

# Friday Night Was Inspiring!

We could have stayed home and watched another re-run, or perhaps an old movie. Maybe even CNN for the latest on who-said-what-about-who in the race for the White House. Instead we opted to attend the Friends and Family Concert by the Southern Nights Chorale.

We made the right decision! We have heard this group perform at numerous events throughout Fayette County, but the setting for this performance, inside the beautiful First Baptist Church in Peachtree City, was ideal. Each number, enhanced by a graphic by Alan Harrelson, projected on two screens behind the group with the song title, was all the stage setting needed. The sound, engineered by Doug Woods, was perfection which made one easily forget that we were in a Church Sanctuary. It all added up to a totally enjoyable evening for the over 200 who attended this fourth annual event.

The history of the Southern Nights Chorale begins with its formation in 2004 by its director, J.D. Holmes. Today, this precision group of 14 talented, a capella men's select chorus, has performed at the Georgia Governor's Mansion, and sung the National Anthem at an Atlanta Braves Game, as well as numerous appearances at church and civic events throughout the metro area. They are about to release their second CD this fall.

Friday's program had selections that ranged from secular to pop and demonstrated the individual talents of several of the men. Their rendition of 'Danny Boy' brought tears to my wife's eyes - it was just that moving. The Rogers & Hammerstein, 'You'll Never Walk Alone,' was one of several that I enjoyed immensely.

Special Guest Artist, Darlene Simpson Ware, who has sung with the Atlanta Opera Company performed two solos, 'Summertime' and 'Don't Rain On My Parade' that showcased her wonderful range and lyric ability. We would love to see her in concert with a full orchestra to back her.

Some comic interlude was added with the inclusion of 'The Little Old lady From Peachtree City' complete with Sinead McNett as 'Granny' tooling about in a stylized golf cart. Sure, it was an inside joke that only those from Peachtree City could fully appreciate, but it was a great addition to an evening of music that was more subdued.

To close the show the group first performed their 'Many Men Extravaganza' which pokes fun at themselves - a group of men that love to sing, then the inspiring Benediction, 'The Lord Bless You and Keep You.'

All in all, Friday night was one of the most enjoyable and inspiring evenings of great music performed live by supremely talented local men you could ask for. They deserve a much larger audience! Next time you have the opportunity go and see them. They are a gem that only needs exposure to help them leap to National attention.

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Photo courtesy of  
Ronna Kyle

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Southern Nights Chorale  
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