



PO BOX 512
WESTMINSTER MD 21158-0512
Phone: 410-871-3371

November 29, 2016

Hello Singers!

We're once again looking forward to an exciting Spring season of delightful and inspiring choral singing. *An American Celebration* will feature the works of Leonard Bernstein, including excerpts from *Candide*, *West Side Story* and *The Lark*. While many know the operetta *Candide*, which is based on French philosopher Voltaire's tale of utopian perfection that turns to disillusionment, and *West Side Story*, an American adaptation based on Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet*, *The Lark* is not so widely known. A drama about the trial, condemnation and execution of St. Joan of Arc, *The Lark* was adapted for the stage by Lillian Hellman. Bernstein composed the incidental music for it while also composing the score of *Candide*. For those who like to purchase your own score, we will use Leonard Bernstein - **The Lark - French and Latin Choruses** (Boosey & Hawkes).

In a departure from our normal Sunday concerts, our Spring performance will take place on **Saturday, May 13** at 3 p.m. in (Big) Baker Memorial Chapel at McDaniel College to avoid conflicts with Mother's Day. We will begin rehearsals on Tuesday, January 31, 2017, from 7 to 9:30 p.m. at Westminster Church of the Brethren, Chase and Bond Streets, and rehearse there every Tuesday through May 2. There will be a full rehearsal in Big Baker on Tuesday, May 9, with a brief rehearsal from 1 to 2:30 p.m. **Saturday, May 13** before the concert hall doors open. In addition, we are tentatively scheduled to participate in a benefit for ESCAPE Ministries in Sykesville on the afternoon of **Sunday, April 30**. We will provide details for choristers who wish to participate as we get into the Spring rehearsal season.

Enclosed is the Spring registration form. Please register and pay your dues as soon as possible. Early registration assures we will 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 are accepted as they register and should attend the first rehearsal. If a section becomes oversubscribed, we will wait-list late registrants in that section. We will notify wait-listed singers as soon as possible after we receive their registration.

This will be a fun and exciting Spring concert. You, with all of your individual voices, coming together in such a powerfully united and joyfully ecstatic sound, are what make choral singing such an incredible experience for our 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 in January!!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Margie'.

Margie Boudreaux, Artistic Director