

Dear Chorale,

September 14th is just a bit over two weeks away. People passing my apartment hear me practicing, getting ready for singing together in preparation for our Christmas concerts Dec. 11th and 13th. Jeanne Edwards has received the music and has been working to get the folders ready. The board members have been working hard at publicity, fund raising, and other behind-the-scenes efforts.

We will be singing a lot of new music this year: some, new arrangements of familiar carols and some completely new, including a composition by Kate Bennett set to a poem by e.e.cummings. Cantor Gary Schiff will be participating as soloist again, and has asked the chorale to join with him in one of the traditional settings of "Mah Tovu." Because it is the 250th anniversary of the death of Georg Frideric Handel, we will sing "The Hallelujah Chorus." I think you will find a good variety in the selections and will enjoy singing all the music. As I passed the music around the board room in June, there were "ahs" and "goody-goody" exclamations from board members recognizing personal favorites from previous choruses.

This season will be my last season with the chorale. I have had great satisfaction in working with the chorale and am extremely happy about the progress we have achieved in the past 7 years. Members have been very faithful and dedicated, coming to rehearsals on time and missing only when necessary. The results have led our audience members to note that the chorale gets better and better each season. That will continue well beyond the present, far into the future. . A search committee has been formed and will begin the process of choosing a new director. The board has developed into a very strong and vital backbone, providing the support required for a large organization such as ours. Jonathan will continue as our accompanist and director of the Chester Chamber Singers this year.

So, if you haven't already done so, begin humming around the house, in the shower, as you drive (safely!), and any other chance you get, to begin to warm up and be ready to "Sing for Joy!"

With heartfelt thanks for your support and enthusiasm,

Ann

August 27, 2009