



October 2021

Dear Friends of the Vermont Choral Union:

As the singers of the Choral Union cautiously came together to start in-person rehearsals a few weeks ago, with fist and elbow bumps instead of hugs and handshakes, it was hard to imagine that most of us had not seen each other in real life for a year and a half. Luckily, throughout that time we had managed to keep in touch with each other and to remain active as a chorus, albeit virtually.

In this *Time of Pandemic*, the Vermont Choral Union managed to produce two terrific virtual concerts, both still accessible on our website. We continued to get together on-line for weekly *Happy Half-Hours* in which we kept each other up to date on the goings-on in our lives, musical and otherwise. We also hosted 5 virtual seminars in which knowledgeable speakers gave us tips on vocal health, vocal production, choral singing and conducting. All of that was possible through your generosity, for which we are extremely grateful.

We are thrilled to be getting back together in person, and to be working on our upcoming concert. Mark your calendars for the following!

December 4th at 7:30 PM – at the First Congregational Church of St. Albans
December 5th at 3:00 PM – at the Cathedral of St. Joseph in Burlington

Tickets will be available at the door, or in advance at www.vtchoralunion.org

Because ticket sales cover only a small portion of the expenses involved, I hope that we can again count on you to support the Vermont Choral Union in our mission of promoting choral music and enriching the cultural life of the community through the regular presentation of public concerts, while providing our members opportunities to enhance their musical knowledge and skills.

Thank you very much for supporting choral music and the Vermont Choral Union.

Maarten van Ryckevorsel
President, Board of Directors

The director's plea:

If there was ever a time that we need the arts it's now as we come out of this Covid period.

We need communal healing that the arts offer, and particularly music, and more particularly the choral arts.

I'll never forget my time at the Choral Institute at Oxford listening to the other conductors directing the Williamson Voices ("The Rolls Royce of choirs") just a few weeks after my father's death. I had been so busy since then that I had no time to stop and grieve. This was my time. As I listened (not as I conducted!) I couldn't help but let the tears flow. It was the catharsis I desperately needed.

Our post Covid world needs this now and the Vermont Choral Union has been bravely rehearsing since August, masked and distanced, rehearsing a program designed to bring the healing needed today.

Here's what we have in mind for our December concerts:

Our own Maarten van Ryckevorsel was inspired to compose an entire Mass, his *Missa Pandemica: Mass in Time of Pandemic*. This stunning new work is just what we need now. The Vermont Choral Union, along with some special guests, will present the world premiere of the *Missa Pandemica* at its Fall 2021 concerts.

I've added Marques Garrett's *My Heart Be Brave*, which you may recall from our virtual concerts, and Stephen Paulus' *The Road Home* to round out the first half.

The second half includes three settings of *O Magnum Mysterium* – one by Tomás Luis de Victoria, one by César Alejandro Carrillo, and a Gregorian Chant – and other settings of some of the most beautiful music written for the holiday season.

Look for more details on our upcoming Facebook posts.

Finally, thank you very much for your past support. We hope to see you in December.

Sincerely,

Steven Klimowski
Interim Director
Vermont Choral Union

