

**The
Rutherford County Chorus
presents**

Messiah



Under the collaborative leadership of

**Tony Spencer
&
Dr. Diane Nelson**

**Malone Thomason, conductor
emeritus**

**Thursday, December 8, 2011
8:00 P.M.
First Baptist Church**

Comfort Ye, Comfort Ye My People Isaiah 40:1-3	Tenor Recitative
Every Valley Shall Be Exalted Isaiah 40:4	Tenor Air
And the Glory of the Lord Shall Be Revealed Isaiah 40:5	Chorus
Thus Saith the Lord of Hosts Haggai 2:7; Malachi 3:1	Bass Recitative
But Who May Abide the Day of His Coming Malachi 3:2	Bass Air
Behold, A Virgin Shall Conceive and Bear a Son Isaiah 7:14; Matthew 1:23	Alto Recitative
O Thou That Tellest Good Tidings to Zion Isaiah 40:9	Alto Air and Chorus
For Unto Us a Child Is Born Isaiah 9:6	Chorus
There Were Shepherds Abiding in the Fields Luke 2:8	Soprano Recitative
And Lo! The Angel of the Lord Luke 2:9	Soprano Recitative
And the Angel Said Unto Them Luke 2:10-11	Soprano Recitative
And Suddenly There Was With the Angel Luke 2:13	Soprano Recitative
Glory to God in the Highest Luke 2:14	Chorus
Then Shall the Eyes of the Blind Be Opened Isaiah 35:5-6	Alto Recitative
He Shall Feed His Flock Isaiah 40:11	Alto Air
Come Unto Him Matthew 11:28-29	Soprano Air
Behold the Lamb John 1:29	Chorus
Surely He Hath Borne Our Grievs Isaiah 23: 4-5	Chorus
I Know That My Redeemer Liveth Job 19:25-26; I Corinthians 15:20	Soprano Air
Since By Man Came Death I Corinthians 15:21	Chorus
Behold, I Tell You a Mystery I Corinthians 15:51-52	Bass Recitative
The Trumpet Shall Sound I Corinthians 15:52-53 Seth Carson, trumpet	Bass Air
Worthy Is The Lamb Revelation 5:12-13	Chorus
Hallelujah Revelation 19:6; 11:15; 19:16	Chorus

About the Chorus

Since 1961, The Rutherford County Chorus has presented *Messiah* on a semi-annual basis as a gift to the community. Founded and directed by Malone Thomason, over 700 people have sung in the chorus from its beginning. This year, Malone has passed the baton to Tony Spencer. As an act of appreciation and honor, on the final chorus, Hallelujah, Tony will pass the baton back to Malone.

About the Soloists

Steve Harrill, tenor, has appeared as tenor soloist with numerous musical organizations throughout the southeast, including performances with Asheville, Spartanburg, Western Piedmont and Salisbury Symphonies. He was the tenor soloists in the American debut of the Jonathan Wilcocks' oratorio, *Great Is the Glory*, under the direction of the composer. Educated at Pfeiffer University and Converse College, Mr. Harrill returned to Pfeiffer and has been a driving force in recapturing the choral sound Pfeiffer has been associated with for generations. In addition to a career in classical singing, Steve is also an active and very accomplished performer of old-time and bluegrass music, appearing at such venues as the Old-Time Fiddler's Convention in Galax, Virginia, and The Bluebird Cafe in Nashville, Tennessee.

Susan Crotts, soprano, has been a soloist in numerous opera, oratorio and other choral performances. She has served as faculty in college and university settings as well as holding positions as music director in churches in both North Carolina and Florida. Ms. Crotts studied at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro with Charles Lynam and Florida State University with Roy Delp and has a master's in vocal performance as well as fulfilling partial requirements for a doctorate. A resident of Rutherford County for the past 20 years, Susan and her husband, Ed, live in the Forest City area where she currently maintains a private music studio.

Connie Cuthbertson, alto, has served as Minister of Music at Adaville Baptist Church, Spindale, N.C. since February 1986. A native of Sumter, S.C., she received her undergraduate degree in Church Music from Gardner-Webb University and her Masters of Church Music from The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, with a concentration in conducting and voice. She works with Adult, Youth and Children's choirs as well as Senior Adults.

Joseph Judge, bass, has appeared as soloist with the Charlotte Philharmonic, The Boulder Philharmonic, The Colorado Music Festival, The Union Symphony and Opera Carolina. Judge received a BA in music from Pfeiffer University where he studied voice with Richard Brewer. His graduate studies took him to the University of Colorado where he studied voice with Barbara Doscher. He is currently the Director of Choral Activities and Assistant Professor of Music at Pfeiffer University.