



WELCOME SOUTH, BROTHER

by Eleanor Ringel Cater

Friday, July 9, 2010

Liza Minnelli may have finked out on the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra last week, but that was barely a blip on the ASO's screen since they are welcoming someone who has no intention of pulling a sick act. His name is **Stanley Romanstein** and he is the ASO's new CEO (almost rhymes, doesn't it?). Though he comes to us from the Minnesota Humanities Center in St. Paul, he has plenty of Southern cred. "I grew up in Charleston, S.C.," he says. "So I'm no stranger to the South. I've just been away awhile."

The conversation turned to movies, as it often does with me. "On the whole, I don't think the South is served well in film. Say 'Atlanta' and people think 'Gone With The Wind. Say 'South' and people think either movies based on Pat Conroy novels or 'The Dukes of Hazzard.' As a city and as a region, we're much more nuanced and far more complex than most movies would suggest." (Personal note: I'd never lump Conroy and the Dukes together, but I get his point.)

And his favorite movie score? "The Italian film 'Il Postino' ('The Postman') is my all-time favorite film (boy, he had me before hello). The score is broad, sweeping, descriptive, very romantic. And it stays with me for days after I see the film."