



**It's not too late to join the 2012 Blue Lake Alumni Choir and perform the Verdi *Requiem*!**

As a past Blue Lake camper, parent, donor, faculty, or staff member, you are eligible to join the 2012 Blue Lake Alumni Choir!

The Alumni Choir will join the Blue Lake International Youth Symphony Orchestra and International Choir in a performance of the Verdi *Requiem* on June 15, 2012, at Blue Lake Fine Arts Camp and on July 24, 2012, at the University of Michigan's Hill Auditorium in Ann Arbor. In addition, the Alumni Choir and International Choir will join the Blue Lake Festival Orchestra and Staff Choir for an encore performance of the *Requiem* on August 4, 2011, at Blue Lake Fine Arts Camp. The June and July performances will be conducted by Michael Klaue, conductor of the Ahrensburg Youth Symphony Orchestra in Germany and Music Director of the 2012 Blue Lake International Choir. The August performance, the culmination of Blue Lake's 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Alumni Day, will be led by Dr. Richard Rossi, Director of Orchestral and Choral Activities at Eastern Illinois University.

If you have past choral experience, we encourage you to participate in this special opportunity. **Participants must be at least 18 years of age.** Alumni Choir members pay a \$35 music fee for the Verdi *Requiem* score and rehearsal CD. In addition, there are required uniform fees of \$28 for men and \$64 for women. Log on to [www.bluelake.org/alumnichoir](http://www.bluelake.org/alumnichoir) for additional information and an on-line application form. For more information, call Blue Lake Fine Arts Camp at 1-800-221-3796, ex. 292, or email [bower@bluelake.org](mailto:bower@bluelake.org)

We encourage you to share this information with others who qualify. Travel to rehearsals will be more fun if you come with a group, so help us spread the word via email, Facebook, or word of mouth. Complete information about the 2012 Alumni Choir can be found online at [www.bluelake.org/alumnichoir](http://www.bluelake.org/alumnichoir).

The *Requiem*, completed and premiered in 1874, is a work of Giuseppe Verdi's late career and one of his very few works not composed for the operatic stage. In his overall output, it comes after the operas *Don Carlos* and *Aida* and before his final two operas, *Otello* and *Falstaff*. Verdi composed this work as a tribute to the memory of Italian poet and novelist Alessandro Manzoni, who he greatly admired, but had only met once. Verdi's *Requiem* consisted of almost entirely of newly-composed material. However, the *Libera me* movement was originally composed for a musical setting of the Requiem Mass proposed at the time of Gioachino Rossini's death. When the project failed to come to fruition (several other composers were to provide movements for the piece), Verdi set aside his *Libera me* movement, subsequently revising and expanding it for his own *Requiem*.

**Michael Klaue** is currently conductor of the Ahrensburg (Germany) Youth Symphony Orchestra, as well as being a member of the conducting faculty of the Hochschule für Musik Hamburg (Music State Conservatory of Hamburg.) He is dedicated to creating intercultural understanding and worldwide peace through music and has instituted youth exchange projects with numerous orchestras and choirs from throughout Europe, Japan, and the United States. He founded the Ahrensburg Youth Chamber Choir and subsequently founded and conducted the State Youth Choir of Schleswig-Holstein. Mr. Klaue has conducted other regional choirs in northern Germany. Klaue's repertoire reaches from world famous a cappella literature to the well known oratorios by Bach, Handel, Mozart, Mendelssohn, Dvorák, and Orff with full

symphony orchestra and symphonic concert choir. Michael began his relationship with Blue Lake Fine Arts Camp as a camper in 1973 and later served as a summer camp and international tour counselor. A long time member of the Blue Lake European Advisory Council, he has hosted numerous Blue Lake International groups in Germany and has brought the Ahrensburg Youth Symphony Orchestra to the United States on numerous occasions under the auspices of the Blue Lake International Exchange Program.

**Richard Rossi** holds a DMA in Conducting from the University of Illinois in Urbana-Champaign. He is currently the Director of Orchestral and Choral Activities at Eastern Illinois University. In the Fall of 2006, Richard established and directed both the Sinfonia and the Camerata Singers as part of the Collegium Musicum (Early Music Ensembles) at EIU. Serving as the chorus master for several seasons with the Illinois Symphony Orchestra and Chorus in Springfield, Illinois, Rossi conducted such works as *Fantasia on Christmas Carols* by Ralph Vaughan Williams and the Mozart and Duruflé *Requiem*. Prior to living in the Midwest, Richard spent many years in the Pittsburgh area, where he was Conductor/Music Director of the Saint Vincent Camerata for ten years, as well as the founder and director of the Saint Vincent Camerata Chamber Orchestra, the Saint Vincent College Singers, Troubadours, and the Abbey Singers (a professional vocal sextet). Richard performs recitals as a concert pianist, accompanist, organist, and countertenor. He has been the organist at First Presbyterian Church in Champaign since 1998. In his "free time," Rossi composes sacred and secular music for performance and publication through G.I.A. Publications based in Chicago, and Colla Voce, based in Indianapolis. Dr. Rossi was a member of Blue Lake's choral faculty from 2004-2006.