thought: “We are all Michaelangelos.” - Henry Moore

