



DECATUR CIVIC CHORUS

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Fall/Winter 2011

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From Director, Mary Anne Sharp

Dear Patrons,

Welcome to our 64th year of making beautiful music. We are off to a good start with a mini concert of our Patriotic music for the 100th Anniversary Celebration of IBM. This company has been a sponsor of the DCC for many years and it was our privilege to be a part of their celebration. The event was held at the Georgia Aquarium.

We are excited about our Christmas Concert. We are featuring THE SONG OF CHRISTMAS arranged by Roy Ringwald. It is the story of the Nativity as told in Christmas songs, carols, and Biblical verses. We are proud to present as our narrator Mr. John Lemley of WABE 90.1 FM Atlanta.

Also included on the concert are traditional holiday classics like White Christmas, Winter Wonderland, and some new music by my favorite composer John Rutter. The Concert will be Sunday, Dec. 11, 3:00 pm, First Baptist Church of Decatur. Hope to see each of you there.

We are saddened by the ill health of our wonderful accompanist, Evelyn Arnn. She has been fighting a form of cancer since last June and has been in hospitals and rehabs since that time. We are fortunate that Betty Baccus, our assistant accompanist, has been doing a great job of filling Evelyn's shoes. Thank you Betty.

Again, we are grateful to the First Baptist Church of Decatur for letting us use the sanctuary for our concerts and to the wonderful staff for their cooperation in these endeavors.

On a very personal note, my mother, Mary Lee Sharp, is now 107 years young. As the first accompanist of the DCC, she helped set the standards that the Chorus has followed all these years and indeed has been my guide, mentor, and inspiration.

Sincerely,

Mary Anne Sharp

Director

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Contact Us

If you would like to receive information about upcoming Decatur Civic Chorus concerts by email, please go to our website:

www.decaturocivicchorus.org and click on the email link under "Get Email from Decatur Civic Chorus."

From Presidents Kit Kammer and Robin Kirby

Greetings to our loyal friends and fans. We are delighted to welcome you to our new year in song - the beginning of Decatur Civic Chorus' 64th concert season!

We have been rehearsing a wonderful array of Christmas music, featuring several new choral works that challenge our technical skills and give us a chance to refine our choral sound. It is wonderful fun to prepare this music as the weather turns chilly and we lift our voices in song in preparation for the holiday concert. We hope that each of you can join us on Sunday, December 11 as we "sing in" the holiday season. The program will also include some of the old favorites that you know and love.

We received a special invitation this past September to sing at the Georgia Aquarium for IBM's historic 100 Year Celebration. IBM has been a long-time sponsor of the Chorus, and we were pleased to have the opportunity to sing our thanks. We led 1,600 employees in a rousing IBM Rally Song from 1931. Following that, we sang a selection of patriotic songs which were broadcast over the Aquarium's sound system as the IBM employees enjoyed the award winning displays at the Aquarium.

On a different note, we ask your prayers for our accompanist of many years, Evelyn Arnn, who has taken ill. Evelyn is special in our hearts and is sorely missed. She has always been a friend to each of us and a great musician.

Our talented assistant accompanist, Betty Baccus, has graciously stepped up to play for us in our rehearsals and performances. Thank you, Betty! We appreciate your gifted musical support.

We close this letter as we opened it, with a greeting to all our loyal friends and fans. You, as our audience and supporters, make our musical work worthwhile. Whether you are supporting us from near or far, you are most important to us. If you have sung with us in the past, thank you. If you have been part of our audiences, thank you. If you have heard of us or found us on our website, www.decaturocivicchorus.org, thank you. You are the best!

Kit Kammer and Robin Kirby

Co-Presidents,

Decatur Civic Chorus 2011-2012

Tax Information: The Decatur Civic Chorus is a non-profit organization under section 501 (c) 3 of the IRS code. (The tax ID # is 58 1298703.) Donations to the DCC may be deductible; please consult with your tax advisor.

Donations may be sent to the DCC at this address:
PO Box 1361, Decatur, Georgia 30031.

From Patrons Chairman, Nancy Van Wyk

Dear Sponsors & Patrons.

I just walked in from outside and the acorns are falling like rain. It felt like I was walking on a field of marbles. The leaves are starting to turn color; providing us with a lovely panoramic view. Although nature is getting ready for a long winter's nap; the members of the Decatur Civic Chorus are preparing for our Christmas concert.

For over sixty years the Decatur Civic Chorus has been supported by our devoted sponsors and patrons; enabling us to provide free concerts around the world and right here at home in Decatur.

The DCC considers you, our sponsors and patrons, as extended "family" members. You have supported us financially and encouraged us through your kind words and attendance at our concerts. Your continued loyalty and generosity are deeply appreciated.

Once again we come to you seeking your assistance. Please take a moment to consider the levels of support listed below. We gratefully acknowledge the generosity of our sponsors and patrons by listing their names in the printed program for the Christmas Concert.

Contributions may be made **In Celebration of a Special Event, In Honor or In Memory** of a special person in your life. Special recognitions will be noted in the printed Christmas Concert program. Those received after the program has gone to print will be included in the spring newsletter and concert program.

I love the music of Christmas; it makes me think of getting together with family and friends. For many people, attending the DCC Christmas Concert is the unofficial start of the holiday season. So...it is time for you to get ready to "come on over to our place" on December 11th for time of fellowship and celebration of the season. We look forward to seeing you.

My best wishes to you and yours; may your holidays be blessed with peace and joy.

Nancy R. Van Wyk
Patrons Chairman

Diamond Sponsor- \$2000 & above

Platinum Sponsor- \$1,000 - \$1,999

Gold Sponsor- \$500 - \$999

Silver Sponsor - \$200 - \$499

Bronze Sponsor - \$100 - \$199

Patron – up to \$99

DECATUR CIVIC CHORUS

The Decatur Civic Chorus is one of the oldest continuing Choral groups in the Southeastern U.S. Founded in 1948, the DCC is celebrating over 63 years of singing! Civic is in the name because the Chorus was organized to not only bring quality concerts to the public, but to also provide benefit concerts for groups such as the American Cancer Society, American Red Cross, Children's Wish Foundation, children's hospitals, veterans hospitals, and nursing homes. The DCC has been recognized on State, National, and International levels for its contributions to communities around the world.

The Chorus has been commended by three Georgia Governors, the Georgia House and Senate, the U.S. House of Representatives and two Presidents of the United States.

Touring Europe extensively, the Chorus has represented Georgia and our nation on many concert tours. The DCC participated in the International Choral Festival (Eistedfod, Wales) on two different occasions, and in the International Choral Festival in Spittal, Austria. These festivals and competitions are by invitation only. In addition to Wales and Austria, the voices of the DCC have been heard in Italy, the Netherlands, Belgium, Spain, Germany, England, Ireland and Scotland. On this continent, the DCC sang with the Mexican National Symphony in the Palace of Fine Arts, Mexico City, Mexico. This concert was televised live to over 400,000 people.

The Chorus has been heard throughout the Southeastern U. S. in churches, hospitals, and festivals; and has appeared in concerts at Disney World; World's Fairs in Knoxville and New Orleans; and the Spoleto Festival in Charleston, S.C. The Chorus opened and hosted the DeKalb International Choral Festival numerous times since its inception in 1991. In 1993 Director Mary Anne Sharp was named Artistic Manager of the Festival and brought John Rutter, the great English composer/conductor, to DeKalb County.

During the 1994 concert tour the DCC sang in some of the most beautiful halls and churches in Italy. In 1998 the Chorus traveled to Ireland and Scotland performing concerts in the Trinity Chapel of Trinity College, the American Embassy in Dublin, and the United States Consulate in Edinburgh, Scotland.

In July of 2000, the DCC represented Georgia in our country's largest International Choral Festival held in Missoula, Montana. The DCC sang with choruses from all over the world. On June 25, 2006, the DCC was honored to appear at Carnegie Hall in New York City with John Rutter conducting. While in New York, the DCC also sang at Ground Zero - a very moving experience. On May 25, 2008, the Chorus performed in the first National Memorial Day Concert in the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, Washington, D.C. with André Thomas conducting. Memorial Day weekend, 2010, found the Chorus in Savannah to help celebrate the centennial anniversary of the birth of Johnny Mercer and perform a Memorial Day Concert.,

Over the years the Chorus has sung benefit concerts for many famous people and in many prestigious places that include; the King of Spain's Orphanage, English Reformed Church in Amsterdam where the Pilgrims worshipped before sailing for the New World, Sunday morning Mass in St. Mark's, Venice, Italy, and by the crypts of King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella in Granada, Spain. This Chorus is outstanding not only for its 63 years of quality concerts, but because it also brings to the community the true sense of volunteerism - the giving of one's time and talent.

Mary Anne Sharp, Director; Lindsey Benne, Assistant Director; Evelyn Arnn, Accompanist; Betty Baccus, Assistant Accompanist

Visit our web site: www.decaturovicchorus.org