

## **Two Rochesters: A Friendship Told in Song**

Saturday, June 5, Mayor T.J. Jean, the First United Methodist Church and the Granite State Choral Society welcomed the Rochester Choral Society from Kent England to the Lilac City for a concert that culminated the first American Tour for the group. Members of the three choirs joined together to present a program of music including several African-American Spirituals, music by Handel as well as Faure's Requiem. The directors of the three choirs, Seth Hurd of the Granite State Choral Society, Kevin Lindsay of the First United Methodist Church Choir and Roger Sayer of the Rochester Choral Society shared conducting and accompanist duties, and Sayer treated the audience to music for the solo organ as well. The three choirs performed the same program at churches in Portsmouth and Kennebunkport during the previous week.

In recent years, there have been several visits back and forth by various individuals and Choirs associated with the Rochester, Kent and Rochester, NH. This tour is the latest event in a musical friendship between the two cities lasting more than ten years. It fulfills a promise made by members of the Rochester Choral Society in 2003 when the Granite State Choral Society toured several cities in England including a joint concert by the two choirs in the beautiful and ancient Rochester Cathedral.