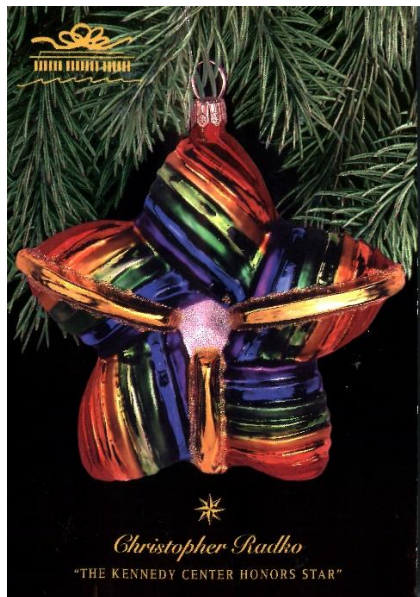


A Gift of Music

Kennedy Center Honors Gala Performances - 1987



In 1987, the year following our first international championship, the Harmonizers were invited to participate in the Kennedy Center Honors Gala by Ray Charles (not the soul singer) who was responsible for the vocal music used during the gala. Charles felt it would be appropriate to feature barbershop harmony in a tribute to Perry Como who was once a barber and had sung in a barbershop quartet. This fortuitous association resulted in four more tribute performances: 1997 Charlton Heston, we made Moses cry with "More I Cannot Wish You" ...2000 Angela Lansbury, a loving tribute to our "Mame" ...2001 Van Cliburn, a rousing version of "The Eyes Of Texas" to delight of the Texas-born pianist ...2003 Mike Nichols, a star-studded "That's Entertainment."

Wolf Trap Farm for the Performing Arts Gala Performances - 1989

In 1989 the Harmonizers were honored to perform in the Wolf Trap Eighteenth Anniversary Gala, saluting Victor Borge on his 80th birthday. The show starred Victor Borge, the Canadian Brass, Robert Merrill, and the Paul Hill Chorale. Newspapers commented on "...the sound of perfectly synchronized barbershoppers" as "the Alexandria Harmonizers added their upbeat energy to the production."

In 1991, we performed in the Wolf Trap Twentieth Anniversary Gala entitled "A Gift of Music." Among 17 "acts" staged for television were Rosemary Clooney, Michael Feinstein, Chita Rivera, and Dizzy Gillespie. The entire show staging time lasted five hours and finally ended as the Preservation Hall Jazz Band led a Mardi Gras parade into what little audience remained in the early Sunday morning cold and rain.

Harmonious Tagline #1. On the playbills for the 2000 and 2001 Kennedy Center Honors was the Eastern High School Choir directed by Dr. Joyce Garrett. One of the most recognized choral conductors in the Washington DC region, Dr. Garrett created the Excellence Without Excuses program for the internationally award-winning Eastern High School Choir during her tenure there of over 30 years. More recently she was instrumental in forging our relationship with Alexandria's Alfred Street Baptist Church where she currently serves as the Music and Worship Arts Ministry Director. In 2018 we

honored Dr. Garrettt with the Chapter's Award of Harmony that is given to a person selected from the community who best represents, through their efforts, the truest meaning of harmony.

Harmonious Tagline #2. In 1989, Ray Charles and Nick Perito, close collaborators with Perry Como, gave the Harmonizers a special song. Arranged by John Hohl, "A Gift of Music" became a favorite melody in our repertoire. *"A Gift of Music...a gift of song...to bring you happiness your whole life long..."*