



October 2019

Dear Friends of the Vermont Choral Union:

I am honored to take the helm of the Vermont Choral Union in this year between permanent directors. In my decades with music I have known the power of music for good but have more recently come to revere the power of “choral” music. And, I’m delighted with the skill and love for music making exhibited by members of the Choral Union.

I’ve spent the bulk of my music career as a clarinetist and founder & director of the Vermont Contemporary Music Ensemble. I know instrumental music and especially the more modern music very well. So, I am very excited to delve into the world of choral music, both ancient and modern. I am also putting into practice many of the inspiring concepts I’ve learned from my experiences at the Choral Institute at Oxford and Westminster Choir College in recent years and will continue the spirit of great music making I’ve inherited.

Over the summer, in collaboration with members of the VCU, we developed a wonderful December program.

It will be a Christmas/holiday concert focusing on the love and peace of the season. The first half of the program will highlight music about people’s love for each other or “love thy neighbor” while the second half focuses on the Christmas story.

We start with music that tells of winter’s cold bringing people together (*All Hail the Days*), the pain of leaving our lovers or friends (Josquin’s *Mille Regretz*), of an immigrant woman’s love for her mother-in-law (Dan Forrest’s *Entreat Me Not...*), the love of our childhood friends and sweetness of those memories (Ēriks Ešēnvalds’ *Only in Sleep*) and we end with a plea for peace (Arvo Pärt’s *Da Pacem Domine*).

The second half acknowledges the great mystery of the incarnation (Ola Gjeilo's *Serenity*) followed by the classics: Bach's *Break Forth O Beautiful Light* and Chesnokov's *Salvation is Created*. We then explore the rose metaphor with Jan Sandstrom's hauntingly beautiful take on *Lo, How a Rose Er Blooming* and John Joubert's beautifully simple *There is no Rose of Such Virtue* followed by Mendelssohn's magnificent declaration in his *Heilig, Heilig* and a setting of Howard Thurmond's poem *The Work of Christmas* by Dan Forrest. We end the concert with an assurance of peace: Martin Åsander's *Peace*.

The board is working diligently to find a permanent director for the choir. I'm extremely impressed with the integrity of the people involved, their love of music and vision for the Choral Union. The Choral Union has been an artistic force for the good of Vermont since 1967.

Please give generously to help us bring great music to our community in these difficult times, it is the perfect antidote. As Leonard Bernstein said, "This will be our reply ...: to make music more intensely, more beautifully, more devotedly than ever before."



Sincerely,

Steven Klimowski, Interim Music Director

The Vermont Choral Union

Yes! I would like to make a tax-deductible gift in the amount of \$ _____.

I prefer that my gift remain anonymous

Your donation will be recognized in the 2018-2019 concert programs, unless you choose to remain anonymous.

Certain levels of giving can be recognized with complimentary ticket vouchers that can be used at any VCU concert.

- | | | |
|-------------------------------------|----------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Friend | \$ 1-49 | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Donor | \$ 50-99 | one complimentary concert ticket voucher |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Patron | \$ 100-249 | two complimentary concert ticket vouchers |
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I would like to receive	
_____	ticket vouchers
Yes	No

Name: _____ E-mail (optional): _____
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