



Inspire

Season 14
Issue 1

The Newsletter of Griffin Choral Arts



The BREATH MARK looks like a comma, but to a choral musician, this symbol means to take a breath. INSPIRE also has a double meaning. It can mean “to fill someone with the urge to be creative;” but, on a simpler level, it can also mean “to breathe in air.”

Just Breathe!

Have we ever in our lifetime thought more about the simple act of breathing? We must breathe to live, but, in these times, our breath is also a dangerous thing. Breathing provides us the air to say “I love you” and the air to sing a beautiful, musical phrase. Breathing is also the way this disease is spread--the vehicle that carries the potentially fatal droplets.

Griffin Choral Arts takes the current health risks very seriously. We also take our mission very seriously. For these two statements to coexist, we are determined to carefully regulate our “inpiration” (end exhalation!), following recommended guidelines for safe gathering and safe singing, while we also strive to provide artistic inspiration to each other and to our audience.

We recognize that this process will be very different than our usual routine and that it may be a little messy. But we will continue to do our very best.

When the stress is building and the news isn’t rosy, we lean on each other and our choral art, and just breathe.

Current Rehearsal Guidelines and Protcols

- Singers are placed in “platoons” of 9 or fewer singers.
- Rehearsals include 30 minutes of singing.
- Rehearsals are outdoors or in the large indoor space of the Sanctuary.
- Singers are physically distanced by at least 6 feet.
- Singers, director, and accompanist wear masks at all times.
- Pews and surfaces are sprayed and sterilized between platoons.
- Air is circulated between platoons for 15 minutes.
- Singers carry rehearsal materials with them (water, music, pencils, etc.)

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INSPIRE, the Newsletter of Griffin Choral Arts, is published monthly from September through April. This newsletter is archived on the GCA website: www.griffinchoralarts.org

TO THE NINES

October 8, 2020 | 7:30 p.m. | Venue TBA

Fall Concert : TO THE NINES

As we begin rehearsals for our October 8 concert, there are still many unknowns, including the venue and potential audience limitations for the performance. A regular performance in a church venue with a live audience seems unlikely. We are currently considering outdoor options, live-streaming options, and pre-recorded options. Our top priority is safety for our singers and for our audience.

We hope that, as the season progresses, we can keep working towards a more normal concert experience.

Our concerts are usually occasions to dress up “to the nines.” This fall, the pandemic has required that we avoid gathering in large groups. For our fall concert, we will perform in groups of nine or fewer performers. Our choir is divided into smaller “platoons” of singers, but we are still united in our love for singing choral music!

The repertoire for “To the Nines” includes music suitable for smaller ensembles. I have selected “heart songs” for most groups--songs that are expressive and address the myriad emotions that we are all feeling during the current season. Many platoons are also preparing spirituals. Spirituals also feel appropriate as they resonate with themes of freedom, longing, and unrest.

Rehearsals began on August 24, and the participating singers reacted joyfully to seeing each other again, even though our contact was limited in many ways. Still, their dedication and resilience in the face of challenges is inspiring as our 14th Season begins.

GCA SEASON 14 BROCHURES

GCA Season 14 brochures have been mailed. If you do not receive one in the mail, contact us and we will be sure you get one! steve@griffinchoralarts.org

INSPIRATION AND BEAUTY

--The GCA Podcast

Podcast Guests:

September 1- Seth Davis

September 15- Marty Watts



Twice each month, we will be producing GCA Podcasts--interviewing GCA personalities and listening to clips from our audio archive. This month we hear from Seth Davis, our founding accompanist, and Rev. Marty Watts, our long-time assistant conductor. The podcast will be available for listening and downloading on our website:

www.griffinchoralarts.org.



Innovation: Singers' Masks

GCA alto Kit Benson has been sewing masks since the start of the pandemic, producing well over 1,000 masks. After our first rehearsal, Kit went home and worked to create a mask that would allow singers to breathe more freely and have more space to shape and produce choral tone. Singing with ANY mask is a challenge, as you can imagine; but, Kit's creativity and craftsmanship are giving our singers an additional option as they try make the best of the limitations!