



DECATUR CIVIC CHORUS

Director's Letter

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The historic Decatur Civic Chorus is celebrating its 70th season of choral singing! In preparation for their Anniversary Spring Concert, the DCC is hard at work each Monday evening practicing and perfecting the music. The performance will be both a joyful celebration of choral singing and a reflective remembrance of 3 former members who passed on to be with their Eternal Father in February. Cathryn Cook, Alcie Thornton, and Ed Arnn were devoted and very loyal members of the DCC and will be sorely missed. It is to each of these musical saints that we dedicate this spring performance.

The DCC spring program "From Schubert to My Shot" will open with Franz Schubert's *Mass No. 2 in G Major*. In writing the Mass in G, Schubert crafted a small-scale work intended for liturgical use, rather than concert. The composer keeps the general tone light and almost cheery, with an abundance of graceful melody and scarcely any polyphony or imitative writing. The simplicity of and good spirits of the music and the fact that Schubert composed it in an amazing five days, from March 2 to 7, 1815, lead the Mass to be one of the most popular Mass settings for developing choral ensembles as well as seasoned veteran singers.

The second half of this historic presentation will turn 180 degrees toward the theater district in NYC, Broadway. During this second set the Decatur Civic Chorus will pay tribute to such Broadway productions as; *Phantom of the Opera*, *Les Misérables*, *Don Quixote*, and *Oklahoma*. As the program continues the chorus will honor hits from musicals still on stage including; *Wicked*, *Hamilton*, and *Dear Evan Hansen*. The concert will close with *No Man is an Island*, theme song of DCC, joined by chorus alumni as we sing our final goodbyes to those members who have passed away.

Thank you for your continued support as the Decatur Civic Chorus celebrates this 70th season of choral singing. I look forward to seeing you on June 3rd at 3:00 p.m. in the sanctuary of Decatur First Baptist Church, 308 Clairmont Avenue, Decatur, Georgia.

Scott D. Keeseey

Artistic Director
The Decatur Civic Chorus

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.

Decatur Civic Chorus Lovingly Remembers These Former Members

Remembering Cathryn Cook

Our dear friend and longtime DCC member, Cathryn Cook, passed away unexpectedly on February 4, 2018. She had been a member of the Chorus for 64 years. Cathryn's most exciting experience with the DCC was the opportunity of singing at both Carnegie Hall in New York City and the Kennedy Center in Washington D. C.

She and her twin sister, Carolyn, began singing when they were children and thus began a long association with music as her profession and passion. She held a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Music from the Women's College of Brenau University in Gainesville.

She was a music educator and spent 29 years at Hooper Alexander Elementary School in DeKalb County where she was a mentor to hundreds of students; introducing and giving them an appreciation of music. During this time, she won the National Teachers Award from the Freedoms Foundation for a musical she wrote telling the story of America in music and poetry.

Although she resided in Stone Mountain for many years, Cathryn continued to sing in her home church choir in Sparta, Georgia.

Because of all her contributions to the advancement of music in DeKalb County she was presented the Mary Clark Award by the Decatur Civic Chorus at the annual Spring Concert in 2016.

There will be a Celebration of Life service for Cathryn on Saturday April 28, 2018 at 3:00 PM at Lawrenceville Road UMC, 3142 Lawrenceville Hwy, Tucker, Georgia 30084.

Remembering Alcie Thornton

Alcie was always humming or singing. It was in her very nature, in her soul to have music surrounding her. If you just mentioned a simple song lyric to her, she, often accompanied by Walt, would joyfully begin to sing the song. As a friend of one of her children once said, "The Thornton's can sing about anything!"

Quite simply, Alcie loved music and she was a gifted singer. Through the years she shared her God-given gift as a soprano with the chancel choir at Columbia Presbyterian Church as well as with the Decatur Civic Chorus in local concerts as well as concerts around the world or just any other chance she had to bring her gift of song into the world.

In her autobiography, she reflected on her time with the Civic Chorus . . .

"Mary Clark was the choral director when I was asked to join the choir, which I happily did. Mary was an excellent teacher and I was able to take private voice lessons from her . . . some of my favorite memories are around two operettas I performed with the Chorus in which I had leading parts in both, *The Prince of Pilsen* and *A Waltz Dream*."

Alcie died on February 11, 2018. At her memorial service, members of the Decatur Civic Chorus joined with members of the Columbia Presbyterian Church Chancel Choir to sing *Majesty and Glory of Your Name*.

Remembering Ed Arnn

Music was an integral part of Edward William Arnn's life (July 2, 1934 – February 14, 2018). As a youth and a young man, he played drums in marching bands and sang in choirs. He graduated from The University of Tennessee, Knoxville, and then enlisted in the U.S. Navy and served on the USS Robert H. McCard Gearing-class destroyer in the late 1950's to early 1960's.

He married Evelyn Hancock in Louisville, Kentucky in 1964. They moved to Knoxville, Tennessee, where Ed received his law degree from The University of Tennessee in 1969. Ed and Evelyn moved to DeKalb County, Georgia in 1974 with their two children.

They joined the First Baptist Church of Decatur and Ed joined the choir, enriching the bass section; often singing solos accompanied by Evelyn. He and Evelyn joined The Decatur Civic Chorus and performed with them for seven years, Ed as a bass and Evelyn as the accompanist. Though Ed will be missed, and Evelyn is still missed, their legacy of performing, singing, and playing music will continue for generations.

Co-Presidents' Letter

Dear Patrons and Sponsors,

The last echoes of Auld Lang Syne had barely faded, as the Decatur Civic Chorus began preparing for our Spring Concert, 2018. This year's spring concert is scheduled for Sunday, June 3, 2018 at 3:00 pm. Location will be the Sanctuary of First Baptist Church of Decatur.

This is our seventieth season "together in harmony". And it's amazing to think of the long line of dedicated members that have stood on the risers and performed; of all the venues around the world; and of the many, many wonderful folks who have heard our music. Let this season be a toast to the next 70 years.

We are very excited about our lineup of music coming your way in June. Our spring repertoire includes several Broadway favorites, from Oklahoma to Hamilton; as well as *Schubert's Mass Number 2 in G Major*. One of the gentlest of the masses, the G Major is an astonishingly great work of the 18-year old Schubert.

Also scheduled for this spring is our second annual benefit concert for the Red Cross. This benefit will be coming from the sanctuary of Avondale Pattillo United Methodist Church, and is scheduled for Saturday, April 21, 2018 beginning at 3 pm. Our master of ceremonies will be local radio host John Lemley. And we have a talented lineup of choral groups including the Bubba Rays, the Decatur Civic Chorus, the Festival Singers of Atlanta, and the chancel choirs of both the Avondale Pattillo UMC, and the Episcopal Church of the Epiphany. Those of you who attended last year will recognize this performance lineup. Those who missed it, this is your chance for an entertaining free performance. The concert is free, but donations to the American Red Cross are encouraged.

Spring is a season for new beginnings and we are excited to bring you the 2018 season.

Y'all Come!

Dan Mundy and Tom Watson

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.

PARIS CHORAL FESTIVAL 2019: CALLING FORMER MEMBERS AND INTERESTED SINGERS

DCC hopes to participate in THE PARIS CHORAL FESTIVAL in July 2 - 9, 2019. Up to 400 singers would sing at La Madeleine Church in Paris. Before the festival DCC would travel to Normandy, the American Cemetery, Rouen, and the Caen Region. This is the 75th anniversary of D-Day and we would participate in a wreath-laying ceremony while there. The cost is \$4547 with airfare, \$2992 for land travel only. This price includes 6 breakfasts, 5 dinners, entrance fees to the Louvre, Rouen Cathedral, U.S. Military Cemetery, Ranger Monument (partial list). It does not include daily lunches, sheet music, drinks at dinner.

Please call or e-mail Barbara Giebelhaus 404-378-2746 or gibes@bellsouth.net with any questions. We need to register as soon as possible to ensure a place in the Festival.

Patron Chair's Letter

Dear Sponsors & Patrons,

"Spring is bustin' out all over" in Atlanta. In a matter of a few weeks the landscape went from drab to bright and beautiful. Nature seems to be offering its best to us in the variety of colors that are bursting forth. It is a time to celebrate the beginning of a new season.

The DCC is celebrating the beginning of our 70th season! Chorus members are working diligently each Monday evening to offer our very best at our Spring Concert. It has been and continues to be a wonderful experience for the Chorus to sing great music and share the love and joy of that music with our audiences.

This year has brought many changes to our "family." It has truly been a time of mixed joy and sorrow. We have celebrated an upcoming wedding, the birth of grandchildren and great grandchildren. However, we sorely miss those members who have recently passed away; Cathryn Cook, Alcie Thornton and Ed Arnn and grieve with those who have lost family members. Yet we press on, finding solace in harmony and just being together.

The DCC is humbled by the unwavering support of its Sponsors and Patrons. Our "extended family" continues to grow. Words seem inadequate to convey our heartfelt gratitude and appreciation for your continued generosity.

There is always room for one more in our "extended family." Your support will help the Chorus to continue to provide quality concerts free to a public that deeply appreciates the benefits and pure ecstasy of choral music. Your contribution may be designated **In Celebration of a special event, In Honor of** or **In Memory of** a special person in your life.

I look forward to hearing from my "pen pals" and seeing you at the concert in June.

My very best to you,

Nancy R. Van Wyk

Patron Chairman

Special Recognitions Received from 2017 Christmas Concert to Present

In Memory of Ed Arnn

By Marilyn Adams
Mark G. Burnette
Susan & Terry Calderwood
Larry & Peggy Clayton
Barbara Disney
Jeff Geer
Nora Geer
Barbara & Gus Giebelhaus
Bill & Marcia Philips
Bob Simmons
Arnie & Nancy Van Wyk

In Memory of Ms. Nancy B. Bridges

By Robert R. & Carolyn B. Woodson
Fund

In Memory of Gerald L. Clayton

By Earl & Patricia Donaldson

In Memory of Cathryn Cook

By Randall & Phyllis Aucker
Betty Baccus
Larry & Peggy Clayton
Barbara Disney
Jeff Geer
Nora Geer
Barbara & Gus Giebelhaus
Bill & Marcia Philips
Cindy Robinson
Marilyn Self
Glenn & Mary Rose Simpson
Arnie & Nancy Van Wyk

In Memory of John Crawford

By Carolyn C. Thorsen

In Memory of

Mildred & Gilbert Kelso

Anonymous

In Memory of Lion PDG

Ken Massingale

By Mrs. Genie Massingale

In Memory of Anne Pollock

By Phyllis Sharpton

In Memory of "Ma" Sharp

By Martha Ann Highsmith

In Memory of Dawn Thomas

By Carolyn Meeks

In Memory of Alcie Thornton

By Randall & Phyllis Aucker

Betty Baccus

Larry & Peggy Clayton

Jim Van Duys

Barbara Disney

Jeff Geer

Nora Geer

Barbara & Gus Giebelhaus

Bill & Marcia Philips

Marilyn Self

Glenn & Mary Rose Simpson

Arnie & Nancy Van Wyk

Tom & Darleen Watson

In Celebration of

Loretta M. Seelman

By Katherine D. Seelman, Ph.D.

In Celebration of 13 years singing with the DCC

By Lois Fox-Felkel

In Honor of Betty Baccus

By H. Hodgson Thomas Family
Madge E. Watson

In Honor of Frank Barrett

By Barbara Gifford

In Honor of

Nicholas & Christopher Byrwa

By Grandpa & Grandma Van Wyk

In Honor of David & Linda Chesnut

Anonymous

In Honor of Kevin Fry

By Rolando & Marie Trujillo

In Honor of Bob Mabery

By Naomi Bell

In Honor of Peggy Merchant

By Elizabeth C. Moseley

In Honor of Carl Seale

By Donald & Linda Bricker

In Honor of Walt Thornton

By Jim Van Duys