



## GRAND PHILHARMONIC CHOIR

### **Register for the 2021-22 season!**

This year, as a result of the pandemic restrictions, registration will be a little more complex than before, so please read this letter over carefully. It's in a Q & A format for your convenience. There are step-by-step instructions at the end of this letter.

### **What will we be doing this coming season?**

In the fall, we will be rebuilding our skills and reconnecting as a choir. We'll make the transition from individual voices to an ensemble! Some outdoor singing events are planned -- this is a chance to reach out to a new audience!

In winter and spring 2022, we plan several indoor concerts:

- A family of choirs concert with the children and youth singers, in March. This will include the live premiere of *Take This Thread/ Le fil que je suis*, which we commissioned last season.
- Our Good Friday concert at Centre In The Square, April 15 -- likely to be Brahms' *Requiem*, which we had planned for Good Friday 2020 and never got to perform;
- Mahler's 2nd Symphony as guest artists with K-W Symphony, May 6 and 7;
- A Chamber Singers concert, date and rep TBD.

### **What about voice checks?**

- If you sang with the choir in 2019-20, you do not need a voice check to join in 2021-22.
- If you didn't sing in 2019-20, then you should schedule a voice check before registering. There's a link at the bottom of this letter.
- Additional voice checks for Chamber Singers will happen separately, later this fall.

### **What will be different about rehearsals?**

- We will not be rehearsing at Rockway Mennonite Collegiate in the fall. We will need a larger space where we can maintain physical distancing. Based on our discussions, this is most likely to be First United Church in Uptown Waterloo.
- We will all be wearing singers' masks (\$15 each, information on how to order is later in this memo).

- Mark's voice will be amplified, so we will all be able to hear him!
- We will be in smaller cohorts, singing for shorter rehearsal periods.
- Several hours before each rehearsal, everyone will need to fill out an online form to screen for symptoms and risk.

### **What health and safety measures are being taken for our protection?**

- Everyone in the room -- conductor, accompanist and all singers -- will be fully vaccinated.
- Choir staff (Luisa or Amy) will look at everyone's vaccine certificates to verify this, but will neither store nor share the information.
- Everyone in the room will be wearing either a singer's mask (this is a mask with three layers, including one of polypropylene. This mask is designed to fit snugly while keeping fabric away from your mouth) OR an N-95 or K-N95 mask if you have temporarily mislaid the singer's mask. These kinds of masks are superior to ordinary cloth or blue paper masks.
- Shorter rehearsal periods in smaller cohorts, as described above.
- Online screening questionnaires before rehearsal begins, as described above.
- At rehearsal, singers will be spaced a minimum of six feet apart.
- We will take attendance so that we can do contact tracing if necessary.

### **When will we start?**

- We are planning an online meeting on Monday Sept. 13 to go through the new procedures, answer any questions and get re-acquainted.
- Our rehearsals will usually be Mondays, but our first in-person rehearsal will happen either Monday Sept. 20 or Tuesday Sept. 21 (because the 20th is election day and the venue may be unavailable).
- We will start Chamber Singers later in the fall.

### **What will happen if there is a fourth wave of COVID-19 and Ontario starts to shut down again?**

- We will adapt, following all public health guidelines as necessary.

### **How much is it going to cost?**

- Singers are expected to make a charitable donation to the choir. The suggested amount is \$300 this season, with Chamber Singers paying an additional \$25.
- However, it is a donation, so the amount you give is up to you. You can pay in instalments. We do not refuse anyone admission to the choir because of low income.

- If you need a uniform, that is an additional cost. There is also a \$15 expense for the singer's mask. We are asking everyone to buy from the same supplier instead of using homemade or other masks. There are two reasons: 1) for a uniform appearance if we are performing with masks; 2) so that we can all be confident of the quality and safety features of masks that protect us all.

### **I'm excited! I'm in! What should I do next?**

Here are the things you need to do before the 9th of September:

1) Schedule a voice check by clicking [here](#), if you need to do one.  
If you're not sure whether you need a voice check, contact Amy at [info@grandphilchoir.com](mailto:info@grandphilchoir.com)

2) Next, sign up [here](#) to say hello to Luisa and show her your vaccine receipt on Zoom.  
This will take just 5 minutes.

**We are taking appointments for Wednesday evening the 1st of September.**

3) Next, register for choir [here](#) and make your donation

4) Finally, purchase your singer's mask at [this link](#). Order the black mask with music note lining.  
For a \$5 discount, use this code, including spaces: **GPC \$5OFF Mask**  
The mask will be given to you at or before our first in-person rehearsal.

### **Questions? Suggestions?**

Email Luisa at [executive@grandphilchoir.com](mailto:executive@grandphilchoir.com)

Thank you!

Mark Vuorinen, artistic director  
Luisa D'Amato, executive director  
Amy Dale, administrative co-ordinator  
Nathalie Nasr, librarian