

The Village Voices Chorus

presents

Let Music Fill Your Soul!



Conductor: Dr. John T. Lowe, Jr.

Accompanist: Paul Hoffmann

North Lake Presbyterian Church

Tuesday, March 12, 2024

6:00 pm



Dr. JOHN T. LOWE, Jr. is a native of Lynchburg, Virginia. He received the Bachelor of Science degree in Organ Performance from Liberty University in 1993, the double Master of Music degree in Organ Performance and Choral Conducting from the University of Alabama in 1996, and the Doctor of Music degree in Organ Performance and Church Music from Indiana University, Bloomington, in 2005. His teachers include David Charles Campbell, George B. Clark, the late J. Warren Hutton, Larry Smith, and Christopher Young in organ, and Sandra Willetts in conducting. In September 2007, he assumed the duties of Director of Music and Organist at Gainesville, Florida's Holy Trinity Episcopal Church, where he oversees the parish music programs and plays the three-manual, forty-nine rank Visser-Rowland organ in liturgies and concerts. Since 2014 he has served as Conductor of The Village Voices Chorus, having accompanied the group from 2010-2014. He has also served as Dean and Sub-Dean of the Gainesville Chapter of the American Guild of Organists.

Previously, Dr. Lowe was Music Director and Organist at Ocala's First United Methodist Church from 2003-2007, the Artistic Director and Conductor of the Central Florida Master Choir, and Dean of the Ocala Chapter of the American Guild of Organists.

Dr. Lowe has been a prizewinner in local, regional, and national competitions. In 1991 he was first place winner of the American Guild of Organists Regional Competition for Young Organists in Annapolis, Maryland, and in 1996 the second place winner of the San Marino, California Organ Competition. In 1998 and 1999, he was one of 25 young artists invited to compete in both the opening rounds of the Calgary International Organ Competition and the American Guild of Organists' National Young Artists Competition in Organ Performance, respectively. He has performed recitals in Alabama, California, the District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Indiana, Maryland, Massachusetts, New York, Ohio, Tennessee, and Virginia. His accompanying engagements have taken him to the Czech Republic, Germany, Austria, New Zealand, and Australia.



Paul Hoffmann, pianist, arranger, composer and conductor, studied at the Eastman School and Peabody Conservatory, was a Fulbright Scholar studying at the "Mozarteum" in Salzburg, Austria, and at the Vienna Musikhochschule. Famous pianist, Rudolf Serkin, said of Hoffmann's playing, "He is a true artist." As a professor of classical piano, he taught piano performance at The Mason Gross School of the Arts at Rutgers University from 1980 to 2016. While there he served as piano department chair and conducted the Helix New Music Ensemble which he founded in 1990.

Hoffmann's main piano teachers were Leon Fleisher, famous Swiss pedagogue Cecile Genhart, Brooks Smith who was the accompanist of Yasha Heifitz, and many more. During his career, Mr. Hoffmann has performed hundreds of solo and chamber music concerts in North America, Europe and Asia. He has made over 30 recordings, has recorded live for U.S. radio stations in New York City (WNYC), and for foreign radio stations such as Radio Cologne, Radio Frankfurt, Radio France, and Voice of America.

PROGRAM

America

America, The Beautiful (Festival Edition)

Soloist: Sue Biondi

The Star-Spangled Banner
Salute to the Armed Forces

arr. Joseph Martin / David Angerman

arr. Eleanor Daley
arr. Camp Kirkland

Sacred

He Never Failed Me Yet

Soloists: Evangeline Taylor, Rhonda Heller

Like a River in My Soul
Praise God!

Robert Ray

arr. Tim Osiek / Dan Forrest
arr. Fred Bock

Pop

Tribute to Tina (Medley)
River Deep – Mountain High
What's Love Got to Do with It
Proud Mary

arr. Kirby Shaw

Poetry

Weep No More (John Keats)
Let the Music Fill Your Soul (Robert Bode)
Sing Gently (Eric Whitacre)

David Childs
Jacob Narverud
Eric Whitacre

Jazz & Blues

The Joint is Jumpin' (Ain't Misbehavin')

Soloists: Debbie Carter, Lyle Johnson

Blues Back to Back

Soloist: Roxie Jacobsen

arr. Mark Brymer

arr. Kirby Shaw

Broadway

Sondheim! A Choral Celebration

Comedy Tonight

Soloists: Ed Stromski, Jann Carr, Jeff Taylor, Barbara Carroll

Into the Woods

Soloists: Crystal Urosevich, David Flanigan

Putting It All Together

Soloists: Lyle Johnson, Barbara Carroll

Not While I'm Around

Soloist: Amy Cornwall-Robinson

Losing My Mind

Soloist: Susan Bartlett

Send in the Clowns

Company

The Little Things You Do Together

Soloists: Jann Carr, Lyle Johnson

Being Alive

Soloist: Jack Adams

arr. Mac Huff

Finale

I Was Created For Joy

Soloists: Ralph Gingery, Carol Guglielm

Bradley Ellingboe

Narration: Lisa Sullivan

The Village Voices Chorus

Soprano

Ann Barber
Susan Bartlett
Beth Beard
Sue Biondi
Carol Broos #
HC Burich
Joy Campbell *
Jann Carr
Barbara Carroll
Chris Colegrove
Amy Cornwall-Robinson

Marie Erline
R. Marcia Gould #
Carol Guglielm **
Marilyn Hanson
Rhonda Heller
Marjorie Hillman
Val Hirsch **
Julia Johansson
Sheila Jones
Donna Kagan **
Janet Kobar *

Carole Makus **
Cak Marshall
Angela May
Roxy Meloy
Mary Lou Merkner
Carolyn Moores *
Patricia Murphy
Jeanne Phillips
Sheila Phillips *
Cindy Poet **
Linda Rosalsky

Sally Schmidt *
Kathy Scott
Kathy Skolits
Pat Smith *
Evangeline Taylor
Cindy Van Lom
Sunny Watson
Teri Weed #
Pat Witzeman *
Diana Wygand **

Alto

Robin Ablett
Peg Burnett *
Debbie Carter *
Donna Cipollone *
Geryle Conway **
Peg Cunningham *
Ann Curton
Emily Dorman *
Sarah Dudak
Martha Ecker

Artie Ferrell
Rose Marie Heenan
Anne Hollinger **
Bobbie Huddle
Roxie Jacobson
Denise Johnson
Mary Jo Johnson *
Diane Jones *
Lynn Kelley
Jackie Knight

Martha Krichbaum
Janet Landry
Dee Logé-Wacker #
Margo McGinnis *
Carol McNeill
Peggy Mills
Mary Nadeau
Joan O'Donnell
Shirley Palazzo *
Linda Quinn

Cheryl Raynor
Carolyn Reichert
Kristine Smoker
Posie Stock *
Lisa Sullivan
Crystal Urosovich
Reina Wang
Mary Williams
Anne Wolpert
Vicki Yates #

Tenor

Karen Brown
Jerry Denor
David Flanigan *
Robert Hilkemann
Beverly Jeczalik

Lyle Johnson
David Kirk
David Lance
Tom Meloy #
Laurie Morrill

Ben Osborne *
Andy Phillips #
Tim Plenk
Jeremy Reynolds *
Jack Strite #

Bob Taylor *
Jeffrey Taylor

Bass

Jack Adams **
Dan Barnes
Brent Bierma *
Wayne Cunkelman **
Jim Cunningham *
Scott Downing *
Dave Fuller *

Dick Gainer
Ralph Gingery **
Clayton Heath
Al Hellwege *
Hank Hovemeyer
Stan Jacobs
Jim McQuiniff

David Paiga *
Gary Pratt
Virgil Reyes
Richard Ripp
Rocco Russomano
Dennis Smoker
Dick Stock *

John Stranges
Ed Stromski
Eldon Taylor
Gordon Temple
Lamar Young **

** Members for 20 or more years * Members for 10 or more years # Board Members

Instrumentalists

Trumpet

Dave Czohara
Gary Bakken

French Horn

Lesan VanSyckle

Trombone

Bob Greene

Tenor Sax

Pete Randazzo

Bass

Al Cheatham

Drums

Rod Jacob

A Tribute to Dr. John T. Lowe, Jr.

Dear John, Tom, and all my friends at The Village Voices Chorus,

I've been asked to provide a few words of greeting and thanks upon the occasion of John stepping down from the leadership of this wonderful chorus after 10 years at the helm. John, I know they're going to miss you. And who knows? If they're successful in their fundraising efforts to buy that corporate jet, you may still be flying forth and back from Alabama to Florida!

I have truly enjoyed our collaborations. I was honored when you scheduled my *Requiem* and then, creatively, thought to have it choreographed! Of all the many times I've been present at a performance of that work, that concert is one of my favorites.

And I was honored to be invited to write a piece in honor of The Village Voices' 25th anniversary. I'm delighted everyone enjoyed the piece. I wrote "I Was Created for Joy" before I met the singers, and it was serendipitous to find out, upon my arrival for the premiere, just how joyful the group truly is.

And I have no doubt their joyfulness in group singing is a testament to you, John, and your leadership. In my experience the spirit of a chorus is usually a reflection of their leader. You are very good at what you do, and you're joyful in the execution of your tasks.

I wish you well as you move on to the next chapter of your musical journey. I have a saying that "Our presence here is only temporary. No one stays anywhere forever." But as you take leave of The Village Voices, know that you've made a difference in many, many lives. Well done and Godspeed!

Warmly,
Bradley Ellingboe

Date Saver

Auditions for membership in The Village Voices Chorus are scheduled for August 26, 2024, at the NLPC, 10:00 am.

Thank you, John!

Having a member of your family move away from home is a common experience for many of us. When it happens, emotions often kick in and we find ourselves feeling a little happy and at the same time, a little sad. The Village Voices Chorus is a large family and one of our members will soon move to Alabama. We are happy for him and support his pursuit of new challenges and new opportunities at St. Mary's Episcopal Church on the Highlands in Birmingham. We are, however, a bit sad. After all, talented conductors like John Lowe, just don't grow on trees!

For 10 years, Dr. Lowe has been our treasured conductor. He is a talented musician, a creative performer, and a master teacher. He holds high expectations for our chorus and patiently works with us to meet those expectations. He is a strong advocate for senior citizens being actively engaged in not just "singing for a lifetime," but "singing well for a lifetime."

John has a vast professional network, and he has frequently engaged some of those artists in our concerts to add an extra dimension to our performances. Under his leadership, the chorus commissioned popular composers, David Brunner and Bradley Ellingboe, to create pieces that had their world premieres at our 20th and 25th anniversary concerts. As a result of the generosity of our members, Bradley Ellingboe was engaged as guest conductor for his piece *I Was Created for Joy*. In the opening concert of our Silver Anniversary year, the Dance Alive National Ballet of Gainesville, Florida, performed the original choreography of their Artistic Director, Kim Tuttle, while the chorus sang Ellingboe's master work, *Requiem*. The concert was a beautiful combination of song and dance, and it was a testament to John's excellent teaching skills.

We have been so very fortunate to have John as our "shining choral star" for the last 10 years. Thank you, John, for keeping us on the road to continuous improvement. Thank you for challenging us to sing accurately, to sing clearly, to sing dynamically, and to sing well.

We look forward to having you return as a guest conductor at one of our future concerts. Until then, best of luck with your new choirs.

The Village Voices Chorus

Date Saver

Mark your calendars: Fall Concert of The Village Voices Chorus is on October 22, 2024 , at 6:00 pm.

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Diamond (\$1,000 and up)

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Ralph Gingery
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Diana Wygand

In memory of Douglas F. Wacker, MD

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In memory of husband, Jim and grandson, Liam

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Marcia Gould
Reina Wang & Henry Mendenhall
Vicki Yates

In memory of Lindsay Margaret Wanish (daughter, forever 20)

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Debbie & John Carter
Amy Cornwall-Robinson
David Flanigan
Dick Gainer
Jackie Knight
Janet & Mike Landry
Carole Makus
Carol McNeill
Jim McQuiniff
Mary Lou Merkner
Andy & Jeanne Phillips
Jeremy & Barbara Reynolds
Dick & Posie Stock
Narda Vega

In memory of Norm Bogert

In memory of Judy Joray and Donna Davidson

In memory of Roger McNeill

In honor of all young singers

In memory of our parents

Bronze (\$10 – \$99)

Jack Adams
Karen Brown
Peg Burnett
Geryle Conway
Wayne Cunkelman
Jim & Peg Cunningham
Marie Erline
Clayton Heath
Rose Marie Heenan
Al & Ellen Hellwege
Julia Johansson
Donna Kagan
Cak Marshall
Margo McGinnis
Carolyn Moores
Laurie Morrill
Joan O'Donnell
Ben Osborne
Richie D. Paola
Sheila Phillips
Kathleen Skolits
Bob Taylor
Evangeline Taylor
Mary Williams

Celebrating my 25th year as a member

In honor of my wife, Donna

In honor of my daughter's music career

In honor of Village Voices board members

In honor of our Village Voices Maestro, John Lowe

In memory of Jennifer Cira, Daughter

In memory of Oscar Dahle

In memory of loved ones

In memory of Mr. Mrs. Theodore Skolits

In memory of Pat Taylor

For Jeff who made this possible for me

In Appreciation

North Lake Presbyterian Church

Rev. Dr. Jeff Hosmer, Sr. Pastor
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Liz Smith, Congregational Care Pastor
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The Village Voices Chorus thanks you for your support in our quest to preserve and perform the great music of the ages. Your attendance at our concerts and the many generous donations we receive from our loyal patrons enable us to support the professional efforts of local musicians, to contribute to local charities such as Operation Homebound of the North Lake Presbyterian Church, and through our cooperative efforts with the Howard Schwartz Music Scholarship we assist talented young musicians accomplish their dreams of a baccalaureate degree in the fine arts. Thank you for helping us to achieve our vision of

Harmony • Charity • Education

If you would like to become a donor and participate in our Annual Fund Raising Project for the 2023– 2024 season, please indicate your preference and complete the brief form below, and then send this sheet along with your donation to:

Village Voices Chorus, Inc
P.O. Box 485
Lady Lake, FL 32158

The Village Voices Chorus is an IRS 501(c)(3) organization. Your donation is tax deductible.

Name: _____

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City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Please list the name of the person you are remembering or honoring through your donation.

Make checks payable to The Village Voices Chorus.