



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

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

Thank you!

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