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BC Alum Tapped To Compose Annual Rotary Theme

Garber's Piece To Be Heard By Group's 1.2 Million Members

EMILY SHARRER, Daily News-Record

HARRISONBURG - As the director of three music programs and the composer of four works fully scored for orchestras, choruses and soloists, Bridgewater College alumnus Aaron Garber is already a well-known name in contemporary classical music circles.

But as the composer of Rotary International's new theme song, Garber will now be known among the club's 1.2 million members as well.

"It was a great honor to be chosen to write this year's musical theme for Rotary," Garber said in a press release.

A past president of the Rotary Club of Salem, Garber is the club's membership chairman.

Garber's song bears the same name as Rotary International's theme for 2011-12: "Reach Within to Embrace Humanity."

"Hopefully, my composition reflects the importance of this year's theme," Garber said in the release.

The Rotary theme is "catchier" than Garber's typical arrangements, he says, which are mostly classical works with religious themes. The theme song is designed for piano and a solo voice.

The approximately 90-second song will be the official theme for the club for one year.

Garber, a Weyers Cave native, graduated from Bridgewater College with a music degree in 1995.

He lives in Salem, where he works as the conductor and music director of the Jefferson Choral Society, the director of music at College Lutheran Church and the founder, conductor and music director of The Chorus of the Blue Ridge, formerly The Salem Choral Society.

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