

Highland Camerata To Present Winter Concerts

Written by Jerry Ann Hall

Wednesday, 02 December 2009 06:29



The region's premier chorus, The Highland Camerata, will present its annual set of winter concerts on December 11, 13, and 15. On Friday, December 11 at 7:30 pm, the concert will be held at Brush Creek Hall.

(photo submitted)

Brush Creek, home for the Camerata, is located two miles south of Independence on Rt, 21. Galax Presbyterian Church in Galax will host the Sunday afternoon concert at 3:00 pm, on December 13. On Tuesday, December 15, the concert will be held at the Sparta Presbyterian Church at 7:30 pm. The Camerata has been performing in this area for more than thirty years.

The choir's director, Mary Elizabeth Whartenby, of Galax has chosen a varied program of sacred and secular pieces. The major work for this set of concerts is the beautiful Mass in G by Franz Schubert. Soloists for this mass will be Becky Helton of Galax, Heather McCall Hanks of Woodlawn, David Hoffman of Independence, Dwight Dunbar and Phillip Parlock of Galax.

Additionally, an African folksong, "African Noel" by Liebergen, a traditional Irish carol, "Wexford Carol" by Warland, a traditional French carol, "Masters in This Hall" by Morris and Hayes will be performed. A favorite composer for Camerata audiences is Stephen Paulus. Several Christmas carols from "A Stephen Paulus Christmas," as well as some popular secular songs of Christmas from "Christmas Pops Choral Series" arranged by Tenna Chinn will be sung. "How Far is it to Bethlehem" by Shaw and a lovely piece, "This Christmastide" by Fraser will complete the program.

The Highland Camerata is pleased to have a local performer, Larissa Venzie, to perform on

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the marimba during this concert series. Larissa will play several solo Christmas carols during intermission. Patty Davis of Galax will accompany the Camerata on the piano and will play the hand bells with Annie Parlock of Galax. Other musicians will be Debbie Brady on the oboe and Jessica Howard on the flute.

The Highland Camerata is a non-profit regional chorus. Its purpose is to provide a musical outlet for the members as well as to provide the community with musical education and entertainment through the medium of live music.

All concerts are open to the public. There is no admission charge, but donations are appreciated and will allow the organization to continue. For additional information, in North Carolina contact Kay Bodeen at 336-372-6807, in Virginia contact Jerry Ann Hall at 276-728-2158. Also visit their web site at www.highlandcamerata.org.

Community Calendar/Daily/Weekly/Weekend events: Please place in the appropriate place.

The Highland Camerata Spring concerts:

Friday, Dec. 11: Highland Camerata concert at Brush Creek Hall at 7:30 pm

Sunday, Dec. 13: Highland Camerata concert at Galax Presbyterian Church at 3:00 pm

Tuesday, Dec. 15: Highland Camerata concert at Sparta Presbyterian Church at 7:30 pm