



2017 ET AMOR PARTNERSHIP

Caritas Detailed Background Information

In 2005, Barbara Sanderman, with the help of Wayne Dietterick and Stan Szalewicz, formed **Caritas Chamber Chorale** to sing a concert of *a cappella* sacred music to benefit the Adorno Fathers St. Francis Caracciolo Mission in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Africa.

The singers understood the significance of singing for and supporting some of the poorest people of the world. The choir took the name Caritas, after the Latin word for "charity." Later, the group agreed to continue to sing together, ultimately adopting the following as its mission: *Caritas Chamber Chorale is dedicated to serving the poorest of the poor through the art of sacred music.*

Throughout its history, the Chorale has continued to sing for the African Mission. In 2011, the Adorno Fathers asked Caritas to dedicate their support to the Gianni Diurni Primary School in Goma, DRC. To date Caritas has raised over \$95,000 for the African Mission through its benefit concert series.

Caritas Chamber Chorale currently operates as a branch of the Adorno Fathers (a 501(c)(3) non-profit) and as such, is considered a religious organization. Because of that designation, Caritas is not eligible for state or federal arts grant funding. Therefore, we must rely on the financial support of our community of benefactors.

Caritas Chamber Chorale continues to run on a minimal budget, with all singers, as well as the Director, Composer in Residence and Public Relations Personnel volunteering their time. Caritas has accepted the good will of its concert hosts without being obligated to rental fees. St. Bernard Church in Bridgewater has provided continuous support by offering rehearsal space *gratis*. Some music publishers have also been willing to discount or provide print music, since the concerts are presented for the benefit the African Mission. For all these things we are deeply grateful and would not be in existence without all this support. Indeed, it has taken quite a village to support both our singing and the needs of the school children of Goma. We could not be who we are nor do what we do without the generosity of all our supporters.

The **Et Amor Partnership** was initiated in 2015 when Caritas Chamber Chorale was in the process of planning and funding a Concert Tour of the California Mission Area to help create awareness of the needs of Congo and the ministry the Adorno Fathers perform there. Through the generosity of our Et Amor Partners and Sponsors, we were able to share our music with people in a different location, see firsthand some of the places Christianity first came to our country and to fulfill our goal of sharing awareness of the needs of Congo.

Now, as we continue to work to increase Caritas's ability to serve the African Mission, particularly the school's need for funding, Caritas must consider new musical opportunities, ideas and new directions. Financial resources for Caritas operations and as well as new possibilities for marketing and outreach are required. Your participation in the **Et Amor Partnership** is one of the ways Caritas can address this need.

Gianni Diurni School 2017 Update

In 2016, the Gianni Diurni School was approved by the local diocese to increase the number of classes from 7 to 15, potentially doubling the number of students it could serve. Currently, small monthly fees are requested of families who can afford to pay, in accordance with the diocese's recommendations. Those who cannot pay are supported through the Missions' "adoption" program. In 2016, the Gianni Diurni Primary School served 373 students while the Pierluigi Fabbiani Nursery School served 110. Building was begun last year on new classrooms without definitive funding for completion. In addition, because of the moral component as well as quality of the teaching, parents have asked that the school be extended to high school. However, there are no plans for that at this time.

Caritas Chamber Chorale 2017 Update

In 2016, Caritas members participated in both a retreat and a vocal workshop. These events, presented by experts in the field of choral music specifically for Caritas, helped to advance the vocal ability and unity of the ensemble. In addition, Caritas engaged two guest artists for its June 2016 concert, adding a different dimension to the program. This season (2016-2017) Caritas has been engaged in many performances. In November, Caritas collaborated with Music in the Somerset Hills in a combined concert, broadening its audience. Then at Christmas time, Caritas presented Lessons and Carols in five area churches (three of which were new to us). Music in the Somerset Hills also asked Caritas to provide two Outreach Concerts in February 2017 at local Senior Communities, and sponsored us with a donation for the African Mission. We were also invited to sing two Lenten concerts the first weekend in March.

The most exciting event is yet to come on June 9, 10 and 11, 2017, when Caritas will perform ***Ancient Prayers for Our Time - Two Mass Settings with String Orchestra***. This program, including the Schubert Mass in G and the 2011 Sunrise Mass by Ola Gjeilo, will be different from anything Caritas has done. This is the first time Caritas will be singing with an orchestra. We will be performing in wonderful venues: St. Francis Cathedral, Metuchen; St. Magdalen Church, Flemington; and St. Catharine Church, Spring Lake. And while we are very much looking forward to this opportunity, engaging an orchestra demands substantial financial resources. Your support will help make this event a reality and prepare us for the upcoming 2017-2018 season. We hope you will join us.

2016 Et Amor Partnership Requirements and Benefits

Et Amor Partners are asked for an annual contribution of \$250 or more during the season of Lent. There is no obligation to continue contributions in future years, although we hope you will. All contributions to Caritas Chamber Chorale and/or the Adorno Fathers' African Mission are fully tax deductible.

Et Amor Partners will receive a written acknowledgment of their tax-deductible donation. New **Et Amor Partners** will also receive Caritas's current CD recording, *Stop Your Doubting*. Partners who have donated by April 15, 2017 will be acknowledged in our June program. All **Et Amor Partners** will be acknowledged on our website. Additional benefits will be provided when possible.

Et Amor Partners will be supporting *sacred art with a mission*.

Questions or comments may be referred to Barbara Sanderman at director@caritaschamberchorale.org.

www.caritaschamberchorale.org