

Traditional Folk Music for October 14th Opener

“Folk to Baroque” reflects the scope of the Civic Chorus’ three concerts in our ambitious coming season. Ambitious, as we partner with other arts organizations such as Black Bear Crossing (see below), and ambitious, as we move to new venues including a December First Friday program in the sparkling tower of Williamsport Regional Medical Center, and ambitious as we perform a Handel oratorio with full orchestra and guest soloists. This is all accomplished by our choral ensemble numbering some 50 singers under the musical direction of Ned Wetherald, and with the able assistance of Pamela Kinley, our very proficient rehearsal accompanist.

We begin on Sunday, October 14th, at 3 PM, with a program called “Hear the People Sing”.

Fine music is not solely that which dead white men have composed, it also derives from ordinary folks’ celebrations and struggles. Classical composers, in fact, have often imported folk tunes into their works. On page two of

this issue, Music Director Ned Wetherald describes the origins of the pieces he has chosen for the Chorus, songs like “Shenandoah”



Black Bear Crossing, left to right, clockwise:
Phylleri Ball, Lucy Henry, Wendy McCormick, & Katie Johnston

and “Scarborough Fair”. With Black Bear Crossing intermingling its repertoire of Celtic and

(Continued on page 4)



Guests in the House



by Lucy Henry

Black Bear Crossing got its name because of the frequent sightings of black bears as we would be on our way to rehearsal.

At the time, most of us lived in rural areas, and we would travel many back roads to our destination. The crossing part is how we all met 15 years ago and how our paths crossed.

We play mostly Celtic dance tunes (jigs and reels primarily), airs, and waltzes, but we also feature many tunes from the United States, Canada,

(Continued on page 3)





Ned's Notes...



The term “American root music” may not be familiar to you and may require some explanation. It is actually a better term than “folk music” since that expression has grown and changed over time.

At the turn of the 20th century, “folk music” was used to describe music made by whites of European ancestry, often in the isolated rural South. As the century progressed, “folk music” began to include the song styles of southern African-Americans, especially their blues, which offered insights into our multicultural heritage. Gradually the music of many other groups of Americans were included, as native American, Mexican-American, and Cajun music came to be included under the umbrella of “folk music.” This music opened windows into the culture and everyday lives of people, with their hopes,

sorrows, and convictions. The music was sung in churches, on porches, in the workplace, while putting children to sleep, and at parties. The melodies and words would be passed down from parent to child in song, with their meanings changing, often to reflect changing times.

By the middle of the last century, awareness of folk music and folk musicians grew. Popular performers began to draw on traditional music, and by the 1960's the term “folk music” had come to convey this popular genre. This led “music writers, scholars and fans...to look for new ways to describe the diverse array of musical styles still being sung and played in communities across America, though most often not heard on radios. The term ‘root music’ is now used to refer to this broad range of musical genres, which include blues, gospel, traditional country, zydeco, tejano, and native American pow-wow.”¹

So, after that long introduction, our October concert is about American roots music, or traditional folk music; that is to say, we are using the pre-1950 definition. Much of the music may have connections to European sources, and much of it exists in a variety of forms as it developed in different parts of the country.

Since this traditional music is much more than just choral music, we have invited our friends, Black Bear Crossing, to join us for this concert. Black Bear Crossing plays a wide variety of

traditional Celtic and American songs on numerous traditional instruments.

While many of the tunes you will hear may be familiar, they are like old friends that you just enjoy being with time and time again. We also hope to present these familiar tunes in new settings that may give you a slightly different listening experience. The Chorus is enjoying visiting these old friends, and we know you will, too. 🎵

¹ – “Tapping the Roots of American Music - A Teacher's Guide” prepared by National Public Radio for use with the documentary “American Root Music”.



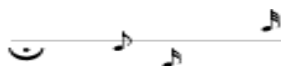
“Ned's Notes” is provided for the enjoyment of our readers by Ned Wetherald. Currently in his sixteenth year as music director of the Williamsport Civic Chorus, Ned is minister of music at State College Presbyterian Church. He holds bachelor's and master's degrees in music and choral conducting from Shenandoah University.

You can now make those very important patron donations to the Civic Chorus via PayPal on our secure website,

williamsportcivicchorus.org



Thank you!



69th SEASON

"Hear the People Sing"

Traditional folk music with special guests, Black Bear Crossing

Sunday, October 14th, 2012

Klump Auditorium

Pennsylvania College of Technology

3 PM

"Wintersong"

Celebrating all things December in song, dance, and humor

Friday, December 7th, 2012

Susquehanna Tower

Williamsport Regional Medical Center

7 PM

"Theodora"

Handel's oratorio of a tragic love story, with orchestra and soloists

Sunday, April 28th, 2013

St. Mark's Lutheran Church

142 Market St., Williamsport

3 PM

"This performance is supported in part by the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, a state agency funded by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the National Endowment for the Arts, a



Black Bear Crossing , continued

(Continued from page 1)

and European countries, other than just what we think of as "Celtic". Still, most of the tunes we play are unfamiliar to many people.

There are four of us:

Phylleri Ball, the owner of Steam Valley Fiber Farm, is a goat farmer who raises goats mostly for their fleece, but she has some dairy goats as well. She is the main keyboard player for the group. She also plays the bodhran (Irish drum) and accordion. Phylleri is the mother of two sons who both graduated and moved to Colorado.

Lucy Henry retired from the Williamsport Area School District where she taught music. She also sings with the Civic Chorus and VJQ (Vocal Jazz Quartet), and she is one of three conductors for the New Horizons band. Lucy and her husband, who builds Appalachian mountain dulcimers, often perform on those instruments as they give programs to various groups. Lucy plays flute,

hammered dulcimer, and penny whistle for Black Bear Crossing.

Katie Johnston is the newest member of the group, having joined Black Bear Crossing seven years ago. She has her own Suzuki violin studio with many students enrolled. Katie is also a member of another Celtic band, "Lux Bridge". She is Black Bear's fiddle player.

Wendy McCormick, a retired special education teacher from the Jersey Shore Area School District, is the band's harp player as well as concertina, hammered dulcimer, accordion, and sometime-keyboard player. Wendy has played harp for many patients at The Gatehouse hospice. She continues to update her skills by going to harp retreats and workshops and is a member of the Civic Chorus' alto section. Wendy is Phylleri's sister and has two grown daughters and two granddaughters. 🎵





FOLK TO BAROQUE

2012-13 season




“The Williamsport Civic Chorus is an open community of singers dedicated to making fine music accessible to all through education, participation, and inspiration.”

(Continued from page 1)

other instrumental folk melodies, you are certain to enjoy a wide range of spirited music.

Tickets for our performance of “Hear the People Sing” in Penn College’s Klump Auditorium will be available at the door and at the Robert M. Sides Family Music Center, the Otto Book Store, and from Chorus members. Advance purchases include a \$2 discount off box office prices of \$12 for

general admission and \$10 for students and seniors. Children ages 12 and under who are accompanied by a ticketed adult are admitted at no charge. And as has become our tradition, we invite audience members to a reception immediately following the concert. 



Find us on
Facebook

Visit our website:
www.williamsportcivicchorus.org

Fundraisers

**Oct. 8 - Nov. 12: Wolfgang
Candy sale for chocolate gifts.**

**Oct. 15: Hoss' Steak & Sea
House, 20% of your Hoss's bill
goes to the Chorus!**

**Nov. 5 - Nov. 26: Rada Cut-
lery sale. This fine merchan-
dise is perfect for holiday
giving.**

