

LANSING
CHILDREN'S
CHOIR



NOTES

Winter 2020

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Notes from the Artistic Director – Megan Higle

The Lansing Children's Choir continues to be a source of education, fellowship and creativity as we near the mid-point of our sixth season. We have been meeting via Zoom on a weekly basis to learn music, create new and deepen current friendships, discover music through the lens of other cultures, and have fun with music, games and crafts.

It became quite apparent during the month of August that we would not be able to have "choir" as we were used to, that we needed to develop and implement a new program where our choristers were able to make music and keep themselves and their families safe. The overall theme for this, our sixth season, is "Music is People." The singers are learning music from and about other cultures, and what some of the folk music traditions are from many places and peoples. In order to help keep our choirs focused and learning, the Artistic Team created "Choir Bags" that each member would receive each month – September, for example, included a music folder with sheet music and a lyric sheet, a rehearsal CD, music theory worksheets, an LCC Bracelet, an LCC pencil and sharpener, along with all of the art supplies needed to make their own dream catcher and didgeridoo. Our Board of Directors was successful in writing and receiving a grant from the Michigan Council for Arts & Cultural Affairs, which has been instrumental in making sure we have all of the materials needed to keep our virtual choir viable this season.

Notes from the Executive Director – Ben English

Before March of this year, music was a large aspect of every day of my life. I taught at daycares and preschools, helped create musical theatre magic with 3rd – 6th graders through the Wharton Center's "Disney Musicals in Schools" program, sang in two different volunteer adult choirs. And, of course, I got to make music with the dedicated and wonderful choristers of the Lansing Children's Choir.

Lately, I have been reflecting a lot about that time, and how enormously thankful I am that these musical opportunities have existed in my life. They have stopped for now...and yet, music continues.

For me, music is a light, a comfort, and a hope. And I am so glad that the Children's Choir has remained consistent and strong throughout these challenging times. There are so many people that make the Lansing Children's Choir possible, but none more important than our dedicated choristers and their families. I wanted to send this note as a thank you to our entire choir community for your continued participation and support.

We have a unique opportunity to keep creating, spreading joy, and moving forward, when most other things in the world seem to be standing still. You are the reason that the choir, and the music, can continue. For that, I am grateful.

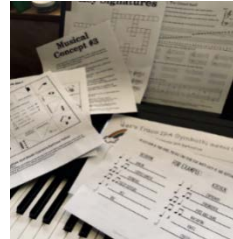


Some of the music that the choirs are learning this year, to hopefully present in the Spring either in a virtual concert setting or as a set of virtual recordings, includes: “Dream Catcher” (incorporating Cherokee, by Brownsey & Lantz) “Kookaburra: Australian Folk Song” (by Keylock & Friedersdorf), “At This Table” (by Idina Menzel), Betelehemu”(Nigerian carol), “Birkat Habiyat: Blessing of the Home” (by Ross Fishman), “Haralo” (folk song from the country of Georgia), “A Patch of Light” (new work by Jacob Narverud) , “Music Is

Everywhere! Over My Head” (poem “Ode” by O’Shaughnessy, traditional spiritual arr. by Donnelly & Strid). All of these pieces are used to not only make music, but to learn about how music is put together (form), different styles of music, what music looks like on the printed page, how to “decode” musical markings, and how we can interpret the lyrics to create art.

This Spring we will be one of 12 choirs in North America that will be premiering a piece by Canadian composer, Sarah Quartel.

Our singers range in age from 8 years to 16 years old. They live in Grand Ledge, DeWitt, Okemos, Lansing, East Lansing, Haslett, Mason and Holt. We are continually excited and impressed with them and their willingness to learn and be together, even in a virtual setting. ***We are grateful for the generous support of our many donors, and the support of the MCACA grant, which makes the Lansing Children’s Choir possible.***



A Message from the President of the Board of Directors – Kathe Smith

The year 2020 has brought its share of challenges for us all. The Lansing Children’s Choir is no different. However, we have met one challenge head-on. The Lansing Children’s Choir continues to add new members, learn new music and sing “together,” all through ZOOM! Our directors have been hard at work creatively teaching these young minds. Along with the challenge of teaching, directors and the Board must also grapple with funding so that we can continue with our choir. There are grants, but grants are a small part of what is needed for a choir.

And so, we humbly ask: As you close out this year, would you please consider a monetary gift to the Lansing Children’s Choir so we can continue this good work? Thank you!

Lansing Children’s Choir Board of Directors: Kathe Smith, Kathy Banghart, Miranda Hartmann, George Bennett and Kim Ringlever (Parent Liaison)

Artistic Team: Megan Higle, Artistic Director; Ben English, Executive Director, Jemal Tavadze, Accompanist

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