

September 4, 2021

I hope this letter finds you and your families healthy and safe. No one could have dreamed that it would be 18 months between the last time we sang as an ensemble. That drought of no music-making affects you as a person, I know it did me. I anticipate tears of happiness and joy, when we get to hear all of us together again...I've already got my Kleenex ready!

With the uncertainty of the virus, as well as ever-changing infection rates, I want to make this a safe and pleasant experience for all involved, while still being able to perform in some way, shape or form. I have chosen to perform the *Frostiana* cycle of Robert Frost poetry composed by Randall Thompson. It contains 7 individual pieces, 3 for Mixed Chorus, 2 for Treble voices, and 2 for Male voices. That will allow us to rehearse in sections, limiting the time needed to bring the entire ensemble together. The music is VERY accessible and should not take long for you to master...you really only have 5 pieces to learn! I anticipate having an early concert, late October or early November (TBD) to hopefully avoid any possible shut downs that might occur with the colder weather keeping people inside more frequently. Some of these pieces might already be familiar to you, we have done most of them before, but never as a complete set.

I am not sure if there will be a Chamber Singers piece yet...TBD.

There are tracks for each of these movements for you to listen to and learn your part.

Frostiana

1. The Road Not Taken (SATB)
2. The Pasture (TBB)
3. Come In (SAA)
4. The Telephone (SAA/TTBB)
5. Girl's Garden (SAA)
6. Stopping By Woods on a Snowing Evening (TBB)
7. Choose Something Like a Star (SATB)

Again, this season, we will be utilizing our Sullivan County Community Chorus website (scchorus.org). Located on the site is a members-only section (with password) where you will find all recordings. You can either listen to them on your computer, or download the files and burn them to CD.

For any new members, or for people who wish to change the vocal sections they are singing in, I am continuing to require those people to meet with me individually where I will guide you through a series of vocal warm-ups designed to determine your vocal range, confirm that you can match pitch, and ensure that you are singing in the appropriate section of the chorus. I will be available from 5:30 p.m.-6:15 p.m. on Thursday, September 9th (our first rehearsal night). This should only take 5-7 minutes per person. If you cannot make those times, please contact me to set something up, 845-594-6786 (cell), or 845-985-2296 x5510.

Here is a list of when (unless otherwise noted, 6:30 p.m.—8:30 p.m.) and where (unless otherwise noted, all rehearsals will be at the **Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in Woodbourne, NY**) our rehearsals will take place:

September

Thursday, 9th (please begin to arrive at 6:00 p.m. to receive music and pay dues)

Tuesday, 14th (Due to Yom Kippur on Thursday)

Tuesday, 21st (Due to Tri-Valley Open House on Thursday)

Thursday, 30th

October

Thursday, 7th

Thursday, 14th [ANNUAL MEETING-ELECTIONS 6PM]

Tuesday, 19th (Due to Parent-Teacher Conferences on Thursday)

Thursday, 28th (Come in Halloween Costume!)

Other Rehearsals depending on Concert date will come later!

I hope to see everyone at our first rehearsal, Thursday, September 9th at **Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in Woodbourne, NY**. Plan to arrive around 6:00 p.m. or so to receive music, and other housekeeping items. Rehearsal will begin at 6:30 p.m. Here is what you should expect when you first arrive:

1. **MASKS MUST BE WORN AT ALL TIMES UNTIL YOU ARE SEATED INSIDE THE CHURCH!**
You are of course free to leave it. When singing, we will be 3ft. apart, and have masks on. If possible, I encourage you to wear an N95 mask, as it does not press against your face as you are inhaling to sing, or some other type of “singer’s mask” if you choose to purchase one. Later on in the rehearsal schedule, or when we become more familiar with a piece, we will move to 5-6ft. apart, and those who are comfortable, may remove their masks at that point.
2. Weather permitting, outside at a welcome table, you will have your temperature taken, and **you MUST show proof of vaccine (first attendance time only)**.
3. **No dues will be collected for this season!** Return any old music and binder. If you know someone who will not be singing with us this season, please bring their music binder as well...much appreciated!
4. Receive paper folder with photocopies (legal copies are in our library) of music (in case we are unable to finish this season, we do not have to worry about music returns).
5. Sit in your section.

Sincerely,
Kevin J. Giroux
Conductor