



Joy, Sing Joy

We're moving quickly into the wonderful time of the year when families assemble, old friends are remembered, houses become glorious with color and light, great meals happen and music fills the air. For the Blue Ridge Chorale, it's concert time: the culmination of learning and rehearsing which began in long-ago August.

One of the best things about this season, for Chorale members, is that we get to sing terrific music!

Our concert this season, **Joy!**, celebrates this happy time with a variety of songs. Some are old favorites and some may surprise you.

We invite you to share the joy of holiday song with us. Join us in singing at the Tree Lighting, and be sure to attend one of our concerts. They bring us Joy, and they'll bring you Joy!



Holiday Season Schedule!!

Monday, November 16, Deadline for Poinsettia sales

Friday, November 20 pick up poinsettias

Monday, November 16th Board meeting 5:30

Sunday, November 22 5:30 Tree Lighting at the Depot

(we're singing outdoors! dress warmly!)

Monday November 30 Private Concert (full dress) Dogwood Village in Orange 7 pm *Call time 5:30*

Friday December 4 Joy! Concert Prince Michel Vineyard 7 pm *Call time 5:30*

(wine will be available for purchase and there will be a complementary hors d'oeuvre buffet)

Saturday, December 5 Caroling at Minuteman Mall 11:00 to 4:00

Friday, December 11 caroling at Walden Hall in Reva 8pm *Call time 7:00*

Sunday December 13 Joy! Concert at State Theatre 3pm *Call time 1:30*

We are assembling gift baskets for raffling at the State Theatre concert on Sunday, December 13th. So far, we have beautiful items valued at about \$250, with more items and gift cards still coming in. Tickets will be available for sale at our concerts and other opportunities to buy them will be posted on our website!



CHORALE NOTES

November, 2015



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Director's Corner – Bob Burnett

"Christmas in a Small Town" is one of the Chorale's favorite numbers, and no wonder...with Culpeper's maintaining its Small Town personality and ambiance...and to this Small Town the Blue Ridge Chorale offers the JOY of the Christmas season.

Speaking of JOY, according to The Power Thesaurus, this word has 425 synonyms! Can you guess the top-rated one?

Three meaningful quotations for me:

"Joy is not in things; it is in us" - Richard Wagner

"Joy is the feeling of grinning inside" - Dr. Melba Colgrove

...and one which chimes with one of our musical offerings – "I'm the joy of fishes in the river through my own joy as I go walking along the same river" - Chuang Tzu ca. 350 B.C. This somewhat obscure quotation may well become less obscure when you hear Hoyt Axton's musical expression of "Joy to the World".

Our Christmas Program runs the gamut of Seasonal music; both sacred and secular - Carols by Bach, Beethoven and Handl, Gospel offerings by Julie Gold ("from a Distance"), Patti Drennan ("Go Tell That Good News") and Stephen Hill & Darryl Williams ("Look Who Just Checked In").....and, of course, "The Twelve Days OF Christmas" and "The Twelve Days AFTER Christmas".

In addition to Cathy ter Weele's leading the Youth Group (including a joint number with the Chorale), Wanda Osborn has selected, and will be directing The BRC in a lovely Gospel offering - a spiritually beautiful and moving arrangement of a piece many of you will know. I have listened to the many rehearsals of this song and have never failed to have been emotionally moved.

While we make a gentle (editor's note: but firm!) request that our audiences turn off their cell phones during a performance, we flagrantly flaunt our own non-compliance with that request by our performing "Text Me Merry Christmas", featuring soloists Lisa Zinn and Charity Sillero. We hope you'll share the fun we have in singing this number!

So, having thrown some random enticements at you, let me express **my** almost unutterable JOY at bein part of The Blue Ridge Chorale...we love music, singing, fellowship, snacks but most of all: Sharing our JOY with you!

- Bob

Notes from the President – Patti Christi

Dear Chorale members:

We will soon be onstage, center front; I hope you are all ready and excited.

I once saw The Temptations a popular Motown singing group of the 60's. Now fast forward 25 years plus and this group is still touring in small venues with only one of the original Temptations left. A group of us "young" ladies go to see them. We happen to meet them prior to going on stage and as is often the case, when one finds he is talking to a nurse, his whole medical history comes out. So Mr. Last Original Temptation tells us about himself and we are wondering how he even managed to be there, much less performing. THEN, he walked out in front of his audience and as a changed man: such a marvelous performance and presence!!!



So, here we come to knock their socks off.

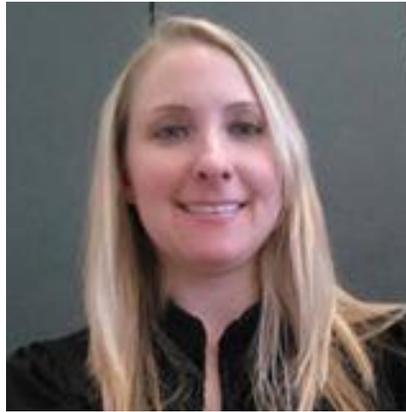
I was a member of the chorale when I first came back to Virginia, but could only be in one year due to work schedule. Back then it was called the Culpeper Piedmont Choral Society. I haven't asked why the name was changed but it sure reflects who we are and who we represent, Culpeper and many surrounding counties. So let your friends and neighbors know what you are doing and I challenge you to get at list 10 of your friends and or family to come to our show.

Thanks for all your help as I endeavor to fill this position.

We've Got Section Leaders!



Geniene Zinn (alto), originally from West Virginia, lived in Northern Virginia for over 40 years. She taught Special Ed and Computer Lab in Sterling. Geniene and her husband Terry retired to Culpeper to be near their daughter in Jeffersonton and their grandchildren, ages 5 and 2 1/2. Lisa Zinn is also Geniene's daughter. "I love doing crafts and especially making monthly bulletin boards for our church. I'm just starting to get into scrapbooking and making cards."



Lisa Zinn (soprano) lived in northern Virginia until about 2 years ago, when she moved here to be closer to her niece and nephew. Lisa works for Germanna Community College in Culpeper. She studied college graphic design in college and says: "I love to create new things with paint and whatever else I can get my hands on."



Martha Smith (tenor) grew up singing whichever section needed her, usually tenor "except when the Church was short a soprano, then I'd step in." Martha's husband, Ralph, is also a Chorale Family member. Martha has sung with the Chorale "on and off for about 12 years." For about 50 years, Martha has kept greyhounds who were retired as racing dogs. She has 3 now and says they're wonderful. When Martha was a child, her family used to make their trips into town on a buckboard wagon. She has faster wheels now.



The Chorale has added Section Leaders this year: Geniene Zinn (Altos), Lisa Zinn (Sopranos) and Martha Smith (Tenors and Basses). The Section Leader is your go-to person for questions and issues. If you can't be at a rehearsal or scheduled singing event, or know you will arrive late or leave early, be sure to let your Section Leader know. If you have a question or concern, or if you feel there's an issue which needs to be resolved inside your section, take your question to the Section Leader.

Besides being right-there support to their Sections, each Section Leader participates in the Chorale Board meetings.

I don't sing because I'm happy; I'm happy because I sing. ~William James

Burgers I: Culpeper Days

On September 19th, Culpeper Days, nine volunteers from the Chorale joined up with the Culpeper Ruritans at the Ole Country Store and Bakery to sell burgers and hot dogs as a fund raiser. This was a fun event, it was a lovely day, and it was nice to get to know members of this Ruritan group. We all were very proud that Chorale rallied so successfully to this project on short (5 day) notice.



Wanda Osborn wrapping burgers at Culpeper Days.



Burgers II, the Air Show: “with Fries”

On October 10th, a large group of Chorale members and their families gathered at the Culpeper Air Fest to flip, wrap and sell burgers, fries, drinks and hotdogs. The goal was to raise money for the Chorale and the outcome: stellar! Not only was the food terrific and camaraderie great, this year brought in our highest earnings ever!

Many volunteers from our Chorale family were there: eight to twelve (or more) volunteers worked each shift during cooking and serving time, and additional volunteers helped with set up and take down. They gave the Chorale easily more than 70 volunteer hours of work at the site, plus a lot of uncountable time and work spent organizing, shopping and loading the



Joe Eaton. Onion Meister

trailers beforehand and emptying the trailers, cleaning and storing gear afterward. **Wanda Osborn** was at the center of all this activity and she and **Steve Osborn** put their whole family to work, too. Under Wanda’s direction, it was a very smooth operation.

For years, the Air Fest has been our single most productive fundraiser, and this year’s was the most successful ever. We were well stocked with supplies and workers, the weather was glorious and the crowds were large and hungry. It was a terrific day!



Geniene (left) and Lisa Zinn packing fries into serving cups.

Our photos reflect only a few of the folks who worked that day, but a big **thank you!** to everyone who came out to help, and also to those who kept our costs down by donating supplies.

There are more photos on the next page!

Burgers II photos, continued.



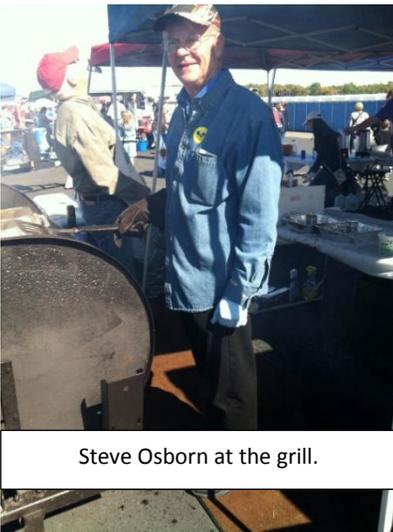
Burger wrapping: Geniene Zinn (left), Patti Christie and Elizabeth Hartsell



Burger Flippers Charlie Pringle (left) and Jack Garber.



Margie Blankenship and Peggy Carpenter (not shown) handled the 50/50 drawing.



Steve Osborn at the grill.



Cooking the fries required constant attention.



Wanda actually sat down for a few minutes!

Christmas Carol Trivia: Did you know that.....?

 The "Sussex Carol", sometimes called by its first line, "On Christmas night all Christians sing", is very popular in Britain. Its words were first published by an Irish bishop, in a work called *Small Garland of Pious and Godly Songs*, in 1684. Both the text and the tune to which it is now sung were discovered and written down by Cecil Sharp, and Ralph Vaughan Williams, who heard it being sung near Horsham, Sussex (which is why it's called the "Sussex Carol"). The carol is often performed at the King's College *Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols*.

 "O Little One Sweet" is credited as-is to Johann Sebastian Bach. In German, it's "O Jesulein Süß".

 The words of the popular carol "Joy to the World" were written by English hymn writer Isaac Watts, who based them on the second half of Psalm 98 in the Bible. The song was first published in 1719 in Watts' collection; *The Psalms of David: Imitated in the language of the New Testament, and applied to the Christian state and worship*. Watts wrote the words of "Joy to the World" as a hymn glorifying Christ's triumphant return at the end of the age, rather than a song celebrating his first coming. The melody was adapted and arranged to Watts' lyrics by Lowell Mason in 1839 from an older melody which seems to have originated at least in part from Handel's compositions. The theme of the refrain "And heaven and nature sing..." appears in the recitative *Comfort ye* from the *Messiah*, and the first four notes match the beginning of *Lift up your heads* and *Glory to God* from the same oratorio. However, it's thought that Handel probably did not compose the entire tune. The name "Antioch" is generally used for the tune.

 "God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen" is one of the oldest extant carols, dated to the 16th century or earlier. The earliest known printed edition of the carol is in a broadsheet published around 1760. The carol is referred to in Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol*, 1843: "...at the first sound of 'God bless you, merry gentlemen! May nothing you dismay!', Scrooge seized the ruler with such energy of action that the singer fled in terror, leaving the keyhole to the fog and even more congenial frost."

 Though many folks believe that Greensleeves (the tune used in "What Child is This?") was composed by Henry VIII, that's probably not correct. The piece reflects an Italian style of composition that did not reach England until after Henry's death, so it's more likely Elizabethan in origin. Sorry folks.

In compensation, here are some lines on that idea from British comedians Michael Flanders and Donald Swanns' 1950's show *At the Drop of a Hat*. In this routine, two Tudor era theater producers are looking for a strong musical piece to close the second act when a scroll is delivered to them, so they play that score to see if it will work out.

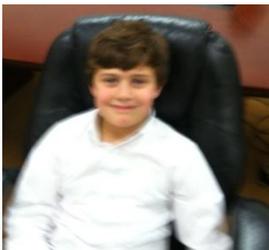
*** *"All right... Verily, tis a passing melodious roundelay, but I doubt me an it be commercial. Who wrote this Greenfleeves, anyway?" And a voice from the back of the auditorium shouted out "We did". So they looked out and could just make out a shadowy figure standing at the back, and they said "Well who are you?" and the figure answered -- I think this is the interesting part -- the figure answered "We are Henry VIII, we are". Well then of course they realised that Greensleeves was exactly what they wanted."****

Youth Chorus at the State Theatre



Through the Windmore Foundation for the Arts, our Youth Chorus was invited to participate in the Elisabeth von Trapp concert which was held on Saturday, November 7th at the State Theatre.

The children arrived on time and rehearsed their routine, which had been changed from the original plan. The change didn't faze them at all: they took it in stride like the troupers they are. They even endured the long wait until their time on stage with considerable good grace, and mugged obligingly for the camera.



On stage, they were poised and fun and added their own sparkle to the song "Do-Re-Mi". They did themselves and the Chorale proud.

Congratulations to the Youth Chorus and to their Director, Cathy ter Weele. Very well done!



Elisabeth Von Trapp is the granddaughter of Maria and Baron Georg Von Trapp, of *Sound of Music* fame. Coming from a musical family, the Von Trapp Singers, it's not surprising that she continues the tradition of song, accompanying herself on guitar in a lovely concert. Her performance at the State Theatre was well received by an appreciative audience.



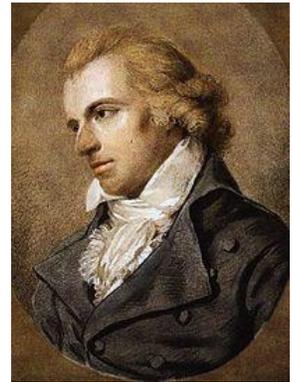
Portrait of Beethoven, 1820, by Stiler

The Ode to Joy

“Joyful, joyful, we adore thee” is the beginning of a favorite Christian hymn - powerful in its well-loved melody and its lyrics, which poetically invoke the image of all Creation, through its beauty, paying tribute to its Creator.

The melody, as we all learn early, comes from Ludwig van Beethoven’s Ninth Symphony, his famous choral symphony for orchestra, four solo voices and choir. It is a pleasure listen to the Symphony, but, you can’t pair the words we know in English with the chorus’ lyrics. They’re not the same.

The lyrics of “Ode to Joy”, “An die Freude” in German, are from a poem written in 1785 by German poet, playwright and historian



Friedrich Schiller

Friedrich Schiller. “Ode to Joy” is best known for its adaptation by Beethoven for the final movement of his Symphony.

Beethoven’s “Ode to Joy” is the anthem of the Council of Europe and the European Union, promoted as a symbol for the whole of Europe as are the other European symbols. It is used on occasions such as Europe Day and formal events such as the signing of treaties. The Schiller lyrics, however, were not adopted, as it was felt that selecting one European language over another in a symbolic role was contrary to the Union’s goals.

Strange, isn't it, that the "Ode to Joy" came from two such discontented looking men?

“The Hymn of Joy”, which is often called “Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee” is a poem written by Henry van Dyke in 1907 with the intention of musically setting it to the famous “Ode to Joy” melody of Ludwig van Beethoven's final symphony, Symphony No. 9.

Van Dyke wrote the poem in 1907 at the home of Williams College president Harry Augustus Garfield. He was a guest preacher at Williams at the time. He told his host that the local Berkshire Mountains had been his inspiration. The lyrics were first published in 1911 in Van Dyke's *Book of Poems*, Third Edition.

Van Dyke wrote of this hymn:

“These verses are simple expressions of common Christian feelings and desires in this present time—hymns of today that may be sung together by people who know the thought of the age, and are not afraid that any truth of science will destroy religion, or any revolution on earth overthrow the kingdom of heaven. Therefore this is a hymn of trust and joy and hope.”

Verse 1 of
“An die Freude” / “Ode to Joy”
by Friedrich Schiller
translated by William F. Wertz

Freude, schöner Götterfunken,
Tochter aus Elysium,
Wir betreten feuertrunken,
Himmlische, den Heiligum.
Deine Zauber binden wieder,
Was die Mode streng geteilt,
Alle Menschen werden Brüder,
Wo dein sanfter Flügel weilt.

Joy, thou beautiful godly lightning,
Daughter of Elysium,
Fire drunken, we are entering
Heavenly, thy holy home!
Thy enchantments bind together,
What did custom stern divide,
Every man becomes a brother,
Where thy gentle wings abide.



Jeremiah was a Bullfrog....

"Joy to the World" was written by Hoyt Axton, and made famous by the band Three Dog Night. The song is popularly known by its opening words, "Jeremiah was a

bullfrog". Three Dog Night members considered it a silly, child's song, but in their 1970 album, *Naturally*, it was very successful, and fans loved it. It was released as a single in 1971. It topped the main singles charts in North America for six straight weeks, and has since been covered by many artists.

Axton came up with the tune, liked it and played it, without lyrics, to his



Three Dog Night

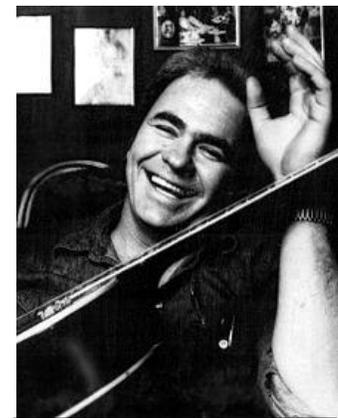
record producers. They asked him to add just any words to it, to see how it would sing. He started the song with "Jeremiah was a prophet..." and went on from there. The producers suggested changes, including dropping "prophet," and "bullfrog" was used instead.

When Hoyt Axton performed the song to Three Dog Night, two of

the three main vocalists rejected the song, but singer Chuck Negron felt that the band needed a "silly song" to help bring them together as a working unit.

Negron later said of "Joy to the World" that the song "wasn't even close to our best record, but it might have been one of our most honest."

The song is featured prominently in the iconic 1983 film *The Big Chill*, where it is sung by a child character at the beginning and the Three Dog Night recording is played over the end credits. It is also played at every Denver Broncos victory.



Hoyt Axton, 1976

Unlike most Three Dog Night songs recorded at that point, instead of having just the three main vocalists singing harmony, the song was recorded with all seven members of the band singing. In the recording, drummer Floyd Sneed sings the deep lyric "I wanna tell you" towards the end of the song.

Hoyt Wayne Axton (1938-1999) was an American folk music singer-songwriter, as well as a film and television actor. He became prominent in the early 1960s, establishing himself on the West Coast as a folk singer with an earthy style and powerful voice.

Axton's greatest hits were recorded by other performers, including "Greenback Dollar" (Kingston Trio), "Never Been to Spain" (Three Dog Night), "Snowblind Friend" (Steppenwolf), "The No-No Song" (Ringo Starr), but Axton had many minor singing hits of his own, such as "Boney Fingers", "When the Morning Comes", and 1979's "Della and the Dealer", as well as "Jealous Man" (which he sang in a guest appearance on *WKRP in Cincinnati*). His vocal style featured his distinctive bass-baritone (which later deepened to near-bass) and use of characterization.

And...the Last Page

Some thoughts on singing:

A bird does not sing because it has an answer. It sings because it has a song.
~Chinese Proverb

He who sings frightens away his ills. ~Miguel de Cervantes, *Don Quixote*

Some days there won't be a song in your heart. Sing anyway. ~Emory Austin

Sing out loud in the car even, or especially, if it embarrasses your children.
~Marilyn Penland

Acknowledgements

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http://www.nyanko.pwp.blueyonder.co.uk/fas/hat_green.html

Quotations: <http://www.quote garden.com/singing>



Have a Wonderful Thanksgiving!!!!

We hope we'll see you at our Concerts!