

Sotto Voce



Another Voice of the Cumberland Oratorio Singers

Opus 2, May 2004

Spring Fundraiser Succeeds and Entertains!

A crowd of nearly 70 music lovers gathered at the Arts Center on Saturday, March 27, for the Cumberland Oratorio Singers' annual fundraiser. The program was developed by the COS Board of Directors as a "Serenade to Spring." It featured five exceptional musical talents from the Cumberland County area and netted the organization just under \$1,100!

Lorna Case, a soprano with COS, opened the program with three works, including Fauré's *Les Berceaux*, Mozart's Aria from *Die Zauberlöte*, and Handel's Aria from *Samson*. She was accompanied by Pianist Jennie Renner and Trumpeter Geron Gambill.

Next on the program was David Duke, a tenor and member of the faculty of the Methodist College Music Department. His selections included four classical pieces and concluded with "The Impossible Dream," from *Man of La Mancha*, and Aaron Copland's "I Bought Me a Cat." He was accompanied on the piano by his wife, Charis, a highly talented musician in her own right.

Denise Payton, soprano, with Pianist Janice James, performed three arias by Giacomo Puccini, Richard Wagner, and Carlisle Floyd. She concluded her magnificent offering with "The Sovereign" by Carol Antrom. Ms. Payton is the director of the Heritage Restoration Chorale.

Guillermo "Bill" Ayerbe, violinist extraordinaire, accompanied by Pianist Jennie Renner, played four pieces by Fritz Kreisler. Although he apologized before starting the final selection, suggesting he might have a little difficulty fingering the strings, he performed the "Praeludium and Allegro" beautifully!

Jeanne Ennis, a frequent soprano soloist with COS, sang Gounod's Aria from *Faust*, Mozart's Aria from *Le Nozze di Figaro*, and Mozart's "Alleluia." She was accompanied by Alice Ann Moore, pianist.



Mary and Clay Potter welcome guests and help with beverages.

Guests were treated to a glorious array of heavy hors d'oeuvres and beverages before the entertainment began. Cynthia Green, Nancy Graves, and Terry Levitt provided the food. Bob Wolters made arrangements to use the Arts Center building, and Elaine Bryant sought donations for beverages. A committee of Julia Kelly, Mary Potter, Mary Ann Coffield, Kathy Dickson, and Gert Eyman handled tickets and decorations.



Soprano Jeanne Ennis performs for the COS "Serenade to Spring."



*"We enrich the life of the community through classical choral music."
Founded in 1991*

Board of Directors

Alan Porter	Conductor
Cynthia Green	President
Mary Ann Coffield	Vice President
Nancy Graves	Secretary
Kathy Dickson	Treasurer
Julia Kelly	Publicity
June Lancaster	Grant Writer
Mary Potter	Corresponding Secy.
Gert Eyman	Newsletter Editor
Elaine Bryant	
Robert W. Williams	
Bob Wolters	

Leadership Team

John Fields	Tenor
Terry Levitt	Bass
Hannelore Otten	Alto
Elaine Porter	At-Large
Myrtle Pringle	Soprano

About COS

The Cumberland Oratorio Singers are volunteers who pay dues and purchase their own music scores. Financial support for the organization is derived from the contributions of individuals, local businesses, and grants from the Arts Council, Cumberland Community Foundation, and others.

The principal expense of COS is the stipends for visiting soloists and orchestra personnel. Methodist College provides the use of Reeves Auditorium and rehearsal facilities.

**Cumberland Oratorio Singers
% Methodist College
5400 Ramsey Street
Fayetteville, NC 28311**

Visit our website:

**www.methodist.edu/cos/cos.htm
Arleen Fields, Webmaster**

News from Your Board

It's annual meeting time for the Board, and that means it's time to elect new members! According to our Bylaws, we are to maintain a level of at least twelve members with the Singers electing four new members each year. The new members will serve a three-year term. The purpose of the staggered terms, of course, is to maintain continuity. At the same time, we want to seek diversity in our nominees to bring a variety of perspectives to the Board. Each new member, then, will bring a fresh opinion based on his or her life experiences. Ideally, the new members will have different talents and skills, some bringing graphic creativity, others new promotional skills, audience intuition, or fundraising expertise, and still others who have access to outside resources for our various needs.

Again according to our Bylaws, our vice-president Mary Ann Coffield is in charge of the nominating process.

"Please help us by asking friends you know who have skills such as the above or others that you think would be valuable to the Board if they will allow their names to be entered in

nomination for a three-year term," she asks. "Then write down a few words describing your nominee. We'll put all the names and their brief bios on a ballot for distribution and voting during rehearsal Monday, May 17. We'll need to have your nominations by the Monday, May 10th rehearsal."

Current members who are leaving the Board this year are Cynthia Green, Julia Kelly, Bob Wolters, Elaine Bryant, and Robert Williams.

Mother's Day Concert

Our own Lorna Case will present a Mother's Day Concert Sunday, May 9, at 4 p.m. with her own mother, Dr. Barbara Case, as her accompanist.

Admission is free for the concert, to be held at the Hay Street United Methodist Church.

Among the musical selections are Bach-Busoni Chaconne in D Minor, Zez Comfrey, and Arias by Mozart, Puccini, Strauss, and Handel.



Lorna Case

Season's Offerings Provided Variety!

Cumberland Oratorio Singers added spice to the 2003-2004 concert season with music ranging from Haydn, Handel, and Mozart to a musical spoof by P.D.Q. Bach and music of the Broadway Stage! They began the season in November with Haydn's "Lord Nelson Mass," also known as the "Coronation" or "Imperial" mass, followed on the same program by "The Seasonings." The latter selection included slide whistles, kazoos, a foghorn, "tromboon," and a "windbreaker." The audience did seem to enjoy the deviation!

We collaborated with the Fayetteville Symphony in December for a Holiday Pops Concert and held our annual walk-in Messiah two days later. Our Mozart "Requiem" in March drew a good crowd, as did Dr. Sue Snyder's pre-concert lecture. It was almost déjà vu for Director Alan Porter, who spawned the chorale with the same music in 1991 following his sabbatical study of Mozart. In fact, a few of those who sang in the first performance joined us for this glorious repeat.



Rapt attention during rehearsal for Mozart's Requiem!

Our final concert of the season promises to be different and fun. Our "Music of the Broadway Stage" will be held at an unusual time for us: it will be Saturday, May 22, at 4 p.m., still at Reeves Auditorium. Please help us promote the concert by telling your friends, family, and co-workers about it. We'd love to see a big crowd help us conclude a fun and rewarding season.



Conductor Alan Porter makes a point during rehearsal for the Mozart's Requiem.

Consider Our Endowment

The Cumberland Community Foundation manages endowments established to support nonprofit organizations in southeastern North Carolina. And COS is one of them!

Our endowment was established to provide a stable basis for our financial needs and to ensure the continuation of our mission: "To enrich the life of the community through classical choral music."

The Foundation offers consistent stewardship, professional investment management, and effective administration. Each year, the investment income will provide financial support to our organization.

Please consider a tax-deductible gift to the Foundation in COS' name.

Leadership Team Draws Kudos from Singers

Thirty-seven questionnaires evaluating the structure and effectiveness of the 2003-2004 COS Leadership Team were returned. The general consensus was extremely positive and reflected an overwhelming vote of confidence. Current members are Hannelore Otten, alto; John Fields, tenor; Myrtle Pringle, soprano; Terry Levitt, bass; and Elaine Porter, at-large.

Most respondents said there should be five members on the team - as there are now: one from each section plus an at-large member. Their term(s) should begin either in May or September to be ready for the fall season, and the terms should be for one or two years to allow some continuity among the members. They should be elected by sections except for the at-large member. As for other comments, someone suggested they might provide light refreshments at the beginning of the season and when extra (Saturday) rehearsals are called.

The evaluation form indicates the team has done or is doing the following: recorded membership, accepted dues, distributed music, handled communications to singers, planned the end-of-year meeting, determined concert dress, set up concert decorations, planned social activities, set up the post-Messiah reception, and helped with publicity.

Several respondents indicated a need to clarify the role of section leaders and, for that matter, the Board of Directors. In response to that suggestion, we offer the following brief list of functions for each:

Section leaders are responsible for taking attendance at rehearsals, keeping an up-to-date roster, and calling their section personnel when rehearsal dates need to be changed for some reason such as inclement weather, or if they miss several rehearsals. They also maintain contact with those who may be ill or have a family situation that calls for a card or other type of acknowledgement. Section leaders are Su Vick, alto; Margaret Wilson, soprano; Justin Schwamm, tenor; and A.J. Macks II, bass.

The **Board of Directors** handle business affairs such as entering into contracts or securing grants. They also develop and conduct fund raisers; manage receipts, drafts, and expenditures; promote and publicize the organization; correspond with benefactors; and, in general, provide a base of support for the singers.

Alan Porter, as an ex-officio member of the Board, arranges the venue for rehearsals and performances, secures music scores, auditions singers, schedules and conducts rehearsals, and conducts performances. Board of Director members are Elaine Bryant, Mary Ann Coffield, Kathy Dickson, Gert Eyman, Nancy Graves, Cynthia Green, Julia Kelly, June Lancaster, Mary Potter, Robert W. Williams, and Robert Wolters.

We welcome your comments or suggestions. Please give them to a member of the Leadership Team. A representative of the Team will attend the next Board of Directors meeting and report any comments or suggestions.

CLIP AND SAVE

Tentative Schedule for 2004-2005 Season

First Rehearsal	August 23, 2004
First Concert*	October 24, 2004
Third Concert	March 13, 2005
Fourth Concert*	May 14, 2005

Dates for the December Holiday Concert with the Fayetteville Symphony Orchestra and the walk-in Messiah are not yet known.

*The first concert may be the Duruflé or Fauré Requiem. The fourth may be a Gilbert and Sullivan type musical.