News Release  November 11 2019

The Boston Saengerfest announces a new commission, AN APPALACHIAN NOEL for men’s chorus and blue grass band by Cambridge MA composer and arranger George Emlen. AN APPALACHIAN NOEL will be premiered by the Saengerfest and the blue grass band Southern Rail southernrail.com on Saturday, December 14 at 4 pm at Casey Theatre at Regis College in Weston MA as part of WASSAIL: a Saengerfest Christmas Concert with Southern Rail. AN APPALACHIAN NOEL includes settings of “Joy to the world,” “Sister Mary had a-but one child” and “The Twelve Days of Christmas.”

George W. Emlen https://georgeemlen.com is a conductor, composer, arranger, songleader and music educator in Maine and Massachusetts. For 32 years he was music director of Revels, a Boston-based, national performing arts organization best known for annual performances of The Christmas Revels, a rich and joyful celebration of the winter solstice.

In recent years George has worked with Bobby McFerrin in the vocal improvisatory genre of Circlesinging, which he incorporates into his conducting and teaching. He currently teaches a leadership course (“Conducting Your Chorus”) at the Harvard Kennedy School for senior executives in state and local public office. George's compositions and arrangements are published by Lawson-Gould, Thorpe, Lorenz, and Redwing Press.