

# High Notes

## Chapel Hill Community Chorus

### Meet the composer – Giuseppe Di Bianco

Born in Naples, Italy, Giuseppe Di Bianco is an accomplished composer, pianist, and conductor. As a composer with a particular interest in choral composition, Giuseppe Di Bianco has gained international recognition with successes in more than a dozen composition competitions and with many performances in Italy, Central Europe, and the US.

Signore Di Bianco has lectured on musical topics as diverse as “Musica Poetica by J. Burneister” at the University of Salerno and “Linguaggi, inventio, percorsi critici tradizione e contemporaneità” at the 36<sup>th</sup> European Conference on Musical Education and Choral music in Gorizia.

He currently serves as Musical Director of Cultural Associations at the Art Academy of Capri and at Atellana of Maiori on the Amalfi Coast. Sig. Di Bianco came to the attention of conductor Sue Klausmeyer when the Carolina International Chorus traveled to Maiori, Italy, his hometown. The choir performed his *Salmo 148* in several concerts in Italy and Signore Di Bianco offered to arrange two Italian carols for the CHCC “Italian Christmas” concert.

On December 21<sup>st</sup>, CHCC’s vocal ensemble Cantari will perform two additional selections by Sig. Di Bianco - *Ave Maria* and *In laude*, which was broadcast on WCPE during Ken Hoover’s Sacred Music telecast on September 21<sup>st</sup>.



Sig.. Di Bianco

November 2008

Volume 3, Issue 2

#### Inside this issue:

|                            |   |
|----------------------------|---|
| Meet Signore Di Bianco     | 1 |
| Time for Pecans!           | 1 |
| Post-concert reception     | 2 |
| Notes on Di Bianco’s music | 2 |
| LTD Committee              | 3 |
| In Memoriam                | 3 |
| Concert flowers            | 3 |
| Spring dates to remember   | 4 |

### It’s time for Pecans!

Mary Clyde Bugg and Jane Pahner hope for 100% participation in this important fundraiser for our beloved chorus. Therefore, we really need everyone to think of someone who would appreciate an item from the delicious menu of pecan products we have enjoyed for years! You may be that person yourself - or you might just post that attractive order form at work! There are also relatives and neighbors who will need fresh N.C. pecans for holiday cooking.

Extra order forms can be found at rehearsals or on our website. Additionally, you - and anyone else - may email or call Jane or Mary Clyde at the numbers below to make an order. We will acknowledge your order and answer any questions. We can also make special arrangements for delivery.

The December shipment will arrive before the rehearsal on Tuesday, December 9, but the order deadline is Tuesday, December 2. You may include a check to CHCC with your order, or pay at the pickup - which will be on the 9th at Binkley Memorial Baptist church, from 5:30 pm until after rehearsal. We look forward to seeing you at pecan pickup time! -Mary Clyde Bugg

Mary Clyde Bugg 489-5041 maryclydeb@earthlink.net

Jane Pahner 969-7676 japahner@yahoo.com

#### Mimi’s Pecan Pie

4 Tablespoons melted butter (1/2 stick)

1/4 cup canned evaporated milk

2 cups (packed) light brown sugar

3 eggs, beaten

1 teaspoon vanilla extract

1/2 cup chopped pecans

Mix well and pour into unbaked 9-inch pie shell. Decorate top with pecan halves. Bake for 45 to 55 minutes at 325 degrees.

## Post-concert reception with Giuseppe Di Bianco

On Friday night, December 19, following the concert (approximately 10:00) until approximately 11:15 p.m., CHCC will hold a reception in the University Room of Hyde Hall on the UNC campus. Our guest of honor will be composer Giuseppe Di Bianco. Wine, cider, and delicious desserts will be served. The cost is \$25 per person; tickets are required and only 100 are available due to space restrictions.

The reception is being held to celebrate our concerts and the holiday season. Any money raised beyond what is needed to cover the cost of the reception will be used to defray the costs of the spring concert. This reception offers a unique opportunity to meet a visiting composer - one who composed three of our December pieces, one of them just for us! Even the Carolina International Choir singers (those CHCCers who went to Italy last summer and sang one of his pieces) didn't get to meet him. Invitations will be issued to Symphonic and Cantari members, past and current donors, and the names on the *Share the Music* forms.

The reception will take place in Hyde Hall on the UNC campus because that is a short walk from Hill Hall and has a

lovely space. It can only accommodate 100 attendees, however, so purchasing tickets early is a must! Unfortunately, due to the service of wine, no one under 21 will be admitted, per UNC policy.

Tickets will be available from Board members at rehearsal starting November 18<sup>th</sup> as well as at the CHCC website (payment through Paypal). Come celebrate the season and our accomplishments with Signore Di Bianco on Friday, December 19!

### Still not sure? Here is our proposed menu of desserts, to be served buffet-style:

**Carrot cake, chocolate cupcakes with icing, gingerbread or gingerbread cake, Cheesecake with cherries, fruit tart, sugared cranberries, assorted cookies (chocolate chip, Christmas sugar, peanut butter), assorted cheeses and fruits**

**Wine, hot cider, soft drinks, coffee, water**

*Buon appetito!*

## Composer's notes on our three Di Bianco pieces

### *Salmo 148 (Psalm 148)*

This piece was written for a composition contest sponsored by the Evangelic-Lutheran community of Naples in 2008. The central section of my motet features insistent rhythmic patterns which occur in frequently changing meters with a fluctuating melodic line creating a lively sense of motion and energy. This happens in stark contrast to the "incipit" (opening notes) of a Gregorian chant used at the beginning, in a central section, and in the final climax of the piece. *Salmo 148* won the "Franco Caracciolo" prize in the choral composition for sacred text settings. And the Carolina International Chorale, on their Italian tour in June 2008, performed it in the duomo of my hometown in Maiori.

### *Tu Scendi Dalle Stelle (You come down from the stars)*

Among all traditional Italian Christmas carols, I believe that this simple lullaby may be the best known. I remember my family singing this carol around the "presepe" (manger) on Christmas Eve in celebration of our Lord's birth. The original composer of the carol, Saint Alfonso Maria

de'Liguori, was a Neapolitan bishop and composer (1696-1787) who lived in Pagani, a town in the province of Salerno, which overlooks the Amalfi Coast and is near my home. I have chosen new harmonies for this traditional carol.

### *Venite, exultemus (Come, let us adore Him)*

This piece was written for the final scene of "Rabbuni," a 13-scene sacred drama for solo, choir and chamber orchestra. The last scene focuses on the Resurrection of the Lord, celebrated in the night of Easter, the holy night that "rejoins the earth to the sky and the man to his creator" (Exultet).

While listening to *Venite, Exultemus*, we hear, in a certain sense, the history of our lives permeated by the light of faith. On the eve of Easter, Christians celebrate the glorious night, "the party of parties," the richest of teachings: benediction of the new fire, exaltation of the light in the Easter candle, reading of the prophecies, the water's benediction, administration of the baptism, renewal of the baptismal promises, and the deep mystery of the resurrection.

-Giuseppe Di Bianco

### Cantari Concerts:

**Sunday, December 7, 2008 -- First Presbyterian Church, Durham -- 4:00 PM**

**Saturday, December 13, 2008 -- Binkley Baptist Church, Chapel Hill -- 7:30 PM**

## What is the Long Term Development Committee and why do we need one?

On my desk right now are several solicitations: from my college, my graduate school, the Inter-Faith Council, the Berkshire Choral Festival, and from two radio stations. Clearly, CHCC is not alone in needing funds to operate. The Long Term Development (LTD) committee is the Board committee in charge of raising money each year through individual donations, grants, and events.

In the past few years Sue has helped CHCC achieve higher quality in our performances. She has been supported by a Board of Directors that shares the values of choral excellence, education

and training of singers, outreach into our community, responsible financial management, and planning programming at least three years into the future. The LTD committee was formed at the time of the chorus's 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary, to identify and cultivate sources of funding that will allow CHCC to carry out its mission.

The Board of Directors and Sue do a skillful job of managing our budget. For instance, our orchestras feature a mixture of professional, semi-professional, and talented student musicians. Our soloists accept far less from us than they can command for perform-

ances with other groups, and we always try to barter ads in the program for services such as flowers for the soloists, conductor, and accompanist. Better publicity, and outreach such as Cantari's performances around the region and our collaboration with the Chapel Hill Philharmonia and the NC Boys' Choir are leading to greater ticket sales. But achieving choral excellence also means that we have to invest in our orchestra players, soloists, and venues. For example, we love performing in Memorial Hall but it costs us

*(continued on page 4)*

## In memory of Don Clifford (1935-2008)

Who is the ideal chorister? It is a singer with a fine voice, who loves choral music, who is versatile, faithful in attendance, loyal to the chorus, willing and able to sing solos when needed, and personable to everyone. Don Clifford personified these qualities. His avocation was music, and his profession was Professor of Law. He sang with the chorus from 1980-2007, and he served on the CHCC Board from 2003-2006. Don sang in the first concert of CHCC in December, 1980, and continued to

sing with us for the next 26 years! His performances with the CHCC included approximately 52 concerts from 1980 through the spring performance of Elijah in 2007, Don's last concert.

Over the years, Don's contributions to CHCC were protean. In the 1980's, he sang solos in whatever range was needed: tenor, baritone, and bass. In two 1984 and 1985 concerts, he sang baritone solos. In 1986-87, when he was one of only nine basses, he sang the

bass solo, Deep River.. The 1988 winter concert, featuring John Rutter's Requiem, was performed by forty three singers. In this concert, Don was not only one of four tenors, but also sang a baritone solo.

We are grateful for Don's sense of humor, for his leadership, for his voice of reason, for his friendship, and especially for his singing. He was the ideal chorister. He will be missed.

*-Pat Brooks*

---

**Don't forget—we will have rehearsal on Tuesday night, November 25th!**

---

## “FLAHLWS”...

...or FLOWERS, as my children used to call them! We decorate ourselves and our auditorium with them at this time of year.

We start by placing small, deep red poinsettia plants along the edge of the stage at Hill Hall for our Holiday Concert. They cost \$5 or so at your local supermarket. If everyone in the chorus buys and brings one to the final dress rehearsal, we're good. More than one plant is fine, and if someone wants to

bring a bigger red one for the middle or the ends, that's fine too. Just please bring them! They look lovely, and really enhance our appearance. Label your plants for pickup after the concert on the 20<sup>th</sup>.

We also give bouquets to our soloists, the conductor, and the accompanist at the final concert on Dec. 20. This presentation has traditionally been carried out beautifully by well-dressed children between the ages of 5 and 10,

give or take. So we need five of these people, if possible, to come a little ahead of time on the 20<sup>th</sup> to be shown the ropes. Please contact Jim Wright in the bass section, or 479-5201 or [pwright011@nc.rr.com](mailto:pwright011@nc.rr.com) ASAP.

Your children or grandchildren do this just fine!

*- Jim Wright*

---

## Chapel Hill Community Chorus

P. O. Box 3011  
Chapel Hill, NC 27515



[www.chapelhillcommunitychorus.org](http://www.chapelhillcommunitychorus.org)

Editor, Pam Perreault  
[pamp@nc.rr.com](mailto:pamp@nc.rr.com)

---

### Important Dates for Spring Singing

**Nov. 1—30:** Registration for returning members; no audition required

**Dec. 1:** Registration opens for all. Auditions required; space might be limited

**Jan 2:** Deadline for online registration and for financial aid requests

**Jan 5:** Auditions

**Jan. 13:** First rehearsal, registration, music distribution, fee collection, etc. (beginning early at 6:45 pm)

**May 16:** Spring Concert, Memorial Hall

---

---

## Long Term Development—*continued*

(even with our UNC connections) \$3,500 per performance. The orchestras for our fall and spring concerts will cost approximately \$23,000. Singers pay for their own music, but we try to provide scholarships for all those who need them and would like to do more in this area. Renting rehearsal space costs \$1,000 per semester; an accompanist costs \$2,000 for the semester.

CHCC has reached a point at which our fundraising needs to more closely match our artistic vision. The cost of the orchestra alone (not our conductor, accompanist, soloists, rehearsal space, or the fee for Memorial Hall) for the spring 2009 concert represents almost 800 tickets at \$15 per ticket! For the past two years, ad sales

(\$5,362 last year) have fallen short of what was budgeted (\$7,400), so that we lost money because printing the program cost over \$6,000 (\$6,404 last year). Raising our ticket prices and member dues risk making us inaccessible to our core.

To have a choral group of the caliber we desire – one that performs in Memorial Hall, commissions choral works, hires professional soloists and has a conductor of Sue's talent – requires that we increase our fundraising efforts to match our artistic results. Like other area arts organizations – including other choruses – we ask our various stakeholder groups to show their love of and commitment to choral

music in many ways. The LTD committee's role in the organization is to help every member articulate his/her passion for choral music and for being a part of the chorus. We welcome your energy and ideas!

-Kristi Webb