



DECATUR CIVIC CHORUS

Director's Letter

Executive Board

Co-Presidents: Dan Mundy & Tom Watson

Co-Presidents Elect:
Marcia Philips & Marilyn Self

Treasurer: Bill Philips

Director: Scott Keeseey

Assistant Director:
Lindsey Benne

Accompanist: Lisa Nall

Assistant Accompanist:
Betty Baccus

Music: Betty Baccus & Barbara Giebelhaus

Patrons: Nancy Van Wyk

Programs: Tom Watson

Publicity: Carl Seale

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Wardrobe: Cindy Robinson

Website: Nora Geer & Beth Allyn Parker

Director Emeritus:

Mary Anne Sharp

Fall is upon us, which means the Decatur Civic Chorus is back to work preparing and perfecting music for our Christmas performance. This year's program will feature the classic work, Vivaldi's "Gloria," in addition to several sacred and secular holiday selections. Breaking from a longstanding tradition of a Sunday afternoon presentation, the DCC will perform our annual Christmas Concert on Saturday evening, December 9th at 7:00 pm in the sanctuary of Decatur First Baptist Church.

I am very pleased with the substantial strides the chorus has already made this year as we have once again boasted a generous growth spurt. With the addition of 8 new members our sound has become more full and rich. Our "louds" are louder while still maintaining an intimacy of sound with our softer selections. There is an enthusiasm and anticipation in the room as we look forward to the significant progress each rehearsal produces. Our morale is sky-high and our excitement to perform even higher.

In the Spring some Decatur Civic Chorus members along with those of the Carrollton First United Methodist Chancel Choir will be participating in a performance of John Rutter's "Mass of the Children" on the stage of Carnegie Hall in New York. Singers will join voices with choirs from across the country as they take part in rigorous rehearsals with Maestro Rutter. This historic concert which will be under the baton of the composer himself on Memorial Day weekend.

If you are looking for a new singing home, I hope that you will consider joining us. The DCC is growing in numbers, energy, and excitement welcoming all who love to sing into this musical family. We will meet you at your level of musicianship, as each rehearsal is a learning experience for newcomers and veterans alike. Whether you are a high school choral student, have many years of choral singing, or just want to try singing with a great group, you have a place here in the DCC.

I look forward to seeing each of you on Saturday night December 9th at 7:00 pm in the beautiful sanctuary of Decatur First Baptist Church. I am certain that this concert will enhance your holiday experience, as the variety of Christmas songs will include something for each musical taste.

Scott D. Keeseey

Artistic Director

The Decatur Civic Chorus

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If you would like to receive information about upcoming Decatur Civic Chorus concerts by email, please go to our website: www.decaturocivicchorus.org and click on the email link under "Get Email from Decatur Civic Chorus."

Tax Information: The Decatur Civic Chorus is a non-profit organization under section 501 (c)(3) of the IRS code. (The tax ID # is 58 1298703.) Donations to the DCC may be deductible; please consult with your tax advisor.

Co-Presidents' Letter

Dear Patrons and Sponsors,

This is the seventieth season the Decatur Civic Chorus (DCC) has been "together in harmony." It's an amazing tradition. Especially considering the number of venues and the people of the many nations that have enjoyed our music.

The DCC began this season's rehearsals in late August. We are hard at work on familiar pieces from our library. BUT...Scott Keeseey, our amazingly creative director, has added at least one brand new piece that is both timely and amusing. We sincerely hope you, our supporters, will enjoy hearing our Christmas performance as much as we enjoy putting it all together. Christmas music is a fantastic way of expressing the joy and meaning of The Season.

Our Christmas Concert is scheduled for Saturday, December 9, 2017 at 7:00 pm at Decatur First Baptist Church, 308 Clairemont Avenue, Decatur, Georgia. Please mark it on your calendars! We are trying a Saturday performance for a change, and we look forward to seeing you there.

In a further effort to aid our community and beyond, we are also working on our "second annual" benefit concert for the Red Cross Disaster Relief Fund. Although a date has not been set, we aim to present this benefit concert during the spring of 2018. Last year we raised approximately \$2,000 for the Red Cross. This year, with so many weather-related disasters, we hope to increase that donation.

We are grateful to our supporters, in so many ways: for your shared love of music; the familiar faces; the fun of meeting new people; the financial contributions; and your faithful attendance at concerts. Your support has helped the DCC bring musical joy to the city of Decatur and the world.

Best Regards and Very Warm Wishes,

Dan Mundy and Tom Watson

Co-Presidents

*"Music does bring people together.
It allows us to experience the same emotions.
People everywhere are the same in heart and spirit.
No matter what language we speak, what color we are,
the form of our politics or the expression of our love and our faith,
music proves: We are the same."
John Denver*

Patron Chair's Letter

Fall Greetings to our Sponsors and Patrons,

As the leaves begin to change color, is it my imagination, or can you pick up the fragrances of hot apple cider and bonfires? Many of us are starting to get our yards and gardens ready for a "long winter's nap" but members of the Decatur Civic Chorus are far from resting.

DCC members have come together again and what fun it has been to see old friends and meet new members. Our music for the Christmas concert has something for everyone; magnificent works from the masters and delightful carols of Christmas. Some songs are familiar and feel like old friends while others we are just getting to know. Although the words and rhythms vary, the wonder and joy of Christmas flow through the songs.

Through the years you have received many a letter from me requesting your support. I sometimes reflect on how blessed I have been to communicate with so many of you. Please know that your contributions are never taken for granted and are most gratefully accepted. The DCC really could not continue to provide free concerts and benefit programs without your assistance.

Contributions to the Decatur Civic Chorus can be made **In Celebration** of an event, **In Honor** of or **In Memory** of a special person in your life.

When life is difficult, and at times that is the case for all of us, "We Need A Little Christmas" to make our burdens lighter and our days brighter. So, put Saturday, December 9th, on your calendar and come join the DCC family and friends for an evening that is sure to nourish your soul, lift your spirit and keep your toes tapping.

My sincere wish is that each of you will feel special and loved now and throughout the Christmas Season.

Nancy R. Van Wyk
Patron Chairman

DCC Invites You to Become a Sponsor

Please take a moment to consider the sponsorship levels listed below and give as you are able.
Any amount will be received with gratitude.

Diamond Sponsor- \$2,000 & above

Platinum Sponsor- \$1,000 - \$1,999

Gold Sponsor- \$500 - \$999

Silver Sponsor - \$200 - \$499

Bronze Sponsor - \$100 - \$ 199

Patron – up to \$99

Names of Sponsors and Patrons are listed in the concert program.

Special Recognitions Received from May, 2017 Concert to Present

In Memory of Janet Carlson Burdsal

By Hal & Mary Jane Horsburgh

In Memory of Bill Cameron

By Georgia Sue Cameron

**In Memory of my husband, Jim Dill, who sang
with the DCC for 38 years and whose presence
is felt each time I perform**

By Linda Dill

In Memory of Polly Hinde

By Phyllis White

In Memory of Sherwood Merchant

By Peggy Merchant

In Memory of my Mother

Anonymous

In Memory of Helen Palmour

By Cathryn Cook

In Memory of Pat & Spud Rasmussen

By Georgia Sue Cameron

In Memory of Dawn A. Thomas

By Jeanine Andrews

Betty Baccus

Dottie Bonnell

Dan & Lynn Broome

Larry & Peggy Clayton

Barbara Disney

Charlotte Fagan

Financial Industry Technical Services, Inc.

Green Financial Resources, LLC

Cathy Fryman

Hal & Mary Jane Horsburgh

Dorothy M. Hurst

Lisa R. Jensen

Gregory & Dena Jones

Mary Dell Robert

Carolyn Robison

Mary Anne Sharp

Jean M. Smith

In Memory of Dawn A. Thomas

continued...

Mrs. Julia T. Smith

David Thomas

Irene & Jim Valley

Eric & Jennifer Wahlen

The Leland K. Young Family

Martha & Bob Zimmer

In Memory of Pete Williams

By Madge E. Watson

In Honor of Betty Baccus

By Madge E. Watson

In Honor of Chorus Members

By Joyce Paris

In Honor of Patti Ireland

By Phyllis White

In Honor of Carl Seale

By Heidi Couch

In Honor of Bill & Marcia Philips

By Mary Anne & Werner Kuettner

Colin F. Moore

In Honor of Mary Anne Sharp

By Martha Ann Highsmith

Hodgson Thomas & Family

In Honor of Nancy Van Wyk

By Hodgson Thomas & Family

In Honor of Pat Warthan

By Phyllis White

In Honor of Tom & Darleen Watson's

40th Wedding Anniversary

By Earl & Patricia Donaldson

*For the common things of every day,
God gave men speech in the common way.
For the higher things men think and feel,
God gave the poet words to reveal.
But for heights and depths no words can reach,
God gave men music – the soul's own speech.
~Author Unknown*