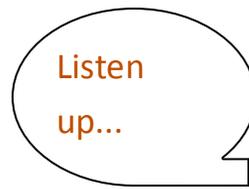


# ENSEMBLE BULLETIN

The Voice of the Choral Art Form in Southwest Florida



Volume 1, Issue 4  
July 2012



## Major Choral Event Planned

**K**ey choral leaders from Naples, Fort Myers and Sarasota are cooperating on a major choral event for southwest Florida to be held in early 2014. Ensemble Newsletter publisher Jim George floated the idea at several meetings during the past two months and it was enthusiastically embraced. A choral event on this scale has never been done in southwest Florida.

A meeting of choral leaders initiated by Ensemble Newsletter was held at FGCU in early June. An organizing committee was formed and plans are underway. Committee members are: Andre deQuadros, Boston University School of Music and noted international clinician, Trent Brown, Director of Choruses, FGCU, Tim McDonnell, Music Department Chairman, Ave Maria University and Artistic Director, Symphonic Chorale of Southwest Florida, Ron Doiron, Artistic Director, The Bach Ensemble, Joe Holt, Artistic Director, Gloria Musicae, Rachel Assi, Executive Director, Gloria Musicae, Jim Cochran, Director of Choruses, Naples Philharmonic Chorale, Brice Gerlach, Assistant Director of Choruses, Naples Phil-

harmonic Chorale, Bob Herrema, Artistic Director, Naples Orchestra and Chorus, Joe Caulkins, Artistic Director, Key Chorale and Vocal Artistry, Joanne Paulino, president, Symphonic Chorale of Southwest Florida, and Jim George, publisher, Ensemble Newsletter.

It will be an event structured primarily for singers rather than administrators and will likely fall more in the category of a singing festival rather than a symposium. An official name for the event will be decided later this summer.

"Our analysis shows that there are about 2000 singers involved in independent, organized choral groups of various genres between Naples and Anna Maria Island and that does not include church choirs," said Ensemble publisher, Jim George. "The time is right for the choral art to move to the next level in southwest Florida. We are no longer just a vacation destination but a burgeoning cultural community."

Tim McDonnell, artistic director of the Symphonic Chorale added, "There is

no model for this type event so rather than try to schedule something quickly for the 2012-2013 season we elected to take the time to do it right and if the first event is successful it will be a template for the next one."

"We're hoping to reach singers and choruses from Anna Maria Island to Naples for the event," echoed committee members Herrema, Doiron and Assi. "The event is for singers whether presently involved with a formal choir or not."

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## Vocal Artistry recording first CD

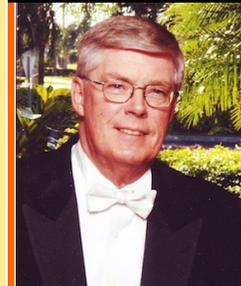
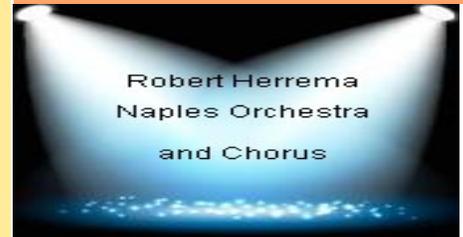


Vocal Artistry In recording session

After only a year as a formal group, the 22-voice, Fort Myers based Vocal Artistry is already preparing to release their first CD. The popular ensemble has appeared in a number of venues locally with diverse programs in support of various charitable organizations in the Fort Myers Area. Under the baton of Artistic Director Joe Caulkins the group is making waves in local music circles with their energetic singing and innovative programming.

According to Caulkins part of the proceeds from the sale of the CD will benefit United Way as a continuation of Vocal Artistry's community outreach. Look for the 16-track CD to be released this fall.

## Spotlight



Dr. Herrema, Artistic director of the Naples Orchestra and Chorus, graduated from Calvin College and earned his Masters from

University of Michigan. He studied under renowned music scholar Julius Herford at Indiana University. Studying under Robert Shaw at Westminster Choral College he prepared a choir and orchestra for a performance of Haydn's "Creation." Under famed conductor Helmuth Rilling, he has been a participating conductor of the Oregon Bach Festival. He has conducted at the Stuttgart Bach Academe and the Vienna Symposium.

As an author, he published over 200 choral reviews, as well as articles on conducting and choral music. He is a composer of commissioned works.

Maestro Herrema retired after 32 years as Director of Choral and Orchestral Activities at Marywood University. While at Marywood, in 1978, he formed the professional group: Robert Dale Chorale. Then he started the Scranton Bach Festival. On campus he formed the Campus Choir.

His great joy as a gifted vocalist is only exceeded by his delight in helping develop the talents of young musicians. To encourage a new generation of musicians, he helped form the Children's Choir and Summer Music Camps, which are in their thirtieth year.

## Sarasota Chorus of the Keys still going strong

Chartered over 60 years ago and still singing strong, the 100 member Sarasota Chorus of the Keys barbershop chapter boasts a total membership of over 150 men who share a love of close harmony singing. It is one of the largest, if not the largest, choral ensembles in southwest Florida

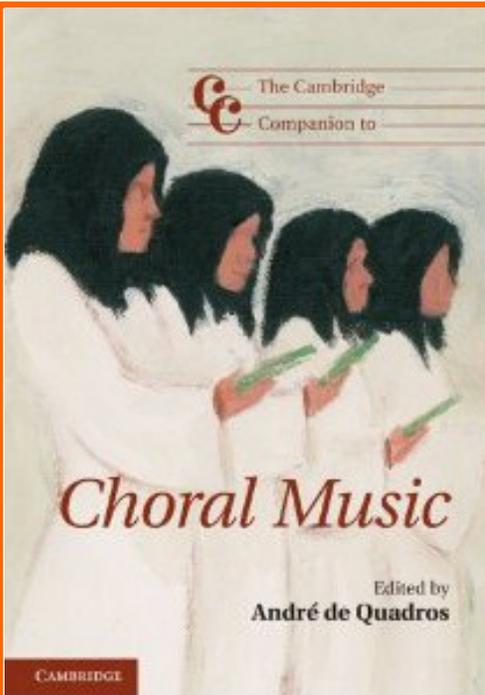


Barbershop singing, like jazz and the spiritual, is a truly American style of music. It is as much choral singing as any classical chorus. Unlike the typical classical chorus, however, barbershop harmony is a style of unaccompanied singing with three voice parts harmonizing to the melody. The style is further identified by chords that are harmonious and tuning is as nearly perfect as is vocally possible. The style is distinguished by uniformity of word sounds and special emphasis on close harmony with the 7th being the predominant chord. Barbershop harmony can be sung by either a quartet or a chorus. Choruses may number from 12 to more than 100 singers. It remains a participatory form of music making, intrinsic to our culture, closely associated with community life and open to all those who respond to the balanced blend of voices raised in song.

Through their Memorial Scholarship Endowment Fund the Chorus of the Keys provides tuition for students and music educators attending a cappella music work shops, scholarships to college bound needy male high school seniors with exceptional achievements in the field of music, and professional college level training for high school music educators and choral directors in the art of four-part a cappella harmony.

The Chorus of the Keys is the oldest continuous arts group in Sarasota and continues to be a vital part of the fabric of the community.





## deQuadros choral book due in August

Ensemble contributing writer Andre deQuadros has edited a definitive book on choral music which will be released in August titled... *The Cambridge Companion to Choral Music*

Choral music is now undoubtedly the foremost genre of participatory music making, with more people singing in choirs than ever before. Written by a team of leading international practitioners and scholars, this Companion addresses the history of choral music, its

emergence and growth worldwide and its professional practice. The volume sets out a historical survey of the genre and follows with a kaleidoscopic bird's eye view of choral music from all over the world. Chapters vividly portray the emergence and growth of choral music from its Quranic antecedents in West and Central Asia to the baroque churches of Latin America, representing its global diversity. Uniquely, the book includes a pedagogical section where several leading choral musicians write about the voice and the inner workings of a choir and give their professional insights into choral practice. This Companion will appeal to choral scholars, directors and performers alike. Pre-publication orders are available now on Amazon.com.



de Quadros, former head of the Boston School of Music, a conductor, scholar, music educator and human rights activist, has conducted and undertaken research in over forty countries. He is a professor of music at Boston University, where he also holds positions in African studies, Asian studies and Muslim studies. He is the conductor of the Manado State University Choir (Indonesia) and artistic director of Aswatuna, Arab Choral Initiative, editor of the series Music of Asia and the Pacific and Salamu Aleikum - Music of the Muslim World for Earthsongs, USA, and general editor of the Carmina Mundi series for Carus Verlag, Germany. He conducts music festivals and choral clinics worldwide.

### Calling All Readers

To members of the general public and viewing audiences, we welcome your comments about the content of Ensemble and your opinion on the types of programs you like or concerts you have seen. Forward your copy of Ensemble to your friends and relatives and share these pages with them.

### Symphonic Chorale and Alliance for the Arts collaborate for August Choral Workshop.

What is an appoggio anyway, and why do you need to know? This and other mysteries of vocal technique will be revealed when the Symphonic Chorale of Southwest Florida presents the Second Annual Sing Out on Saturday, August 25 from 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Lee County Alliance for the Arts in Fort Myers.

As the Symphonic Chorale begins its second season under the artistic leadership of Dr. Timothy McDonnell, it will partner again with the Alliance to present this valuable community outreach. The day-long workshop, invites all area singers age 15 and up to develop better vocal and choral technique as they spend the day learning from four members of the music faculty from Ave Maria University.

The day's activities have been developed and will be lead by Tim McDonnell, who is also AMU's Music Department Chair. The other Sing Out instructors are Dr. Susan Treacy, Rebecca Ostermann, and Maria McDonnell. Sessions on vocal technique will be interspersed with choral immersion activities to put the skills learned into immediate practice.

The Workshop fee is \$30 for Alliance members and \$35 for non-members and includes lunch. For workshop information or to register by phone call the Alliance at 239-939-2787 or register online at <http://www.artinlee.org/campandclasses/adultclasses.html>

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We're planning to structure the event so there will be a lot of singing by participants. There may be concerts during the day and evening by guest groups."

"The current thinking is to join the entire group together in a mass choir for a final concert at the close of the event which would be open to the public," said committee members Gerlach and Paulino. "We think it could be the largest assemblage of singers ever put together here."

"We expect to spend more than a year in the planning of this event," Trent Brown said following the meeting. "We hope to be able to announce dates and location by later this year. In addition, the name, structure, funding, content of the event and guest conductor(s) will be discussed at a meeting in August. There are many logistical issues that must be solved, not the least of which are the duration and venue or venues to hold the event."

deQuadros, who conducts singing festivals around the world, said this type of event is common in Europe. "More often than not choral symposiums are held here which are more for administrators than singers," He said, "This event will be a very exciting and positive experience for the singers of southwest Florida."

According to Ensemble publisher Jim George, there was a high level of excitement about the event from all choral leaders. They saw it as an opportunity to elevate the choral art form with a major event that will include singers and artistic directors from southwest Florida, guest clinicians, conductors and guest soloists. "I personally met or spoke with most of the artistic directors in southwest Florida and without exception they were supportive of the event," He said. "At our meeting in August we'll begin putting the organization in place that will be responsible for carrying out the many tasks in front of us. We'll be communicating with all choral organizations and churches in the coming months."

## For choruses only! Want to reach your audience?

Advertise in Ensemble from September through May. Our readership is your target audience...the people who attend concerts and support the choral art form. The average choral audience is 200 to 400. Ensemble newsletter reaches more than ten times that number each month and the list continues to grow. It is a fact that targeted direct mail is more effective than newspaper advertising. When it comes to communicating with your audience make sure you're giving it your best shot. An empty concert seat is a missed opportunity.

Contact us at [Ensemble@comcast.net](mailto:Ensemble@comcast.net) for rate information.

### Sarasota's Musica Sacra Cantorum selects Bloch's Sacred Service and Bernstein's Chichester Psalms



Musica Sacra Cantorum

While the drama depicted in the Sacred Service is highly spiritual, it is not essentially Jewish, or indeed connected to any specific religion. Time magazine pointed this out in a review of the first New York performance:

"in spirit his Service was universal, as much for Gentiles as for Jews." And Bloch himself believed that the work was "more cosmic and universal than Jewish." He made this explicit in his commentary on the end of the work. He claimed that the final twenty-five measures took him two years to write—and no wonder, considering what he was trying to accomplish: "The last part," he wrote, "is like an epilogue. Here is the whole realization of humanity, the love of God, when all men will recognize that they are brothers, a fellowship in spirit and united, and on that day the world shall be one. So the Sacred Service dramatizes a spiritual journey taken by all people."

Coupled with Bernstein's Chichester Psalms, the concert should be a highlight of the new season. April 2013 concert planned.

### \$\$\$ to charities

**Vocal Artistry** donated about \$10,000 to their various community non-profit organizations this past season. The group partnered with several other groups to raise awareness for their causes while raising money. Their 2012-2013 season will be a continuation of the partnership concerts for charity according to spokesperson, Kathleen Taylor.

### The Ave Maria University Choruses and the Symphonic Chorale of Southwest Florida

donated in excess of \$5,000 to the Coalition of Immokalee Workers via Interfaith Action of Southwest Florida. The funds were raised through two joint concerts given by the organizations in March. Both choruses are under the direction of Dr. Timothy McDonnell.