

# Cantopi

Robert L. Harris, conductor  
Melissa Livengood, piano

presents

## *A Choral Bouquet*

June 4 - Wesley Monumental  
United Methodist Church

1992  
June 5 - Skidaway Island  
United Methodist Church

## program

### English Madrigals:

Flora Gave Me Fairest Flowers	John Wilbye
Whither So Fast?	Thomas Bateson
Now Is the Gentle Season	Thomas Morley
Upon a Bank	John Ward
Lady, When I Behold the Roses	John Wilbye

**And the White Rose Is a Dove** Williametta Spencer  
(commissioned by I Cantori)

#### A White Rose

The red rose whispers of passion, And the white rose breathes of love;  
Oh, the red rose is a falcon, And the white rose is a dove.

But I send you a cream-white rosebud, With a flush on its petal tips:  
For the love that is truest and sweetest Has a kiss of desire on the lips.

(John Boyle O'Reilly)

#### A Sick Rose

O Rose, thou art sick! The invisible worm  
That flies in the night, In the howling storm

Has found out thy bed of crimson joy,  
And his dark secret love Does thy life destroy. (William Blake)

#### The Rose Family

The Rose is a rose, and was always a rose,  
But the theory now goes, that the apple's a rose  
And the pear is, and so's The plum, I suppose  
The dear only knows What will next prove a rose.  
You, of course, are a rose - But you were always a rose. (Robert Frost)

#### How Roses Came Red

Roses at first were white. Till they could not agree  
Whether my Sappho's breast Or they more white should be.

But being vanquished quite, a blush their cheeks bespread;  
Since which, believe the rest, The roses first came red. (Robert Herrick)

#### Lay a Garland

Robert Pearsal

Lay a garland on her hearse Of dismal yew; Maidens, willow branches wear;  
Say she died true, Her love was false, but she was firm.  
Upon her buried body lie lightly, thou gentle earth.

## The Evening Primrose

Benjamin Britten

When once the sun sinks in the west, And dewdrops pearl the evening's breast;  
Almost as pale as moonbeams are, Or its companionable star,  
The evening primrose opes anew It's blossoms to the dew.

And hermit-like, shunning the light, Wastes it's fair bloom upon the night;  
Who blindfold to its fond caresses, Knows not the beauty he possesses.

Thus it blooms on while night is by; When day looks out with open eye,  
'Bashed at the gaze it cannot shun, It faints and withers and is gone.

## Ballad of Green Broom

There was an old man liv'd out in the wood,  
And his trade was a cutting of broom, green broom.  
He had but one son without thought without good  
Who lay in his bed till t'was noon, bright noon.

The old man awoke one morning and spoke  
He swore he would fire the room, that room  
If his John would not rise and open his eyes,  
And away to the wood to cut broom, green broom.

So Johnny arose and slipp'd on his clothes  
And away to the wood to cut broom, green broom.  
He sharpen'd his knives, and for once he contrives  
To cut a great bundle of broom, green broom.

When Johnny pass'd under a lady's fine house,  
Pass'd under a Lady's fine room, fine room  
She call'd to her maid: "Go fetch me," she said,  
"Go fetch me the boy that sells broom, green broom.

When Johnny came in to the Lady's fine house,  
And stood in the Lady's fine room, fine room,  
"Young Johnny" she said, "Will you give up your Trade  
And marry a lady in bloom, full bloom?"

Johnny gave his consent, and to church they both went,  
And he wedded the Lady in bloom, full bloom,  
At market and fair, all folks do declare,  
There's none like the Boy that sold broom, green broom.

i n t e r m i s s i o n

**Les Chansons des Roses**  
**En Une Seule Fleur**

**Morten Lauridsen**

It is we, perhaps, who proposed that you replenish your bloom.  
Enchanted by this charade, your abundance dared.

You were rich enough to fulfill yourself a hundred times over in a single  
flower; such is the state of one who loves...  
But you never did think otherwise.

**Contre Qui, Rose**

Against whom, rose, have you assumed these thorns?  
Is it your too fragile joy that forced you to become this armed thing?

But from whom does it protect you, this exaggerated defense?  
How many enemies have I lifted from you who did not fear it at all?  
On the contrary, from summer to autumn you wound the affection that is  
given you.

**De Ton Reve Trop Plein**

Overflowing with your dream, flower filled with flowers,  
wet as one who weeps, you bow to the morning.

Your sweet powers which still are sleeping in misty desire,  
unfold these tender forms joining cheeks and breasts.

**La Rose Complete**

I have such awareness of your being, perfect rose,  
that my will unites you with my heart in celebration.

I breathe you in, rose, as if you were all of life,  
and I feel the perfect friend of a perfect friend.

**Dirait-on**

Abandon surrounding agandon, tenderness touching tenderness...  
Your oneness endlessly caresses itself, so they say;

self-caressing through its own clear reflection.  
Thus you invent the theme of Narcissus fulfilled.

**Flower Duet from "Lakme"**

**Leo Delibes**

**Heidi Bindhammer, soprano**

**Amanda Crider, mezzo soprano**

Lakme, the daughter of a priest, and Mallika, her servant, find themselves  
savoring the lotus and jasmine blossoms in a sacred garden.

**My Wild Irish Rose**  
Lida Rose from "The Music Man"  
Mimi Witherington, soprano

**Olcott/Gray**  
Meredith Wilson

**When Daisies Pied**

**John Rutter**

When daisies pied and violets blue, And ladysmocks all silverwhite,  
And cuckoobuds of yellow hue Do paint the meadows with delight,  
The cuckoo then, on ev'ry tree, Mocks married men, for thus sings he,  
Cuckoo, cuckoo, O word of fear, Cuckoo, Cuckoo, unpleasing to a married ear!

When shepherds pipe on oaten straws, and merry larks are ploughman's clocks,  
When turtles tread, and rooks, and daws, And maidens bleach their summer smocks,  
The cuckoo then . . .

Whenas the rye reach to the chin, and chopcherry, chopcherry ripe within,  
And strawberries swimming in the cream, And schoolboys playing in the stream;  
Oh, oh, Oh, oh, my true love said, Until that time should come again  
She could not, could not live a maid.  
Cuckoo, cuckoo. O word of fear, Cuckoo, cuckoo, unpleasing to a married ear!  
Cuckoo, Cuckoo, loud sing cuckoo!

**I Cantori**

**soprano**

Heidi Bindhammer  
Peggy Breese  
Mari Harris  
Diane O'Brien  
Alysa Smith  
Mimi Witherington

**alto**

Amanda Crider  
Tonya Hillis  
Carla McCurry  
Suzanne Ricks  
Elizabeth van Beest  
Sonia Yoder

**tenor**

R. Gregory Canady  
Randall Canady  
Wayne Ealey  
Raymond R. Ellis  
Timothy L. Hall  
Billy Wooten

**bass**

Daniel C. Cohen  
Gene L. Jarvis  
Gregory Allen Johnson  
Preston Powers  
Nathaniel Roper  
Ira Ryan

**manager**  
**treasurer**

Diane O'Brien  
Raymond R. Ellis, jr.

# I Cantori Commissions

## New Compositions - Premiers

The 1998 Christmas concerts featured the first performances of a work commissioned from American composer, Robert H. Young. This is the seventh commission which the group has underwritten. Next season our commissioned composer will be James Mullholland followed in our 10th anniversary season by Robert A. Harris from Northwestern University.

After expenses all proceeds from ticket sales and donations go to support this project. The singers and the director donate their professional services. I Cantori welcomes your support for our ongoing project of commissioning new compositions by eminent choral composers. Significant donors can have their name included in the printed edition of the work when it is published. Any support is most welcome. For more information call 925-7866.

1993	Zdenek Lukas Francesco Durante	Requiem - American premier Laetatus Sum, Beatus Vir, Dixit Dominus - first modern performance
1995	Daniel Pinkham George Root  Eugene Butler	Four Fragments From John Donne* The Serenade; Blessing and Honor; Roll On, Majestic Ocean - first modern performance Three Spanish Ballades* SATB arrangement
1996	Williametta Spencer Vaclav Nelhybel Kevin Hampton	And the Wild Rose Is a Dove* Hodie* O Magnum Mysterium+
1997	Zdenek Lukas Vera Kistlerova Christopher Roper Francesco Durante	Praedicatio* Morning Star+ The Lord's Prayer+ Concorso Fatto - first modern performance
1998	Peter Schickele Zdenek Lukas Robert G. Canady Robert Young	Incantations* No Man Is an Island+ Psalm 23 - A Choral Paraphrase+ A Babe Is Born*
1999	Randall Reese	Of Crickets and Daffodils+

\*composer commissioned by I Cantori      +world premier performance

## **Benefactors**

**Jim and Melissa Emery**  
**Wachovia Bank**  
in memory of Rev. John W. Roper

## **Contributors**

**Experience Works! Staffing Service**  
**Gay and Maurice Gwinner**  
**Mark Holt**  
**Frances G. Piper**  
**E. Shaver**  
**The Shuttle - John Schoolfield**

## **I Cantori Scholarship in Choral Music at Armstrong Atlantic State University**

**1995-96 Sonia Yoder**  
**1996-97 Darren Harrison**  
**1997-98 Timothy Wheelles**  
**1998-99 Heather Besier**

Sponsorship contributions can be designated for use in support of the I Cantori Scholarship in Choral Music. This award, which covers full tuition for one year, goes to an outstanding music student at Armstrong Atlantic University who is preparing for a career in choral music. . The past winners are Sonia Yoder, who is in her first year of teaching as the choral director at Groves High School, Darren Harrison is serving locally as a Minister of Music, and Timothy Wheelles graduated this semester.

## **Acknowledgements**

**St. John's Episcopal Church**  
Fr. William Ralston, rector  
Kenneth Yates, choirmaster

**Skidaway Island United Methodist Church**  
Rev. Jim Giddens, minister  
Peggy Breese, director of music

**Fancy Plants**