

An occasional publication of Carolina Pro Musica

Carolina Counterpoint

Charlotte's early music source for 31 years.



Karen Hite Jacob, editor

Artists-in-residence Belmont Abbey College, Belmont, NC

Summer 2008

Season includes guest lutenist

Belmont native Steve Ellington joins Carolina Pro Musica for an evening of Renaissance delights on our April concert. Steve Ellington, lutenist, holds a Master of Arts degree from Appalachian State University and studied music history at the University of Graz in Austria. While at Appalachian, he directed the Early Music Consort and taught as an adjunct faculty member. Long involved with sacred choral music, he has sung with choral groups in the U.S. and Europe. He is past director of the choral ensemble Cantores Pastoris which performed in the U.S. and Great Britain. Steve performed music for the installation of the abbot of Belmont Abbey in 1970, directed Cantores Pastoris at Norwich Cathedral for mass and evensong in 1999. His lute is a seven course Elizabethan style instrument built by George Kelischek of North Carolina. The program includes music from Shakespeare's plays to the wonderfully melancholy songs of John Dowland.



Steve and his lute

Ruth steps up to help

For many years Carolina Pro Musica has had enthusiastic support from Ruth Barrett and husband, Joe. Ruth, a former US airways flight attendant on the Frankfurt-Charlotte route, is fluent in German having received a Masters degree in the language from the University of South Carolina. Ruth sings and plays flute so she was naturally the person to call upon when Carolina Pro Musica launched a project involving music of Moravian composers and J.S. Bach, all in the German language. As most are aware, Carolina Pro Musica strives to pronounce texts as close as possible to the original sounds of the time. For example, we have sung in 15th c. Catalan and various forms of medieval Latin to name a few. However, with so much German, especially Bach works, we decided some assistance might be helpful. Here is where Ruth came in. We knew she coached and tutored in German and had helped local German businesses. We were not aware of the depth of her knowledge nor her ability to not only demonstrate but explain in detail the concepts behind the pronunciation. Since Bach treats all musical lines as equal (that is, the voice is simply another instrument), his texts often have acrobatic music associated with them. This can add to pronunciation problems as the singer tries to make the words sound much like the spoken language while singing multiple pitches on the same syllable. Again, Ruth was a great help. She listened as we rehearsed, pointing out the few places that could use extra attention. Our rehearsals with her were educational for the whole ensemble as our 'ears' are now more attuned. Our audiences can appreciate Ruth's efforts and expertise this season on a couple of our concerts. Thank you, Ruth! Should you need assistance with the German language or German/English matters, contact Carolina Pro Musica and we'll put Ruth in touch with you.



Ruth Barrett

2008-09 Concert Season

September 13, 2008. *Impassioned - music of Italy*
Cantatas by A. Scarlatti and Hasse (premiere), sonatas by Mancini and more. Part of Charlotte's Cultural Free for All. Students admitted free this concert.

October 17, 2008. *High Baroque: Bach & Rameau*
Great 18th century composers demonstrate their musical understanding and skills in vocal and instrumental works.

December 13, 2008. *Christmas at St. Mary's*
Annual Holiday concert with 18th century music, carols for all to sing, readings of the season. Tomm Lorenzin narrates.

February 7, 2009. *Dreams & Visions*
Music in 18th c. England by native and immigrant composers including Pepusch, Handel, Arne and Corelli.
April 3, 2009. *Love & Loss & Desire*
Ayres & Dances from the Time of Queen Elizabeth I with Steve Ellington, lute.

Concerts begin at 8:00 PM.

Venue: St. Martin's Episcopal, 1510 East Seventh St., Charlotte 28204 Christmas concerts: 7:00 & 8:30 PM, St. Mary's Chapel, 1129 E. Third St., 28204.

NEW Citipass Books are HERE!

We are selling Citipass Books which include two-for-one food and entertainment coupons including Carolina Pro Musica concerts! These will be available at our September and October concerts or you can call or email us to buy one. Rebecca is chair for this project.



Opera Carolina, Carolina Pro Musica - together again

At Opera Carolina's October, 2005 Fall Gala, three lucky winners were the highest bidders for a special Italian dinner cooked and served in their homes by Maestro James Meena, director of Opera Carolina. Carolina Pro Musica was asked to provide a baroque music prelude to the dinners, performing during the appetizers course. (Edible appetizers with a musical appetizer!). The success of these brought repeat requests at the Opera's 2006 Gala and 2007. In total Opera Carolina and Carolina Pro Musica have partnered for seven dinners so far. News of the success of these has grown as the dinners generate more funds for Opera Carolina each year. The partnership continues.



Eddie and Rebecca following an opera dinner performance.

Carolina Pro Musica & its members - on the road

The ensemble performed January 2008 at the SC Museum of the Arts, Columbia, SC and gave a concert with William Feasley, theorbo, at Belmont Abbey College in February. Eddie Ferrell played recorder on a Bach Brandenburg Concerto in Winston-Salem in June. Holly Maurer was part of the staff at Mountain Collegium held at Western Carolina University in late June. Rebecca has performed for several weddings this summer.

Our Past Season supporters:

The Common Market Deli, J. L. Smith & Co. (Flutes); Brenneman Thompson Properties: Harriet Line Thompson, realtor; Royal Gardens; MarketRate Financial Services: Skip O'Neal; Mation Engineering; Synapses; St. Martin's Episcopal
Celebrate with us with an advertisement for 2008-09.

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Check out our website!

for information about music for weddings, anniversaries, and dinners, private lessons (recorder, viol, voice, keyboard) or additional concerts. Learn about the Ann T. Hite Fund for Education, make contributions, or buy compact disks - all on-line.

(right) CPM at the well , Old Salem, Winston-Salem, NC



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