



DECATUR CIVIC CHORUS

Director's Letter

Executive Board

Co-Presidents: Marcia Philips & Marilyn Self

Co-Presidents Elect: Nora Geer & Ralph Murchison

Treasurer: Bill Philips

Secretary: Peggy Clayton

Director: Scott Keesey

Assistant Director:
Lindsey Benne

Accompanist: Lisa Nall

Assistant Accompanist:
Betty Baccus

Music: Betty Baccus & Barbara Giebelhaus

Patrons: Nancy Van Wyk

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Website: Nora Geer & Beth Allyn Parker

Director Emeritus:

Mary Anne Sharp

The historic Decatur Civic Chorus has returned to rehearsal following a well-deserved summer hiatus. The summer off allowed our singers time to recharge their vocal batteries in anticipation of our return on Labor Day. Our first rehearsal brought with it much excitement as we welcomed several new members, each of whom has added so much to our collective personality and choral sound.

The chorus is busily preparing for our December 8th Christmas performance "Repeat the Sounding Joy," which will be held in the Sanctuary of Decatur First Baptist Church at 4:00 PM. This holiday performance will offer something for everyone combining traditional sacred Christmas carols with upbeat secular holiday selections. Our performance will be accompanied by our own Lisa Nall on piano, in addition to several selections using brass and stringed accompaniment.

While the music for our spring semester has not yet been determined, our spring performance will be focused on "Family." With this broad brushstroke, we will paint songs of love, togetherness, memories and childhood. Our first rehearsal of the Spring Season will be at 7:00 PM on January 7, 2019.

Now in our 70th year, the Decatur Civic Chorus looks back fondly at decades of choral performances, national and international trips and countless hours of rehearsals. It is with immense pride that many of our choristers are reminded of a memory along the way and share it with our newer singers, continuing the legacy of the Chorus.

The Decatur Civic Chorus would love to welcome you to this group of singers. Reading music is not a prerequisite, but a passion for singing is essential. New members do not have to endure a public or private audition alone; but will need to sing in a small group, behind closed doors, to best place their voice within the chorus. The chorus rehearses each Monday evening at 7:00 PM in the choir room of Decatur First Baptist Church.

We look forward to seeing you at our Christmas Concert. We would not want you to miss hearing the uplifting and joyful sounds of the Holiday Season.

Scott D. Keesey
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.

The Decatur Civic Chorus gratefully acknowledges the support of Fidelity Bank!



Co-Presidents' Letter

Dear Sponsors and Patrons,

Our Fall Season is just beginning, but the Decatur Civic Chorus is already getting in the Christmas Spirit.

We came back refreshed from our vacations ready to sing on Labor Day. Several members have already welcomed their friends to join us so we have some new faces and voices to present to you at the Christmas Concert.

As you know, our Christmas Concert is one of the highlights of our choral year. Our Director, Scott Keesey, has picked out some beautiful and uplifting songs that we know you will remember and enjoy.

This year's concert is scheduled for **Saturday, December 8th at 4:00 PM.** at Decatur First Baptist Church. It is located at 308 Clairemont Avenue, Decatur, Georgia. **Please note the date** since it is a **Saturday.**

Last year we celebrated the 70th anniversary of the Chorus, and, as you are well aware, we lost several longtime members. While that is inevitable in a group with our long history, we are buoyed up by our rehearsals and performances, which keep their spirits alive and continues their legacy and love of choral music.

We are excited to be able to share some traditional Christmas favorites and a few new selections this season.

Please join us in celebrating the joy and devotion of choral music either by singing with us or attending our free concerts.

We are grateful for your faithful support. We look forward to seeing at the Christmas concert!

Love and warm wishes,

Marcia Philips and Marilyn Self

Co-Presidents

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.

Patron Chair's Letter

Autumn Greetings to our Sponsors and Patrons,

Summer is now a fond memory and we are enjoying the cooler weather. The leaves are beginning to fall, crunch beneath your feet as you walk and give a wonderful splash of color to the landscape. It is time to rake leaves, plant pansies, drink hot chocolate and begin to make plans for the upcoming holidays.

Members of the Decatur Civic Chorus are in full swing preparing music for the Christmas Concert. When I first set eyes on the music it gave me the delightful feeling of seeing old friends again after a long absence.

Remember when we used to have pen pals? Through the years, you, the sponsors and patrons of the DCC, have become my pen pals. It is great fun when I hear from you. Your contributions are never taken for granted. The DCC is humbled by and exceedingly grateful for your faithful support.

Contributions may be made **In Celebration** of an event, **In Honor** of or **In Memory** of an exceptional individual. A card will be sent to the individual or family members making them aware of the recognition. Special recognitions will be noted in the Concert Program as time permits. Donations made after the program goes to print will be published in the Spring DCC newsletter and noted in the next printed concert program.

Your attendance at our concerts uplifts us and spurs us on to greater heights. I look forward to seeing many of you in December. Until that time take care of yourselves, cozy up with a good book and enjoy the beauty of this season.

May the upcoming holidays provide you with many memories to warm your heart and fill you with joy and peace.

Nancy Van Wyk,
Patron Chairman

Special Recognitions Received Since Spring Concert

In Memory of Ed & Evelyn Arnn

By R. Marie Browne

In Memory of my mother, Mickey Bowers

By Helen B. Ogren

In Memory of Jim Dill

Anonymous

In Memory of Family

By Betty L. Griffith

In Memory of my parents, Anita & Harry Garnsey

By Patricia A. Ridgeway

**In Memory of my parents, Mildred & Gilbert
Kelso**

By Robert Kelso

In Memory of my mother, Nora Marshall

By Ronald Burgess

In Memory of Lion PDG Ken Massingale

By Genie Massingale

In Memory of Sherwood Merchant

By Peggy Merchant

In Memory of Dawn Thomas

By Bob & Debbie Thomas

In Memory of Alcie Thornton

By Maie E. Monds

In Celebration of Susan Boyan

Anonymous

In Honor of Randall & Phyllis Aucker

By Clyde & Renee Smith

In Honor of Frank Barrett

By Catherine Carter
Clyde & Renee Smith

In Honor of Bill & Marcia Philips

By Patricia Hilscher
Colin Moore
Douglas & Ingrid Neale

In Honor of Trisha Ridgeway

By Carolyn A. Casarella

No Man Is An Island

Theme Song for the Decatur Civic Chorus

The story of how this song became the theme song of the Chorus is a fascinating one. In 1958, on our first European Concert Tour, we were to sing in the renowned International Choral Festival, the Eistedfod, in Llangollen, Wales. Members of the Chorus had worked for five years selling everything from candy to light bulbs to be able to go on the trip. Just to be accepted for the famous international competition was an honor.

Upon arriving in the village of Llangollen, we found that officials of the festival had not received our entry forms ... so they did not even know that we were coming. The officials scurried around and found housing for the 35 of us and invited us to sing in the final concert of the event.

Newspapers in Wales, England and the United States picked up the story of how an American group of singers came such a long way to be in the competition and then were not able to participate. We became so well known through stories and front-page pictures, that we ended up signing many autographs.

The festival lasted for 5 days; and was held in a tent that seated 20,000 people. Those that could not get inside the tent sat on the hillsides; making an audience of about 40,000 people. Of course, we were very disappointed that we could not be part of the competition because we had practiced the songs for over a year. The Chorus was thrilled to be able to participate in the Grand Finale.

Mary Clark, Director of the Decatur Civic Chorus at that time, insisted that we practice every moment possible for our "big appearance." We sang Randal Thompson's *Alleluia*, the spiritual *My Lord, What A Mornin* and *No Man Is An Island*. By the time we came to the end of our performance every Chorus member was so moved that we were in tears; the audience, upon seeing our emotion, were roused and also began to cry. It was one of the most awe-inspiring moments in our history. From that moment on, *No Man Is An Island* became our theme song.

Written by: Mary Anne Sharp, Director Emeritus of the Decatur Civic Chorus

Upcoming opportunity to travel and sing in June 2019

An American Celebration of Music in France: Monuments and Memorials Tour

June 25 – July 4, 2019

Join us for 10 days in **France** and **Belgium** to celebrate history, music and the arts. Participate in ceremonies of historical perspective and significance. 2019 marks the 75th anniversary of the Allied Invasion of Normandy and the beginning of the campaign to defeat the Nazis in Europe.

To commemorate the occasion, the Society for the Preservation and Presentation of Choral Music (SPPCM) has arranged a concert tour that includes a recital in **Notre Dame Cathedral** in Paris, wreath laying ceremonies at Normandy and Ardennes and an opportunity to visit the **Louvre** while in Paris; experience Brussels and Bruges and much more.

Several singers from the Decatur Civic Chorus along with members of Chorale II will be participating in this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. We are looking for singers to join us. If you are interested and would like more information, please email sppcmtour@gmail.com