

# The Continuo Arts Foundation

The Continuo Arts Foundation is a 501 (c) 3 charitable organization committed to making a difference in the lives of individuals, communities and cultures through music. Supporting music education and musicians, Continuo Arts also furthers artistic advancement by providing national and international performance opportunities for gifted artists, performers and composers in addition to fostering musical appreciation through education and exposure. The Continuo Arts Foundation is known for providing all-encompassing and unforgettable musical experiences in concerts, classes, workshops and throughout the education spectrum; leading to a life-long love and support of the arts. People from all cultural and socio-economic backgrounds come together through music. Dedicated to this vision and working in partnership with corporate and private sponsors, the Continuo Arts Foundation makes possible the education, performance and composition of music in ways which might otherwise be considered too unique or too expensive to be ordinarily under taken; giving precedence to considerations of quality over those of quantity; to artistic rather than to economic values and to opportunity over expediency.

In 2011, the Continuo Foundation saw unprecedented growth. With the team-work of dedicated volunteers and the generosity of patrons, foundations, sponsors & friends, Continuo Arts was able to:

- Provide over \$15,000 of music scholarships
- Launch Seniors Sing! a free program to enrich & enhance the lives of senior citizens
- Begin the International Festival per Giovani Musicisti to benefit and provide performance opportunities for young artists
- Present National & International Young Artist Debuts
- Begin a Conducting Fellows Program to further the education and performance experience of aspiring Conductors
- Continue local concert series free of charge to our communities
- Provide community service to nursing homes, hospitals, community centers, and government programs with over 20 appearances in the Tri-State Area
- Expand music programs & scholarship offerings

## The Vision

The Continuo Arts Foundation believes that exposure to the arts is essential to understanding our cultural and heritage. We believe that music is of primary importance to the survival of civilization, to the health of society and to insuring the highest quality of life. The experience of music allows us to participate in the universal creative process, open hearts and minds, awaken feelings and bring delight and joy. We strive to understand and to promote music across the life span to all generations and around the world.

We believe that intergenerational musical experiences provide an important opportunity to become stronger individuals; to become more unified as a community by experiencing different

cultures and backgrounds through music and in the process, make the communities we belong to stronger.

We are committed to innovative music education, exposure, enrichment and programming which engages the young and the old, the sophisticated and the first-time performer or listener, as well as those interested in understanding diverse cultures and genres.

## The Mission

The Continuo Arts Foundation mission is to further musical education, performance, composition, exposure and appreciation from generation to generation.

## Continuo Arts Foundation History

The Continuo Arts Foundation was founded in 2007 and since this time, our commitment to procreate the arts through education, opportunity, performance, composition, and appreciation has grown to a global level.

In 2008, the Continuo Arts Inaugural Concert was presented in collaboration with the Fondazione Pro Musica e Arte Sacra in Vatican City as part of the prestigious Festival di Arte e Sacra Concert Series; sharing the program with the likes of the Vienna Philharmonic, Christoph Eschenbach, Helmuth Rilling and Leo Kramer. Televised by Vatican TV and broadcast around the world, singers as young as 6 and up to age 60 presented the European premiere of Stephen James Edward's "Requiem for My Mother". Filmed for the documentary of the same name and recording in the famous Moriconne studio in Rome, individuals from across the country experienced a true 'once-in-a-lifetime' artistic, educational and cultural experience.

Continuo Arts launched its Intergenerational Choral program in 2009. Growing to over 150 singers in less than a year, the music programs feature ensembles which include the Children's Chorus, Singers, Continuos, Chanticleers, and Civic Chorale. These important programs provide musical enrichment & education throughout the life span, offering opportunities for performance, community service projects, and outreach. Committed to bringing music to the masses, these choruses present major concerts free of charge to the public throughout the year in addition to many community service performances.

The Continuo Arts Summer Musical Theater Conservatory, a three-week intensive musical theater immersion experience was founded in 2010. Open to youth from all socio-economic backgrounds, the summer program encourages artistry and self-expression while giving young people a positive and healthy outlet for instruction and creativity.

With the reputation for excellence, the Continuo Arts Children's Chorus received an invitation to perform with International superstar Andre Rieu and the Johann Strauss Orchestra in 2010 at Boardwalk Hall in Atlantic City. Performing a tribute to Michael Jackson, the singers were joined by soloist Carmen Monarcha in a rousing presentation to over 16,000 concert goers.

In 2011, Seniors Sing! a free program for the 'young-at-heart' was launched as the final piece of our Intergenerational Choral Program and in collaboration with the Summit Community Programs.

Seniors from many communities throughout New Jersey meet each week to sing, laugh, revive and socialize with music as the central component. Averaging 50 singers a week, an enrollment of over 70 developed within months. This positive response solidified the timely relevance and obvious need of this important program.

## On the Horizon

In addition to choral programs, musical theater conservatory, local concerts series and community service performances, the Continuo Arts Foundation continues to expand services, opportunities and collaborations. Some of these include:

- Collaboration with the Turkish Government for performances in Lincoln Center and the Music Center at Strathmore outside of Washington D.C.
- Meeting the Irish President and Prime Minister to establish a cultural-musical exchange program and festival
- Launching the Minuetto Music Festival in Summit, NJ featuring a young artist program, opera scenes and choral-orchestral compositions. Local singers and directors will join together in this effort to keep a summer music opportunity available to our communities.
- Expanding the Giovani Musicisti Festival for young artists to Prague.