

**Celebrating SIXTY-ONE YEARS of making a Joyful Noise**



Fall 2009 Volume 61 Issue 2

*From Director, Mary Anne Sharp*

My Dear Patrons,

As we begin our 61<sup>st</sup> year of singing, I cannot help but reflect on the joy it has been to be the director of the Decatur Civic Chorus for 45 years. It really has been a wonderful trip – full of excitement and fulfillment of dreams beyond my wildest imagination. I have been a member of the Decatur Civic Chorus for 58 years and have had the privilege of conducting over 1,000 singers. I have also had the privilege of working with many wonderful accompanists (including my mother, Mary Lee Sharp) – talented musicians who have added so much to the cultural life of our community – and many fine instrumentalists whom we have had accompany us over the years.

Please continue to support the Decatur Civic Chorus...your contributions mean more than you will ever know. We hope you can attend our Annual Christmas Concert on Sunday, Dec. 13, 3:00 PM, at First Baptist Church of Decatur. Also, please note that we have released a Christmas CD which will be available at the Christmas Concert...it is a compilation of many years of Christmas concerts and one that we are very proud to present to the public...and don't forget that we have a fabulous Cookbook!!

Sincerely,

*Mary Anne Sharp*

Director

**We look forward to seeing you at our Annual Christmas Concert  
Sunday, December 13, 3 PM  
Decatur First Baptist Church  
308 Clairemont Ave., Decatur, Georgia 30030**

All Decatur Civic Chorus concerts are free and open to the public.

## *From Presidents, Walt and Alcie Thornton*

Dear Friends of the Chorus,

We would like to thank all of you who share your time with us to attend our concerts. It is our belief that time is the greatest gift we all have to give, because it is what lives are made up of. You are our cheering section and our publicity group, as you tell your friends about your pleasure in our music. You support us with your presence, your smiles, sometimes your tears over a beautiful, meaningful song, your attendance and your applause. Many of you make financial contributions and thus become our Patrons. You continue to be a very important part of all that the Decatur Civic Chorus is and all we have accomplished.

Mary Anne Sharp is in her forty-fifth year as the Director of the Decatur Civic Chorus. Before becoming Director, she served as Assistant Director to Mary Clark, Founding Director, for five years. Thus, she has directed the Chorus for fifty years this year. There will be a reception after the Christmas Concert on December 13th in the Fellowship Hall of the Decatur First Baptist Church in her honor. Please come to this reception and show Mary Anne your appreciation for all she has contributed to our community, our State, our Country and as an ambassador from us all to so many people and places in the world.

Our accompanist, Evelyn Arnn, is so very talented. She supports us all and we love her dearly. We are very grateful for all the time, skill and artistry she brings to her position with us.

We are so grateful for the wonderful and hard working singers in the Chorus, for their dedication to music and for the wonderful friendships we all share.

For more information about the Decatur Civic Chorus, please log on to our website [www.decaturovicchorus.org](http://www.decaturovicchorus.org).

With gratitude to and for you all,

*Walter and Alcie Thornton*

## *From Patron Chair, Nancy Van Wyk*

Greetings Sponsors and Patrons,

How time does fly! Music is not bound by time and transcends the cares of our daily lives. Members of the Decatur Civic Chorus are once again giving of their time and talents as practice has begun for the Christmas Concert.

As I look through the music I feel the warmth and enjoyment of being in the company of treasured friends. During the holidays, people make a special effort to get together with family and friends. We are excited about the music for the concert and look forward to the opportunity to spend time with you, our extended family. We invite you "come on over to our place" for a time of relaxation and refreshment as you allow the music to lift your spirits and fill your hearts with joy.

Our sponsors and patrons have upheld the DCC for many, many years, through good and bad times. We are humbled by your extraordinary loyalty and devotion. We are grateful for your presence at our concerts and financial support. We depend on your generosity to assist us in meeting the financial obligations of the Chorus.

Please take a moment to review the levels of support listed below. There is a place for everyone. Contributions can be made **In Honor** or **In Memory** of a special person in your life; a handy little envelope has been included in the newsletter. Special recognitions that are received after the Christmas Concert Program has been submitted to the printer will be published in the Spring newsletter and again in the Spring Concert Program.

My very best wishes to you and yours for a blessed holiday season and a happy and healthy new year,

*Nancy R. Van Wyk*

Patron Chairman

**Diamond Sponsor-** \$2000 & above -- The sponsor's name will be printed in the concert program and on the sponsor board displayed at DCC concerts recognizing the individual(s) or company as a Diamond Sponsor. A letter of acknowledgment will be sent.

**Platinum Sponsor-** \$1,000 - \$1,999 -- The sponsor's name will be printed in the concert program and on the sponsor board displayed at DCC concerts recognizing the individual(s) or company as a Platinum Sponsor. A letter of acknowledgment will be sent.

**Gold Sponsor-** \$500 - \$999 -- The sponsor's name will be printed in the concert program and on the sponsor board displayed at DCC concerts recognizing the individual(s) or company as a Gold Sponsor. A letter of acknowledgment will be sent.

**Silver Sponsor -** \$200 - \$499 -- The sponsor's name will be printed in the concert program and on the sponsor board displayed at DCC concerts recognizing the individual(s) or company as a Silver Sponsor. A letter of acknowledgment will be sent.

**Bronze Sponsor -** \$100 - \$199 -- The sponsor's name will be printed in the concert program and a letter of acknowledgment will be sent.

**Patron –** up to \$99 -- The patron's name will be printed in the concert program and a letter of acknowledgment will be sent.

Contact Us: If you would like to receive information about upcoming Decatur Civic Chorus concerts by email, please go to our web site: <http://www.deaturcivicchorus.org> and click on the email link under "Get Email from Decatur Civic Chorus."

Or you may send an email directly to [webmaster@deaturcivicchorus.org](mailto:webmaster@deaturcivicchorus.org). In your email to us please give us your **name** and **email address** and include wording similar to the following:

"You have my permission to send email to notify me of public performances by the DCC."

If you would like to be notified by email when there is new information on the DCC Website, mention that as well.

Tax Information: The Decatur Civic Chorus is a non-profit organization under section 501 (c) 3 of the IRS code.

Donations to the DCC may be deductible; please consult with your tax advisor. (The tax ID # is 58 1298703.)

You may send your donations to the DCC at:

**PO Box 1361, Decatur, Georgia 30031.**

Also, you can learn more about the DCC at [www.deaturcivicchorus.org](http://www.deaturcivicchorus.org)

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## Music Quotes

After silence, that which comes nearest to expressing the inexpressible is music.

**Aldous Huxley**

If a composer could say what he had to say in words he would not bother trying to say it in music.

**Gustav Mahler**

If music be the food of love, play on.

**William Shakespeare**

If you look deep enough you will see music; the heart of nature being everywhere music.

**Thomas Carlyle**

Music can change the world because it can change people.

**Bono**

Music expresses that which cannot be said and on which it is impossible to be silent.

**Victor Hugo**