



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.”

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Inspire

The Newsletter of Griffin Choral Arts

Season 14
Issue 4
December 2020



Our Second Pre-Recorded Concert

We recorded “Comfort & Joy,” our Season 14 Christmas concert, in the sanctuary of Griffin First United Methodist Church, our “home court” for rehearsals this fall. The church was beautifully decorated for Advent and provided a festive backdrop for our Christmas music. The concert recording will be released on Thursday December 10, at 7:30 p.m. and will be available on our YouTube channel and shared to our Facebook page. Our donors should receive a print copy of the program in the mail a few days before the video release.

While we certainly missed having a live audience, the program provides *bold italic text* in places where audience participation is encouraged! No need to be shy or self-conscious-- sing out with a loud voice as you watch the concert!

Thank you, Donors and Advertisers!

We want to heartily thank our donors and advertisers for their outstanding support in this unusual season. We appreciate your loyalty and encouragement as we pursue our mission this year.

GOING FORWARD Rehearsal Guidelines / Protocols

As we take a break until January, we will monitor the pandemic and review the latest research on the safety of rehearsing in groups. Our successful October and December concert projects make us optimistic that we can continue to carefully build on our well established rehearsal habits into the new year. We long for a live audience, but we are also satisfied that we can provide recorded concerts that effectively continue our mission in a safe manner.

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



Innovation: video recording

While the video recording of “To the Nines” was well-received, it was certainly a learning process for all of us. Between the October recording and the December recording we were able to gain valuable experience, research some techniques for getting better recordings, acquire some better video editing software, and enlist some skilled helpers to get a more polished product. For “Comfort & Joy” we ran two Canon camcorders to record the choir. We used the new sound system at Griffin First UMC to record the choir, piano, and flute and hired soundman Darren Carter to be our audio technician. We have moved from iMovie editing into Final Cut Pro, a more robust editing software. It is our hope that the better tools and improved expertise will result in an even better video concert recording this time.



GCA Troops A and B come together to record the double-choir set for “Comfort & Joy.”

GCA Awarded Vibrant-Communities Grant for *Hope & Remembrance*

The Georgia Council for the Arts has awarded Griffin Choral Arts a \$5,000 grant for our May concert project, entitled “Hope & Remembrance.” The concert features an encore performance of Dan Forrest’s *Requiem for the Living*, a work that was an audience and singer favorite.



INSPIRATION AND BEAUTY

--The GCA Podcast



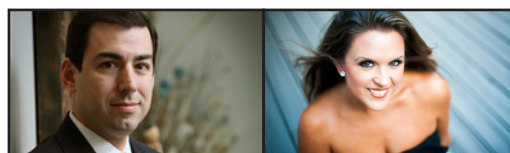
Podcast Guests:

December 5- Keith Fitzgerald

December 20- Valerie Gill

Because of the recording schedule this month, the podcast releases are a few days later for December. This month we hear from Keith Fitzgerald, the organizer and “voice” of the Barrister Brass, and Valerie Gill, a founding GCA singer and frequent soloist. Our podcasts are available for listening and downloading on our website:

www.griffinchoralarts.org/podcasts/.



“TO THE NINES” CONCERT PROGRAMS

We regret that some physical copies of our TO THE NINES concert programs were missing 4 pages. The complete program is available on our website (on the “Newsletter” page): www.griffinchoralarts.org/newsletter/