

History: I Cantori - Savannah, Georgia

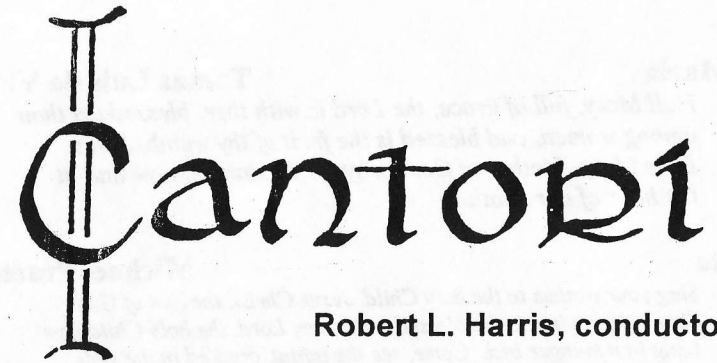
I Cantori, Savannah's professional vocal chamber ensemble, was founded in 1991 by its current conductor, Dr Robert L. Harris. The group, which consists of 24 auditioned singers, has devoted itself to the performance of quality choral literature, and has specialized in seeking out unusual repertoire. They have presented Renaissance Christmas programs, a concert of music by Spanish composers, concerts of music by American composers, and two programs made up entirely of music by women composers.

Because of a concern about the questionable quality of a great deal of the new choral music being published today, *I Cantori* has made a strong commitment to bringing newly composed choral music of high quality to the repertoire. To that end *I Cantori* has embarked upon an active program of commissioning new compositions by leading choral composers and making it available to the choral community through the I Cantori Series of choral music published by National Music Publishers.

The Requiem setting by the leading Czech composer Zdeněk Lukáš was given its American premiere in 1993. In 1995 the group premiered Four Fragments from John Donne by Daniel Pinkham, and in 1996 commissioned Williametta Spencer's And the White Rose Is A Dove.

I Cantori has also premiered new choral compositions by the Czech-American composer Vaclav Nelhybel, Peter Schickele, Vera Kistler, Eugene Butler, Randall Reese, Robert Young and James Mulholland, and Vijay Singh. Next season, our 15th, will feature several new works commissioned for the anniversary celebration.

Dr. Harris has also edited a number of works from the Italian Baroque which have received their first modern performance by *I Cantori*. Among the composers who have received long awaited premiers are Alessandro Scarlatti, Nicola Porpora and Francesco Durante. These works also appear in the *I Cantori Series* which now has more than 45 works in the catalogue.



Robert L. Harris, conductor

presents

15th Annual Christmas Concert

St. Paul's Episcopal Church

December 18, 2005

Ave Maria**Tomas Luis de Victoria**

*Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee, blessed art thou
among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.
Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at
the hour of our death.*

Psallite**Michael Praetorius**

*Sing your psalms to the holy Child, Jesus Christ, the Son of God.
Sing your psalms to the blessed redeemer, Lord, the holy Child now
lying in a manger bed. Come, see the infant, cradled in the stall.
Angel hosts in heaven fall before the holy Child.*

Es ist ein Ros entsprungen

*Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming, from tender stem hath sprung!
Of Jesse's lineage coming as men of old have sung.
It came a flow'ret bright, amid the cold of winter,
When half spent was the night.
Isaiah 'twas foretold it, the Rose I have in mind,
With Mary we behold it, the Virgin Mother kind.
To show God's love a right she bore to men a saviour,
When half spent was the night.*

There Is no Rose of Such Virtue**Robert H. Young****While By Our Flock****trad. Germany****Coventry Carol****trad. England****In the Bleak Mid-Winter****Gustav Holst**

Mary Catherine Mousourakis, soprano

Thy Nativity (Syria)**arr. David Düsing**

Denise Norman, mezzo-soprano

*We bow down in worship and to praise Thee, o Lord, our God.
Thy birth giveth rise to enlighten the truths Thou bringeth to the
world. For all of them who worshipped the stars did learn to
worship Thee, o Son of Justice, and to know from the east and of
the highest, o Thou didst come. O Lord, glory to Thee.*

Dona Nobis Pacem**Zdeněk Lukáš****World Premier Performance**

*This day give us peace. The angel said to the shepherds: I bring
you tidings of great joy. Alleluia! For unto you is born this day the
saviour of the world.. Alleluia! Today Christ is born; today the
saviour has appeared. Today the angels sing, the archangels
rejoice. Glory to God in the highest. Alleluia! Give us peace. Amen.*

intermission**How Far Is It To Bethlehem (England)****arr. McCullough****Carol of the Drum****Katherine K. Davis****Ritsch, Ratsch, Filibom! (Sweden)****arr. David Düsing****Stille Nacht (original version)****Franz Xaver Gruber**

Ray Ellis, jr, tenor

Randy Canady, tenor

Del Weeks, guitar

I Wonder As I Wander**arr. John Jacob Niles**

Billy Wooten, tenor

Away in a Manger**arr. Shaw/Parker****The Twelve Days of Christmas (England)****arr. Ian Humphris****Jingle Bells (Savannah)****arr. William Llewellyn****personnel**

Donna Berry

Greg Martin

Dan Bolta

Mary Catherine Mousourakis

Peggy Breese

Denise Norman

Randy Canady

Amanda Phillips

Jan Curtis

Catherine Rogers

Raymond R. Ellis, jr.

Ted Seamen

Rachel Finley

Heather Smith

Mari Harris

Jack van Eck

Edie Hockspeier

Dell Weeks

Gene L. Jarvis

Billy Wooten

Karin Kanneberg

Jim Worrell

Matthew Kanneberg