

HERITAGE CHORALE

P.O. Box 1335, Framingham, Massachusetts 01701-1335

Welcome to The Heritage Chorale's 73rd concert season! We hope you will enjoy an exciting musical experience as we prepare for and present our concerts. We are a vibrant community chorus and enjoy the chance to perform for our families, friends, and the broader Metrowest public.

This Handbook discusses the history and organization of the Heritage Chorale as well as the responsibilities of members. Should you have any questions about this information, please feel free to ask any member of the Board of Directors or the Membership Chairperson.

Thank you for joining!

2009 - 2010 Concerts
November 22, 2009
February 6, 2010
May 8, 2010

Heritage Chorale Audio Info-Line: 508.270.3999
Heritage Chorale web Site: www.heritagechorale.org
Membership Chairperson: Jennifer Ward
508.653.4953
dsjeward@verizon.net

The Heritage Chorale

The Heritage Chorale was founded in the fall of 1937 by a small group of Framingham residents who often gathered informally to sing madrigals and spirituals. Known then as the Community Choral Society, the ensemble gave its first concert of short works in May, 1939 on a budget of \$62.

Obviously much has changed in the intervening years; recent audiences have enjoyed sold-out performances of *Elijah* and Verdi's *Requiem* with full orchestra and professional soloists, Beethoven's *9th Symphony* with the Civic Orchestra of Boston, and *Carmina Burana* with a chorus of 85 singers!

The Chorale has flourished under the leadership of outstanding directors including the founder, Edward Gilday; Allen Lannom; John Oliver; Robert Gronquist; Christopher Carlson and Philip Moss. Much of the Heritage Chorale's recent success has come thanks to the visionary leadership and high expectations set by Music Director John Finney, who has led the Chorale since 1987.

The repertoire of the Heritage Chorale has included such major works as *A German Requiem* by Brahms, the *St. John Passion* by Bach and the complete *Messiah* by Handel. The Chorale has performed in the past with the Wellesley Symphony and the New Philharmonia Orchestra. While our concerts are most frequently performed in Framingham, the chorus has performed in neighboring communities, most recently in Wellesley and Southborough.

The Heritage Chorale is a non-profit Massachusetts corporation and is governed by by-laws that are available for member perusal.

Membership

Qualification for Membership *(from the Heritage Chorale By-laws)*

“Membership is open to all individuals, regardless of race, color, creed, national origin, handicap, gender or sexual preference who: (i) pass an entrance audition by the music director/conductor; and (ii) pay membership and other fees as determined by the boards of directors.”

Chorale members are EXPECTED to participate in ALL concerts and have an obligation to attend ALL rehearsals.

Auditions

Auditions are held in September and sometimes in mid-season. Following two open rehearsals, auditions are conducted by the Music Director with section leaders and Membership Chair in attendance. Those who audition should be prepared to sight-read and sing music rehearsed during open rehearsals.

Dues

Member dues are currently set at \$80.00 per season and are due by November 1st. Dues for members who are unable to sing the full concert season are not prorated and must be paid in full no later than four weeks prior to the concert for which they are returning.

Members who join for the first time in mid-season will be assessed the full amount at that time. However, the next fall these members will be assessed for half the current dues for that entire season.

All Chorale dues should be paid by check to the Treasurer or the Assistant Treasurer.

Rehearsals

Weekly Rehearsals

Rehearsals are held, September through May, every Tuesday from 7:45 – 10:15 p.m. at Scott Hall, First Parish Church in Framingham. **Members have an obligation to attend all rehearsals and be prompt.**

Dress Rehearsals

Mandatory dress rehearsals are scheduled prior to each concert.

Absence from Rehearsal

Rehearsals provide members the opportunity to learn the music of a concert in ways that cannot be effectively accomplished in any other venue. As a choral group, it is imperative that the Chorale practice as an ensemble. Merely learning the notes is not enough; learning the music in the company of those with whom one will be singing in concert is critical to a satisfying concert performance.

Members may miss no more than two (2) classical music rehearsals per concert or one (1) Pops rehearsal. If absences exceed these minimums, the Music Director, at his/her discretion, may use any means necessary to ascertain if the member has sufficient knowledge of the music to participate in the concert. If the Director determines the member is not adequately prepared, he/she will ask the member not to sing the concert and the member will comply.

When absences cannot be avoided

If a situation should arise when you know in advance that a concert or rehearsal will be missed due to illness, family or work obligations, the Membership Chairperson and your Section Leader must be notified as soon as possible.

Chorale members who miss a rehearsal must check with their Section Leaders to find out what music was rehearsed during their absence and to obtain any significant directions pertaining to that music which were provided by the Music Director.

Chorale members with a continuing conflict that results in frequent late arrivals or absences must obtain the permission of the Music Director for such tardiness and/or absence and inform both the Membership Chairperson and their Section Leaders.

Rehearsal Cancellation

On rare occasions a rehearsal may be canceled due to inclement weather. The Membership Chairperson will provide a phone chain showing a call-down directory. In the event of weather-related changes, members will be notified by means of the phone chain. Rehearsal and concert status will be available on the Chorale InfoLine (508.270.3999).

Rehearsal Intermission

During each rehearsal, there is a 20-minute intermission in which Chorale announcements are made and Chorale business is conducted. **Due to time limitations, only announcements pertaining to the Chorale or Chorale members may be made.**

Concerts

Qualification to Sing Concerts (from the Heritage Chorale By-laws)

“Qualification to sing in concerts is granted to members who: (i) maintain required levels of performance; (ii) pass a re-audition when requested by the music director/conductor; and (iii) follow all guidelines as specified in the Membership Handbook.”

The Chorale Season of Concerts

The Chorale season, including three concerts, begins with rehearsals in early September and concludes in mid-May. Two of the concerts feature classical music and often include professional soloists and orchestra. The third concert is a Pops style concert featuring lighter music, typically table seating and refreshments. In some years, the Chorale is invited to collaborate with other performing groups and often elects to do so.

Concert Attire

In an effort to ensure a uniform Chorale appearance, the Board of Directors reserves the right to request that members wear concert attire that conforms to the guidelines described below. Failure to dress within the stated dress guidelines could result in a member's being asked to find alternative clothing that falls within the guidelines or being asked not to sing in a concert. The Dress Chairperson is responsible for articulating the dress guidelines to members and speaking with those whose clothing appears not to conform to the guidelines. All questions concerning dress policy should be referred to the Dress Chairperson or, in the case of the Pops dress, to the Pops Committee.

Guidelines for Concert Attire for Classical Concerts

- Men
 - ✓ Black tuxedo (jacket, trousers, cummerbund); vest is optional
 - ✓ White shirt with black bow tie
 - ✓ Black shoes and socks; athletic footwear is not acceptable
- Women
 - ✓ Dressy, solid-black, **ankle-length** skirt (without slits) **OR** dressy, solid-black, **ankle-length** slacks (not tapered or “pegged” styles)
 - ✓ Uniform black top, ordered by and purchased from the Dress Chairperson
 - ✓ Dressy black heels or flats and **black hose**; athletic footwear is not acceptable
 - ✓ Discreet jewelry

Guidelines for Concert Attire for the Pops Concert

- Men
 - ✓ Requirements are the same as those for classical concerts.

- ✓ Men may be asked by the Pops Committee to wear solid bow ties and cummerbunds in a color other than black, depending on thematic elements of the concert.
- Women
 - ✓ Requirements are the same as those for classical concerts.
 - ✓ Women may be asked by the Pops Committee to wear an accessory, depending on thematic elements of the concert.
- Other
 - Props and other items to emphasize a particular musical piece or to add some comic relief may be assigned by the Pops Committee to those who volunteer.

Out of consideration for others, please avoid the use of cologne, perfume and other scented personal care products both at rehearsals and concerts.

No electronic devices (watches, pagers, cell phones) should be active during rehearsal or performances.

Concert attire is **not** worn for dress rehearsals.

Privacy Policy

Personal Information

The Heritage Chorale maintains contact information (telephone numbers and addresses) for each member and publishes it in its Face Book each year. Contact information should be used only to communicate information related to Chorale events. Members are asked to respect the privacy of fellow Chorale members and not share members' addresses or phone numbers with anyone outside the chorus.

Email Communication

When you provide us with your email address, the Heritage Chorale will, from time to time, contact you with important information that pertains to Chorale events only. All *Chorale-related messages* are to be sent electronically through the Membership Chair. Members are asked to respect the privacy of fellow Chorale members and not share Chorale email addresses nor add Chorale members to other email lists you or others create.

Financial Information

The Heritage Chorale will protect, and keep confidential, all financial information that you share with us.

Links from our website

Our website may contain links to other websites. We do not control the privacy policies of the destinations sites. Once you leave our servers, use of any information you provide is governed by the privacy policy of the operator of the site you are visiting. The Heritage Chorale is not responsible for the privacy practices or content of websites other than ours.

Chorale Finances

Thanks to the efforts of many members, the Heritage Chorale is a financially healthy non-profit organization, registered as such with the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Monies that are raised support the hiring of our Music Director and Accompanist, as well as expenses incurred in the production of concerts, including professional soloists and orchestra.

Members' Financial Obligations

- Yearly dues, as described elsewhere in this Handbook.
- Concert dress, as described elsewhere in this Handbook.
- Music: The Board of Directors will determine the cost of music for each performance and shall assess each member accordingly. To sing in the concert, members must pay for their music no later than four (4) weeks after cost has been announced. Members who already own a score will not be assessed for new music, provided that the edition proposed for use is approved by the Music Director.
- Professional black performance folder: To achieve a uniform appearance, members are expected to use a black performance folder. These folders are available at a nominal cost from the Music Librarian.

Selling Concert Tickets

Concert performances are the culmination of many weeks of exciting and enjoyable preparation. Chorale members are encouraged to sell tickets to friends, relatives, and other interested persons.

Fund Raising Efforts

Every Chorale member is strongly encouraged to participate in each fund raising event to help achieve our revenue goals. Participation in these events contributes to a sense of community among members. These fund-raisers represent about two-thirds of Chorale income and are fundamental to performing quality concerts. For the 09-10 concert season, the following fund raising campaigns will be conducted:

- The **Friends and Supporters** campaign begins in late September and continues for about six weeks. Members are asked to solicit contributors and/or advertisements for the program booklet. Members are also encouraged to make donations on their own. This is the Chorale's most lucrative fund raising activity.
- A **Pops Concert** features performance of lighter music in the "Pops" style, typically with table seating and refreshments. In addition to singing, members sell tickets and may be asked to provide the refreshments for the audience. Ticket prices for the Pops Concert are higher than for classical concerts and concert expenses for the Pops are considerably less than for classical concerts. Thus, the Pops Concert is operated as a fund raising activity.
- The **Heritage Craft Fair** is held on a Saturday in early spring. Vendors rent space to sell their wares; admission is charged to enter; and the Chorale sells

breakfast and lunch foods. There are numerous opportunities for Chorale members to support this event.

- The **Florida Citrus Campaign** runs through the winter months and Chorale members are asked to support the campaign by selling citrus fruit to family, friends and co-workers.

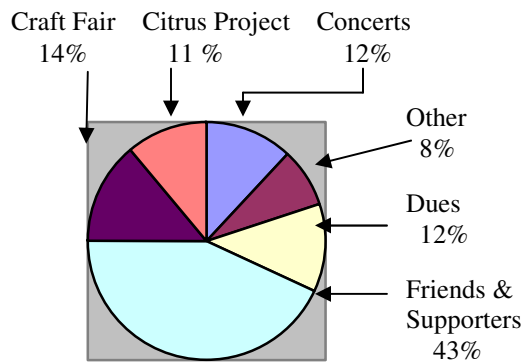
Gifts and Bequests

Chorale members, their friends and family can consider making a charitable gift or bequest to the Chorale to help assure its long-term financial future. For further information, contact the Vice-President of Development.

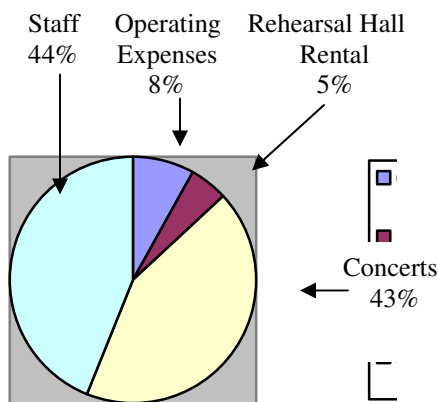
Income and Disbursements

The two pie charts below depict the typical sources of the Chorale’s income and the general categories of expenditures. The annual gross budget is more than \$90,000.

Projected 2010 Chorale Income



Projected 2010 Chorale Disbursements



Chorale Organization

Board of Directors

President

Hospitality and Membership
Nominating Committee

Vice President of Development

Friends and Supporters Campaign
Pops Concert
Heritage Craft Fair
Citrus Campaign
Grants and Corporate Donations
Gifts and Bequests

Vice President of Production

Securing rehearsal and concert venues
Scheduling
Staging of rehearsals and concerts

Vice President of Communications

Publicity
Ticket sales
Maintenance of website and telephone information line
Program booklet

Treasurer

Finance and budget
Federal and state reporting

Clerk

Archives
Correspondence

Chorus Representative

Chorus Representative

Chorus Representative

Music Director/Conductor *

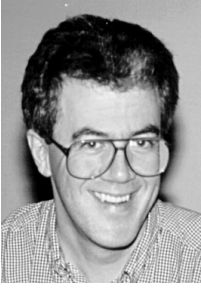
Assistant Treasurer *

Assistant Clerk *

Assistant Vice President of Communications *

* Non-Voting Member

Staff



John Finney, *Music Director and Conductor*

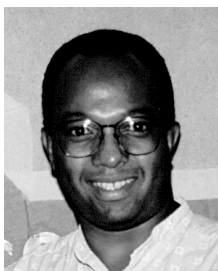
John Finney has been conductor of the Heritage Chorale since 1987, and has led the Heritage Chorale in a wide range of repertoire, including the *Requiems* of Mozart and Brahms, Mendelssohn's oratorio, *Elijah*, and Handel's *Israel in Egypt*. For the Chorale's gala 70th season, he led the Chorale in an all-Beethoven concert that included the *Mass in C major* and the *Fantasia in C minor for Piano, Chorus, and Orchestra*.

Mr. Finney has an extremely active career as a choral conductor and as a keyboard player, equally at home with the organ, harpsichord, and fortepiano. Since 1993, he has been the conductor of the 160-voice University Chorale of Boston College; he has directed the college Chorale in performances throughout Ireland, Puerto Rico, the Czech Republic, Austria, and Italy. In 1999 he was appointed Conductor of the Boston College Symphony Orchestra and given the title of "Distinguished Artist-in-Residence" at Boston College.

Mr. Finney is Director of Music at the Wellesley Hills Congregational Church. He is also the Associate Conductor of the world-renowned Handel & Haydn Society in Boston, where he has served as Chorusmaster since 1990. He conducted the Society's performances of Handel's *Messiah* in 2004 to wide acclaim.

John Finney holds degrees in organ performances from the Oberlin College Conservatory of Music and the New England Conservatory; his teachers have included David S. Boe and James David Christie. He has been a prizewinner in several international organ competitions, including the competition in Bruges, Belgium.

As organist, he has performed with the Boston Symphony Orchestra, the Boston Pops, the Smithsonian Chamber Players, and The Bach Ensemble. As harpsichordist and fortepianist, he performs and records regularly with the Handel & Haydn Society.



Darryl Hollister, *Assistant Conductor and Accompanist*

Darryl Hollister, a native of Michigan, came to the Boston area in 1981 to pursue graduate studies in piano with Patricia Zander at the New England Conservatory of Music. In addition to the Heritage Chorale, he serves as assistant conductor and accompanist to Coro Allegro, the Dedham Choral Society, and the Commonwealth School Chorus and Chorale.

Since he has started championing the works of African and African-American composers, he has performed premieres of works by various leading composers. At the Festival of African and African-American Music in St. Louis in 2000 he premiered *the Spring of Esentre* by Paul Konye. In April 2003 he gave the world premiere of *Three Ivory Magnolia Fantasies* by Gary Nash in a recital at Mississippi Valley State University. In July 2005 he was invited to perform at the New Music Indaba Festival in Grahamstown, South Africa, with soprano Dawn Padmore. As recently as January 2007, Mr. Hollister and Ms. Padmore performed a recital of African piano and vocal music at the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C. The Heritage Chorale was delighted to feature Darryl as piano soloist in Beethoven's *Fantasia in C minor for Piano, Chorus, and Orchestra* in the 2006 – 2007 concert year.