Dear Singers, December 2019

I wanted to extend to you an official invitation to join the Waupaca Community Chorus for what promises to be an enjoyable and memorable **57th Concert.** If you have not sung with us in a number of years….**This is the year to come back! The entire program is sung in English!**

The year 2020 will be the 57th anniversary of performing major choral works here in small-town Waupaca. This year we will be returning to familiar works previously performed by the choir. This year’s theme centers around American composer Randall Thompson. The first half will feature the song cycle *Frostiana*. Thompson was commissioned by the town of Amherst Massachusetts to write a piece commemorating its bicentennial in 1959. The town was known for its association with Robert Frost, who had lived there for some years. Frost had known Thompson for some time, and admired his music; accordingly, it was decided that the commemorative work would be a setting of some of Frost's poetry. The work features three SATB selections, two TTB selections, and two SSA selections. I intend to have the poems read prior to each selection. These works were last performed by the choir in 2010

The second half will feature Thompson’s *Testament of Freedom*. The *Testament of* *Freedom* is full of wonderful brass and explosive percussion. The text draws from the writings of Thomas Jefferson. This work was last performed in 1996 and 2011.

**The concert weekend will be Saturday, April 4th and Sunday, April 5th.** Our first rehearsal will be **Tuesday, January 7th** in the choir room of Waupaca High School. The scores will be on sale in the Commons/Lobby Hallway of the high school from 6:45 to 7:30 PM with a rehearsal from 7:30 to 9:00 PM. Tuesday rehearsals will be from 7:00 to 9:00 PM. Included in this period will be at least two weeks or more of sectional work for soprano and alto vs. tenor and bass. This means you will not have to attend every scheduled rehearsal.

The cost of music and participation will be $30.00. You are welcome to use your own personal scores from previous performances. The choir library does have complimentary copies available of all selections if you are financially challenged. These will be available on a first-come-first-served basis. If you are using your own score or borrowing from the choir library, we ask that you contribute $5.00 for membership dues. I encourage you to listen to the choir selections on YouTube or your favorite online music player.

I also want to address the issue of weather and attendance. In past years, it was reported to me that many members felt that due to poor weather conditions early in the rehearsal schedule, they choose not to join. ***While attendance at rehearsals is important to our journey together, do not let a few missed rehearsals due to poor weather or vacation plans prohibit you from being a member of this experience!*** Last year we experienced terrible weather on Tuesday evenings, and we rescheduled rehearsals for Sunday afternoons. This will remain as an option for this year, and we will discuss the rehearsal schedule at our first meeting on January 7th.

Don't miss this, our 57th Anniversary Concert celebrating these great choral works. Do pass the invitation to any singers in the area to join your Community Choir. Previous experience and audition are not required. Bring a new friend; we are always seeking energetic new members.

With music,

Dan Wolfgram

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