



DECATUR CIVIC CHORUS

Executive Board

President: Dan Mundy

Treasurer: Bethallyn Parker

Secretary: Susan Gilroy

Director: Scott Keeseey

Assistant Director:
Lindsey Benne

Accompanist: Soo Jin Kim

Music: Betty Baccus &
Barbara Giebelhaus

Patrons: Peggy Clayton &
Marilyn Self

Website: Nora Geer

Director Emeritus:

Mary Anne Sharp

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Greetings From the Director

Friends of the Decatur Civic Chorus,

In the year 1949, Harry S. Truman began his term as President of the United States of America. Later that year on May 6th, Cambridge University made history, running a program on the first ever stored-program computer. Sadly, on June 14th, Albert II became the first primate to enter space on a US rocket, but unfortunately did not make it back alive and died on impact at return. On August 29th, the Soviet Union's first atomic bomb was tested. Finally, on October 1st, the People's Republic of China was officially proclaimed.

It is hard to believe that during each of these very historic events going on all around world, it was right here in beautiful Decatur, Georgia that an excited group of singers met for the first time under the baton of Mrs. Dale Clarke and accompanist Mary Lee Sharp. Their legacy continued through 51 years of leadership under Mary Ann Sharp and like a twig on the shoulder of the mighty stream, continues still today. I am humbled and very much honored to carry the Director's baton as the chorus moves forward into the future.

On Sunday May 5th, the chorus will present selections from some of the chorus's favorite genres. From patriotic songs celebrating our country, to African American spirituals. From Broadway hits to original compositions commissioned for our chorus along the way. From classic choral works to beautiful selections by British composer John Rutter. The chorus is truly excited to participate in this most historic 75th anniversary spring performance. I hope to see you there as we celebrate this monumental musical moment in the life of the Decatur Civic Chorus!

See you there!

Scott Keeseey

Artistic Director

Forever Diamonds 75th Anniversary Concert

Sunday, May 5, 2024

3:00 pm

First Baptist Church, Decatur

Visit our website at www.decaturovicchorus.org. If you would like to receive information about upcoming Decatur Civic Chorus concerts by email, please send us an email to webmaster@decaturovicchorus.org with the words "Add to Email List" in the heading.

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.

President's Letter

Dear Patrons and Sponsors,

Seventy-five years of bringing music to Decatur Georgia started with a dream from Mr. and Mrs. C P Netherton, W.S. (Bill) Murphy, then President of the Decatur Lions Club, and Mr. Frank Manning. With the backing of Decatur Lions Club the Decatur Civic Chorus was born.

Our first director was Mary Clark. She led the chorus until 1964. By then her young protégé, Mary Anne Sharp, was ready to take over and held the position for 51 years. When she stepped down Lindsey Benne was named interim director, while we searched for a permanent director. That brings us to our current director Scott Keeseey. With his talent we have reached new heights in choral music. He seems to also have a talent for finding some of the strangest choral music I have ever sung. The *Ugly Christmas Sweater* song is surpassed only by this year's *Duct Tape* song. We look forward to seeing you at our 75th celebration concert and to many more years of bringing music to Decatur, Georgia.

Dan Mundy, President

Patrons Committee Greetings

Meet Some of our Members:

We had feedback that you liked getting to know the background of some of our singers, so here is the lowdown on a couple of more:

Linda Dill is one of our most stalwart troupers- and has been singing with the chorus longer than any other lady singer. She started with the chorus as a groupie and official "bag lady," accompanying her friend Peggy Kelly, a longtime singer. At performances outside our usual venues, Linda was the official minder of the purses for all the lady singers, but when our director noticed that she was singing along with us and knew all the words, Linda was quickly moved into the second soprano section, where she has been for at least the last 40 years. Not only did she fall in love with the whole chorus, she also fell in love with one of best basses, Jim Dill, and they married and raised her two children in Marietta until his death a few years ago. Linda retired from IBM as an Executive Assistant a few years ago and now devotes most of her free time to traveling, loving on her beloved pooches, 2 grown children, and three grandchildren.

One of our newer singers is tenor Kent Colangelo, a tenor who started singing with us a year or two before COVID forced us to go on hiatus for the first time in our history. Kent had been singing with a group in Tucker, but still had a little extra time on his hands when he came across the DCC web page and decided to try us out — to our great good fortune! (Our director says we can never have too many tenors!) Kent is a native of Buffalo, New York, and is an electrical engineer who helps EMCs to ensure that our power is restored when it goes out — he provided a much better explanation but that is about all this writer could retain. Kent has two grown daughters who also reside in the Atlanta area, and cites playing the violin and hang gliding among his hobbies. Watch future programs to see if he will demonstrate one of those in a concert — guess which!

We are so glad to have all these wonderful singers. Come hear them on Sunday, March 5. It will be a treat! Lots of our old favorites from the last 75 years and a few that our newer singers are adding to our repertoire. Just proving that we can preserve our history and change with the times, too! Thanks for your ongoing support in making that possible.

Peggy Clayton & Marilyn Self — Patrons Committee Co-chairs