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Matt Hardman

Dr. John David Gerlach

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Matt,

Great idea!

As a fellow West Virginian,
I support this 100%.

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Bel Canto Valle – A New Professional Ensemble

Many of us did not choose the arts; it chose us. This paraphrase of a statement from the address to the 2007 Performing Arts Exchange by Ben Cameron of the Doris Duke Charitable Trust, holds true for my soul. As long as I can recall, I have been an ardent observer and participant in the performing arts. From singing and acting in front of an audience to producing those same stage experiences for others, I understand that working to create life changing artistic experiences for others through my gifts as an arts manager is my passion.

Like many musicians, I began at an early age with the majority of my singing experiences being in a choral setting. I have been blessed with positive experiences running the gamut – from elementary school through community choruses to professional choirs. Given that background, it is no real surprise that I would select the creation of a new singing ensemble as my performing arts start-up.

The ensemble name, *Bel Canto Valle*, (beautiful voice valley) reflects the geography of my home community in the mid-Ohio River Valley region that straddles the states of West Virginia and Ohio. This region of some 150,000 is not without a community based choral ensemble but is, however, void of a group dedicated to bringing the highest levels of the art form to the public.