

I Cantori

In December of 1991, with a concert of Christmas music, sixteen singers embarked on a journey which has now continued for 20 seasons. Founded by its current conductor, Dr. Robert L. Harris, the group has specialized in presenting concerts of diverse and unusual choral repertoire.

Over the years, *I Cantori* has presented such varied programs as a concert devoted to Spanish composers, several programs devoted to music by American composers, and two programs made up entirely of music by women composers. *I Cantori* has also presented a historically accurate performance of Handel's *Messiah*, and a fully staged performance of Gian Carlo Menotti's beloved Christmas opera, *Amahl and the Night Visitors*. *I Cantori* presented benefit concerts for the Lucas Theater renovation and Savannah's public radio station, WSVH.

For 19 years *I Cantori* has provided service music for the High Holy Days at Temple Mickve Israel. On several occasions the choir joined with the Savannah Symphony Orchestra on Masterworks concert, and on several occasions has had the privilege of performing on Hilton Head Orchestra concerts.

Due to 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* through National Music Publishers. Among the composers commissioned by the group are Daniel Pinkham, Peter Schickele, Williametta Spencer, James Mulholland, Vijay Singh, Robert Young, Vaclav Nelhybel, Bonia Shur, Randall Reese and the eminent Czech composer Zdeněk Lukáš. With the exception of Nelhybel who had passed away prior to the premier of his composition all of the composers came to Savannah to work with the group and attend the premier.

Also included in the series are early music editions prepared by Dr. Harris, including works by Alessandro Scarlatti, Nicola Porpora, Francesco Durante, Moravian duets by Antonín Dvorak, and a piece composed by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart at the age of nine. There are over 40 titles in the *I Cantori Series*, and may other works premiered and/or commissioned by *I Cantori* which appear with different publishers.

One guiding tenet of the group which calls itself "Savannah's Professional Choral Ensemble" is that no one in the group including the conductor is paid for their services. To *I Cantori* members "professional" is a commitment to excellence and that has been recompense enough.

I Cantori

Robert L. Harris, conductor

20TH ANNIVERSARY CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION

Friday, December 3 - 7:30 pm
St. Paul's Episcopal Church

Monday, December 6 - 7:30 pm
St. Peter's Episcopal Church

***I Cantori* – Savannah's premier chamber choir
1991 - 2010**

program

Hodie Christus natus est Hodie Christus natus est	Gregorian Niels la Cour
Psalte unigenito Es ist ein Ros entsprungen	Michael Praetorius
There Is No Rose of Such Virtue	Robert H. Young
Im Advent Weihnachten	Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy
The Lamb	John Tavener
Thy Nativity (Syria) Denise Norman, mezzo soprano	arr. David Düsing
Two Choruses from "Amahl and the Night Visitors" Karen Kanneberg, soprano Billy Wooten, tenor Raymond R. Ellis, jr., baritone Jack Van Eck, baritone	Gian Carlo Menotti
Christmas Intrada	David Conte

intermission

Ritsch, Ratsch, Filibom! (Sweden)	arr. Robert de Cormier
I Wonder As I Wander (USA)	John Jacob Niles Billy Wooten, tenor
How Far Is It To Bethlehem (USA)	James McCullough
Shepherds Loud Their Praises Singing	J. Harry Persse
Silent Night	Norman Dello Joio
Jingle Bells	arr. William Llewellyn
Have Yourself A Merry Little Christmas	Randy Canady, tenor arr. Ward Gailey

Personnel

soprano	tenor
Carol Benton	Randall Canady
Angelia Jernigan	George Fidler
Karin Kanneberg	George Longstreth
Ingrid Lelos	Jack Summers
Senja Petersen	Billy Wooten
Catherine Rogers	Grady Zittrouer
Kira White	
alto	bass
Peggy Breese	Dan Bolta
Jan Curtis	Raymond R. Ellis, jr.
Edie Hockspeier	Joshua Hanifin
Kenna Kinsey	Andrew Hillis
Susan McCain	Sanford Jones
Carla McCurry	Gregory Martin
Denise Norman	Jack Van Eck

Robert L. Harris, conductor
Susan McCain, piano
Carol Benton, piano