



PO BOX 512
WESTMINSTER MD 21158-0512

July 1, 2017

Hello Singers!

The summer is upon us, and we're already looking forward to more great singing. The fall concert is Sunday, November 19, at 3 pm in (Big) Baker Memorial Chapel, McDaniel College. We will musically recognize the 500th anniversary of the Reformation by showcasing the musical splendor that event inspired. Featured works include "A Mighty Fortress," including the well-known Bach setting, and works by Michael Praetorius first performed in the 100th anniversary of the Reformation in Dresden. A number of other artistic organizations will be joining us for the Praetorius works, including the Washington Cornett and Sackbutt Ensemble, the Children's Chorus of Carroll County, the McDaniel College Choir, and choirs from Frostburg State University (now under the direction of Dr. James Redden). Some of you may remember him from his previous involvement with Masterworks. Choir members from several local churches will also participate. We will then reprise a couple of those celebratory collaborative pieces in the McDaniel College Choir concert on Sunday evening, December 3 at 7 pm.

We have enclosed the fall registration form with this letter, and I urge you to register and pay your dues as soon as possible. Early registration helps us plan so that we have enough scores for everyone at the first rehearsal. In addition, we can accommodate a finite number of singers based on our performance and rehearsal venues, and we strive to maintain a balance among the voice parts. Singers will be accepted as they register and should be prepared to attend the first rehearsal. Should any section become oversubscribed and upset that balance, we may place late registrants to that section on a waiting list. If that situation arises, we will notify wait-listed singers by letter or email as soon as possible after we receive their registration.

We start rehearsals for the concert on Tuesday evening, August 29, 7 – 9:30 pm at the Westminster Church of the Brethren on the corner of Chase and Bond Streets. We will then rehearse at that time every Tuesday through the week of the concert, with one more in Big Baker on Saturday, November 18 from 1:30 – 4:30 pm.

We will kick off the season on August 26 from 10 am to 1 pm with our annual summer choral workshop in Room 100 of the Levine Music Building at McDaniel College. I'll work on vocal techniques while covering historical and stylistic highlights of our repertoire. Please indicate on the registration form whether you will be attending the workshop so we know what materials to bring.

In addition to our November 19 concert, we will also participate in two community events. First, we will perform part of our concert for an October 29 event with local Lutheran churches also celebrating this anniversary. Later we will reprise part of our concert at the Westminster United Methodist Church participating in their December 17 Lessons and Carols. More information will be available at the first rehearsal for choristers who will be able to participate in these additional events.

You, with all your individual voices, coming together in such a powerfully united and joyfully ecstatic sound, are what make choral singing such an incredible experience for the whole community. We're looking forward to making this year the best ever!

I'm so looking forward to seeing and hearing you all again!!