



HOUSTON LUTHERAN CHORALE

HLC Newsletter

October 2017

From the President's Desk

The Houston Lutheran Chorale presented a patriotic concert at Trinity Lutheran Church - Downtown, 800 Houston Ave. on July 4th of 2017 praising God through music in song and instruments. That concert seems so long ago. So much has happened around Houston and around the world - so many hurricanes, earthquakes, wildfires. We need to take these many concerns to God in prayer in hope of restoring lives. There is so much need to continue to praise our great God.

I hope all who came to our 4th of July concert had a good time. Many may have noticed that the chorale took a more casual approach to our attire this year. Instead of wearing tuxes and formal dresses, we wore blue jeans and shirts - shirts of red, white and blue colors. Oh my! People who attended were able to relax while listening to music and then eating hot dogs. Those who desired stayed to watch a great display of fireworks from Trinity's parking lot.

Our upcoming series of Christmas concerts will return to a more formal and traditional setting. We look forward to presenting Vivaldi's "Gloria", several John Rutter pieces, and other Christmas music. As always, the audience will be invited to join in the music.

There will be three opportunities to attend the concerts. The first concert will be on Friday, December 1 at Memorial Lutheran Church in Katy at 7:30 pm. The second concert will be on Saturday, December 2 at St. Timothy Lutheran Church at 7:30 pm. The last concert will be on Sunday, December 3 at Trinity Lutheran Church - Downtown at 4:00 pm.

We invite you to come celebrate and praise God with us. We thank all those who have supported us over the years with their prayers and generous donations. Please come and enjoy.

"We look forward to presenting Vivaldi's "Gloria", several John Rutter Christmas pieces, and other Christmas music."

Bob Heth, President

In this Issue

- From the President's Desk
- From the Director
- Rehearsals continue
- Opportunities to Give



“Gloria to God in the highest, and peace to His people on earth”

From the Director

“Glory to God in the highest, and peace to His people on earth!” This exclamation by the angels announced the birth of Jesus Christ, God’s Son, the Messiah. The angels’ message has been spoken, chanted, and sung through the ages and still brings tidings of great joy. The words are timeless because God’s love for humankind is timeless. Our Christmas concerts will once again proclaim God’s redeeming message through Vivaldi’s “Gloria”. The first half of our concerts will feature the full Vivaldi “Gloria” with orchestra.

For those unfamiliar with this work, here is a brief history of the composer and the work. Antonio Vivaldi (1678-1741) lived primarily in Venice, Italy. He and J.S. Bach and George Frederick Handel are considered the three most important composers of the Baroque Era (1600-1750). Vivaldi was an ordained priest and he worked at a girls’ orphanage in Venice, where he composed over 500 *concerti grossi* (an instrumental form consisting of three movements [fast-slow-fast] and soloists versus full orchestra). .

For centuries the “Gloria” of the Roman Mass (the second movement of the Mass) had been set to music, but Vivaldi chose to set the “Gloria” text not as part of a Mass, but rather as a concert piece some time between 1713 and 1719. Of the five movements that comprise the proper of the Mass, the “Gloria” is certainly the favorite among composers even today. The “Gloria” text has been set to music by such recent composers as Poulenc, Vaugh Williams, and Rutter.

The second half of our concerts will consist of traditional Christmas carols, as well as some beautiful contemporary Christmas pieces. “O Come, All Ye Faithful”, “Joy To The World”, and “Away In A Manger” are carols arranged by John Rutter.

Continued on pg. 3

Rehearsals

The Houston Lutheran Chorale has been sharing the story and love of our Lord for more than 30 years. The Chorale is open to all Lutherans who like to sing and are willing to rehearse approximately two Sunday afternoons from late January thru July and August through December. There are no auditions, all you need is a willingness to learn, love to sing and an abundance of joy because we truly have a wonderful time together. Contact:

sfpetersen@sbcglobal.net



From the Director—Continued

In addition to the Christmas Concerts, the Houston Lutheran Chorale will participate in the celebration of the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation to be held at St. Mark's Lutheran Church on October 28. The Chorale will perform at 2:00. Please attend the celebration to hear all the musical organizations as we celebrate this momentous anniversary.

At this point, the Chorale has had about five rehearsals, and each rehearsal shows musical growth. Our numbers continue to grow and there is much enthusiasm for the future of the Chorale. I am so grateful to the devoted members of the Houston Lutheran Chorale for all of their hard work and their dedication to bringing the true message of Christmas to the world through beautiful music. Please come to support the Chorale by attending at least one of our three concerts on December 1, 2, and 3. The Fourth of July Concert was a tremendous success, and let us continue that success into the New Year.

To God be the Glory,

DONATION OPPORTUNITIES

If you are looking for opportunities to donate in support of the Houston Lutheran Chorale, here are two that you may not have thought of:

Thrivent—Choice Dollars: Just sign in to Thrivent, go to Choice Dollars. To choose the charity, type in Houston Lutheran Chorale. Then either select the entire amount of your choice dollars or enter a different amount.

Amazon Smile—Sign into Amazon in this way:
<http://smile.amazon.com> After signing in, towards the top left of center you should see SUPPORTING ORGANIZATION in orange. At that point enter Houston Lutheran Chorale. Every time you sign in to <http://smile.amazon.com>, Houston Lutheran Chorale should show up as the supporting organization. A small percentage of your purchase will then be donated to the Houston Lutheran Chorale.

Houston Lutheran Chorale
800 Houston Avenue
Houston, TX 77007

GLORIA!!

December 1

7:30 PM –

Memorial, Katy

December 2

7:30 St. Timothy

December 3

**4:00 PM - Trinity
Downtown**

**NO TICKETS
ARE REQUIRED**

Come Celebrate!

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