

A NON-SINGER'S CHOIR TRIP (OR WHY DO I KEEP THINKING OF ROY
ORBISON, JOHNNY CASH, ZORRO, MEN IN BLACK... ETC.?)

AN EAST COAST TRIP WITH OUR CHURCH CHOIR
A TALENTED GROUP, WHOM I ADMIRE
MY WIFE SUE JOINS THEM IN SONG
SO, WHEN THEY TRAVEL, I TAG ALONG

NOW, I CAN SING, BUT, I MUST DENOTE
I SOUND MUCH LIKE A TORTURED GOAT
MY RANGE, YOU ASK?, WELL, LET'S SEE
I DON'T SPEND MUCH TIME IN ANY KEY!

WE LEFT FROM THE CHURCH, JUNE 22nd THE DATE
SAINTS BE PRAISED, NOT A SOUL WAS LATE!
FOR OUR NON-SINGING GROUP, A MAJOR BLOW
WHEN JOE CAHILL, DECIDED NOT TO GO

HAD TO CANCEL, STAY HOME ALONE
BECAUSE OF A STUBBORN KIDNEY STONE
THE N.S.G. REGROUPED, THO' FEELING QUEASY
LOSING A KEY MEMBER IS NEVER EASY!

ON DIFFERENT FLIGHTS, WE MADE OUR WAY
REUNITING FOR DINNER IN A PHILLY CAFE
WHERE WE CELEBRATED SHAWN'S 43rd BIRTHDAY
AND THINGS GOT "INTERESTING", I'D HAVE TO SAY!

TWO FLASHY YOUNG WOMEN, MISTAKENLY ENTERED
UPON WHOM, OUR ATTENTION, WAS QUICKLY CENTERED
"THAT'S MY STRIPPER", SHAWN CRIED AS THE TWO DEPARTED
THAT WAS WHEN THE PARTY, REALLY GOT STARTED!

AMIDST THE LAUGHTER, A GUY NAMED AL
TO SHAWN'S TABLE, PAID A CALL
YELLED "I'M YOUR STRIPPER", HIS SHIRT REMOVING
AN AGING CHIPPENDALE, HIS TORSO GROOVING

THE CROWD WAS SHOCKED, IN DISBELIEF
AT AL BRIGHTBILL'S COMIC RELIEF!
JANICE SHAW-MORGAN READ HER ORIGINAL POEM
DEB AND THE ALTOS' "SHAWNIE", TOOK IT HOME!

NIKÉ AND GABE'S ARRIVAL WAS "TOUCH AND GO"
WOULD SHE ARRIVE IN TIME, TO DIRECT THE SHOW?
JIM JONES SPOKE UP, I CAN DIRECT, YOU KNOW!"
HIS ONLY REQUEST, "PLEASE CALL ME "MAESTRO!"

IN FACT, JIM WAS SERIOUS ABOUT HIS PART
ACTUALLY KNEW NIKÉ'S SOLO, ALL BY HEART
BUT, HIS "MAESTRO" CAREER WAS NOT A "LOCK"
NIKÉ AND GABE ARRIVING AT ONE O'CLOCK!

AT THE CENTRAL BAPTIST CHURCH IN WAYNE
FIRST CONCERT SINCE WE DID DEPLANE
LAURIE'S FORMER CHURCH, A HOMECOMING FOR HER
A HEARTWARMING REUNION, DID OCCUR

AND SPEAKING OF LAURIE, THE WOMAN'S AMAZING
WHEN SITUATIONS ARISE THAT COULD BE FAZING
SHE IS CALM AND COLLECTED, ALMOST SEDATE
A MAJOR REASON WHY OUR TRIP WENT GREAT!

LONGWOOD GARDENS WAS DEFINITELY A TREAT
BEAUTIFUL FLORA THAT WAS HARD TO BEAT!
AT BIRD-IN-HAND, WE TURNED "INN"
AT LANCASTER COB, A TRUE "WIN-WIN!"

NIKÉ, UNDER THE WEATHER, FEELING ILL
PUSHED ON LIKE A TRUE PROFESSIONAL WILL!
NIKÉ HUNG IN THERE, BEFORE A BIG CROWD
THE AUDIENCE WAS TRULY "WOWED!"

BUT, ALAS, NO NIKÉ SOLO, HEY, WHAT ABOUT JIM?
IT SEEMS "SUDDEN AMNESIA" HAD OVERTAKEN HIM
ACOUSTICS SO GOOD, WITHIN THE HALL
IF A JOB OPENS UP, NIKÉ SAID, "GIVE ME A CALL!"

VISITED A QUILT SHOP FOR A "HALF" HOUR
"EXPONENTIALIZED" TO A MUCH HIGHER POWER
OUR GUIDE'S MOTHER WOULD BE PROUD OF HIM!
THEIR SALES THAT "HALF" HOUR WERE NOT SLIM!

ON AMISH ROADS, WE SPENT SOME TIME
WARM HANDMADE PRETZELS WERE SUBLIME!
ON TO THE OL' HESS FARM, LUNCH HIT THE SPOT
EVEN SAW THE OLD SCHOOL OF GOOD FRIEND DOT!

LEON MILLER, OUR TALENTED DRIVER FROM ELITE
A MENNONITE MAN, WHO WAS A TREAT
EXCELLENT DRIVER, A CLASSY GUY
IN BIRD-IN-HAND, HAD TO SAY GOODBYE

JOHN RUTT. TOOK OVER DRIVING THE BUS
ELITE CONTINUED TAKING CARE OF US!
AT 6 FOOT 6, ALWAYS HAD A SMILE
WE CONTINUED TO RIDE IN STYLE!

DID EPHRATA CLOISTER, OF HOUSE AND HUT
WHERE A GUY NAMED BEISSEL WAS CELIBATE
LATER, WITH JOHN BACH, WHO LOVES RESEARCH
WE ALL LEARNED MORE ABOUT OUR CHURCH

ON TUESDAY, AT GETTYSBURG, WE DID ARRIVE
LES, OUR GUIDE, MADE IT "COME" ALIVE
I, PERSONALLY, FOUND THE LUNCH LINE TOUGH
ALL BECAUSE OF SOME METAL ROUGH

WHILE REACHING FOR A SOUP BOWL, BY MYSELF
MY ARM BRUSHED THE SHARP CORNER OF A SHELF
INJURED AT GETTYSBURG, I OPTED NOT TO SUE
AT THE SITE, THERE'S NOW A STATUE OF YOU KNOW WHO!

JAYSON WANTED A NEW PAIR OF SHOES
BUT, BUYING ON LINE, HE DID NOT CHOOSE
TO THE LANCASTER SIX, HE ASSIGNED THE SELECTION
THE RESULT MORE THAN EXCEEDED HIS EXPECTATION!

OH, I'VE LEARNED THAT ONE CAN RELAX THEIR BLADDER
WHICH, WILL CERTAINLY, MAKE MY BLADDER GLADDER!
WHY, YOU CAN EVEN RELAX YOUR HAIR!
I'LL HAVE TO HURRY, WHILE THERE'S STILL SOME THERE!

AND, A PURPOSEFUL LIFE, I'LL NOW BE LIVING
PURPOSEFUL IN EATING, PURPOSEFUL IN GIVING
PURPOSEFUL IN SLEEPING, PURPOSEFUL IN WALKING
THE JURY'S OUT, WHEN IT COMES TO TALKING!

THE CHOIR'S THIRD CONCERT AT THE E-TOWN C-O-B
A PERFORMANCE THAT WENT BEAUTIFULLY!
BUT, EARLIER TO THE COLLEGE WE DID ZOOM.
MY NEXT VACATION? TWO WEEKS IN E-TOWN'S DINING ROOM!

THE SCOTUS DECISIONS BROUGHT JUBILATION
A POSITIVE TREND FOR OUR GREAT NATION!
NOW, MORE STATES NEED TO GET ON BOARD
THE GOAL IS A NATION OF ONE ACCORD!

SO LONG BIRD-IN-HAND, HELLO, HARRISONBURG, VA
SHENANDOAH NATIONAL PARK ALONG THE WAY
WITH SHENANDOAH'S GREEN VALLEY DOWN BELOW
MORE OF GOD'S HANDIWORK -----A SPECTACULAR SHOW!

SKYLAND RESORT ON SKYLAND DRIVE
WE DID LUNCH, WHEN WE DID ARRIVE
SERVICE WAS SLOW, DUE TO UNDERSTAFFING
NO PROBLEM, THE ENTERTAINMENT KEPT US LAUGHING!

THE ENTERTAINMENT, YOU ASK? WHY, THE SKYLAND 4!
A NEW GROUP, NOW A PART OF SHENANDOAH LORE
DOUG AND BILL AND TOM AND SUSAN
WHO DID THEIR ACT WITHOUT BOOZIN'

SLAPSTICK COMEDY AT ITS BEST
NOT SEEN SINCE THE MARX BROTHERS CAME OUT WEST!
WITH EVEN THE WAITRESS SERVING SOUP TO NUTS
HILARIOUS HIJINKS, NO IFS, ANDS OR BUTS!

TOTALLY SPONTANEOUS, WITHOUT REHEARSAL
FOR GOOD TASTE -----A COMPLETE REVERSAL!
AS WE SAT THERE WITH SIDES ACHING
WITNESSING COMEDY HISTORY IN THE MAKING!

VISITED BROADWAY, BUT, NOT NEW YORK
WONDERING IF DINNER WOULD BE PULLED PORK
TO JOHN KLINE'S HOUSE, WE PAID A CALL
A BRETHERN LEGEND, WHO RODE TALL!

DIVIDED IN GROUPS, WE ROTATED PLACES
ASK SUSAN TO SHOW PICTURES OF YOUR FACES!
A DINNER THEATRE, AT THE KLINE'S DWELLING
A SCRUMPTIOUS DINNER, HAD BELLIES SWELLING!

LOTS OF BRETHERN HISTORY DID WE GLEAN
PICTURES AND ARTIFACTS WE HADN'T SEEN
THE MIDDLE MAN OF WHOM DOROTHY DAVIS WROTE
AS A BRETHERN MVP, HE GETS MY VOTE!

TO MONTICELLO OF THOMAS JEFFERSON FAME
IN AMERICAN HISTORY, AN IMPORTANT NAME!
A MAN OF CONTRASTS, OF SOME NOTE
THO' HE WOULDN'T HAVE GOT TOM HOSTETLER'S VOTE!

THE "ALL MEN CREATED EQUAL" CLAUSE, HE MUST HAVE WAIVED
BECAUSE OF ALL THOSE PEOPLE HE ENSLAVED
SLAVERY, A DARK STAIN ON OUR NATION'S HISTORY
ALL PEOPLE HAVE THE RIGHT TO LIVE FREE!

DINNER AT THE BRIDGEWATER C-O-B
ÄGAIN, PULLED PORK WE DID NOT SEE!
THEN CONCERT NUMBER 4, FOR FREE
A CHALLENGING VENUE, ACOUSTICALLY!

AUDIENCE RESPONSE? WELL, LET'S JUST SAY
RESERVED APPLAUSE, MUST BE THEIR WAY
OH, AT THE CONCLUSION, THEY GAVE A STANDING OVATION
WHICH HAPPENED AT EACH, AND EVERY, LOCATION!

BRUSTER'S ICE CREAM, A DAIRY DELIGHT
THO' OUR SERVERS' SMILES DIDN'T LIGHT UP THE NIGHT!
WE WERE A "BIG" HIT WITH THAT LOCAL FAMILY
WHO, THOUGH LATE, GOT SERVED, COLLATERALLY!

NEXT DAY, THE CORRECT COUNTRY ROAD PROVED ELUSIVE
FOR THE GPS, RIGHT DOWN "OBTUSIVE"
COUNTRY ROADS, WHERE HAVE WE BEEN?
WHY, RIGHT HERE, AGAIN AND AGAIN!

YES, VIRGINIA, THERE REALLY IS A MABRY MILL!
WHY, IT EVEN HAS AN ACTUAL STILL
THO', FINDING THAT OL' MILL TAKES DOGGED DETERMINATION
AND, OF COURSE, COMPLETE CONTROL OF URINATION!

APPALACHIA COUNTRY, HOMES WITH MANY A FRONT YARD CAR
OF COURSE, THEY OFTEN HAVE FLOWERS IN "THAR"
AND, THINGS DO NOT EVER 'GIT" LOST
CUZ, NOTHIN' EVER, EVER "GITS" TOSSED

BUT, ALL THINGS CONSIDERED, THE DRIVE WASN'T TOO BAD
EVEN FOR THOSE TWO KIDNEYS, THAT I ONCE HAD!
WE WILL REMEMBER AND CHUCKLE A BIT
AT DRIVER JOHN'S HUMOR AND WIT!

ALONG THE BLUE RIDGE PARKWAY, TO THE BILTMORE ESTATE
LATE ENOUGH, THAT IN LINE, WE DIDN'T HAVE TO WAIT!
A TRACT HOUSE? WELL THAT'S NOT QUITE RIGHT
BUT, NONETHELESS, AN IMPRESSIVE SIGHT!

I CAN HONESTLY SAY, WITH A STRAIGHT FACE
I REALLY LIKE WHAT THEY'VE DONE WITH THE PLACE!
OH, IF IT WERE MINE, I'D PROBABLY REPAINT THE WALLS
AND, MOST LIKELY, CARPET THE BASEMENT HALLS

THE KITCHEN AND BATHROOMS ALSO NEED UPDATING
GRANITE COUNTER TOPS, WITH NEW GRATING
RECESSED LIGHTING AND WINDOWS NEW
JUST A "LITTLE" REMODELING THAT I WOULD DO!

REBECCA'S" ROOTS" TOUR ON SATURDAY
HER FAMILY HISTORY ON DISPLAY
DEEPLY IMMERSSED IN CAROLINA POLITICAL HISTORY
WITH SAYINGS LIKE: "THEY LAWD HEV MERCY!"

WHEN THEY SAY "BOOMERS" THEY MEAN "SQUIRRELS"
OTHER SAYINGS THAT ARE LINGUISTIC PEARLS
SO, "YOU-UNS", THAT DIDN'T MAKE THE TRIP
WELL, DON'T THAT "JIST CRACK THE WHIP?!"

THE TOUR OF THOMAS WOLFE'S HOUSE WAS REALLY FUN
HEARD ABOUT HIS LIFE , SINCE IT WAS BEGUN
HIS MOM'S BOARDING HOUSE, WITH ROOMS A-PLENTY
HOUSED THOMAS AND BOARDERS, WAY MORE THAN TWENTY!

TOM, OUR GUIDE, HAD A GREAT SOUTHERN ACCENT!
TOLD US, WHAT BOARDERS GOT FOR A DOLLAR'S RENT
A HURRIED LUNCH IN ASHEVILLE'S DOWNTOWN
STILL IN MY THROAT, "CAIN'T SWALLAR IT DOWN!"

ON TO CHARLOTTE, FOR THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE CONCERT
EN ROUTE, DRIVER JOHN, AN ACCIDENT DID AVERT
A FIFTH WHEELER, MADE A LANE CHANGE NOT VERY SLICK
THANK GOODNESS, JOHN'S REFLEXES WERE QUICK!

CONVENTION HALL C, AT 9 AT NIGHT
YOU HIT A MUSICAL "HOMER" OUTTA SIGHT
ANOTHER STANDING OVATION, FROM A GRATEFUL CROWD
THE APPLAUSE WAS REALLY LOUD!

OUR FIVE SOLOISTS WERE OUTSTANDING!
FIVE CONCERTS IN A WEEK CAN BE DEMANDING
HEIDI, DEB, RYAN, NIKÉ AND LAURIE
YOU ALL CAME THROUGH IN A BLAZE OF GLORY!

AS DID DOUG BRO IN THE FRONT OF THE BUS
MAKING SURE OUR LUGGAGE TRAVELED WITH US
THOUGH NOW, I'VE HEARD, HE'S UNABLE TO SLEEP
SEEMS COUNTING BAGS DOESN'T WORK, AS WELL AS SHEEP!

WELL, THAT'S A "BRIEF" TRIP SUMMARY
THE UNOFFICIAL REPORT OF THE N.S.G.
THIS CHOIR HAS BECOME A FAMILY
WITH MUSIC THAT FLOWS BEAUTIFULLY!

FROM LA VERNE TO HUNGARY AND AROUND THE USA
AS A CHOIR, YOU TOUCH LIVES ALONG THE WAY
WITH SHAWN'S MUSIC AND NIKÉ'S DIRECTION
YOU ARE THE PERSONIFICATION OF CHOIR PERFECTION!

IT IS AN HONOR TO TAG ALONG
AS, TOGETHER, YOU SING YOUR SONG
MAY YOUR MUSIC GO ON A LONG, LONG TIME
THANKS FOR GIVING REASON TO MY RHYME!

ROBERT P. DYER (6-30-13)
THE LVCOB CHOIR TRIP OF 2013