

August, 2007

Dear Masterwork Friends,

Although it seems difficult to imagine that another summer is drawing to a close, I, like you, am looking forward to the fall and to the fantastic repertoire we will be singing this 2007/2008 season.

So, it is with visions of Orff's *Carmina Burana*, Handel's *Messiah*, Haydn's *Requiem*, and Mozart's *Vespers* dancing in my head that I welcome you to another exciting Masterwork year.

In addition to improving our artistic repertoire and musicianship under the baton of Music Director Andrew Megill and Associate Conductor Tom Cunningham, this next season we will also be focused on improving Masterwork's organizational infrastructure. I'm extremely pleased to report that, with your help and support, the Masterwork Development Committee met – and indeed exceeded – fund raising goals for this past fiscal year. In total, such activities as our ad journal, silent auction, Cider & Song, Tour of Two Collections, chorus member donations and corporate and foundation contributions raised nearly \$85,000 of our \$350,000 operating budget for the 2006/2007 season.

Looking forward, the Development Committee is in the process of laying plans for fund raising – and “friend raising” – to again help us cover our programming and operational expenses in the 2007/2008 season. And this year, the bar is being set even higher.

Speaking of friend raising, this past summer helped Masterwork set that tone.

We made many new friends and renewed old friendships at our annual Summer Sing series. Kathy H and her accomplished Summer Sing Committee did a fantastic job organizing the six sings held throughout June, July, and August. And, on June 30<sup>th</sup>, Faith Frankel and conductor-for-the-evening Tom M led many of us in Masterwork's signature version of the National Anthem, kicking off another Somerset Patriots baseball game in what has become a summer tradition.

We're also getting off to an incredible start by promoting upcoming concerts to existing and new audience members. Imagine singing to a full auditorium. Imagine loyal listeners who believe in supporting the chorus through donations and event attendance. This year, the Development Committee along with other committees like Membership, Marketing, Web Site, Logistics, Education, Community Outreach, and Finance will help make this a reality by working with each of us to expand our network of “friends.” I'm looking forward to seeing what we're able to accomplish!

In closing, I would like to express appreciation to my most important Masterwork friends – YOU! – for already giving so much to the chorus. The financial and personal contributions you make help to sustain and strengthen this organization, and for that I thank you.

Kind regards,

Kit H-B  
President, The Masterwork Chorus Board of Directors

## 2007-2008 Masterwork Chorus Schedule

### **Orff's *Carmina Burana* and Bruckner's *Te Deum***

Sunday, Oct. 21<sup>st</sup>, 3 pm – Clinton Presbyterian Church, Clinton, NJ

Saturday, Nov. 3<sup>rd</sup>, 8 pm – Dorothy Young Center at Drew University, Madison, NJ

### **Handel's *Messiah***

Saturday, Dec. 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2 pm and 8 pm – Carnegie Hall, New York City

Sunday, Dec. 23<sup>rd</sup>, 3 pm – The Community Theatre at Mayo Center for the Performing Arts, Morristown, NJ

### **Michael Haydn's *Requiem* and Mozart's *Vespers***

Sunday, April 27<sup>th</sup>, 3pm – Dorothy Young Center at Drew University, Madison, NJ

Locations and dates for our Chamber and Touring Choir concerts are being finalized, but these groups plan to perform a holiday concert in December at the Holy Family Chapel at St. Elizabeth, and an annual spring concert at another local venue. Additionally, the Board continues to evaluate additional opportunities to perform some pieces from the repertoire at both new and familiar venues.

### **Get Ready, Get Set...**

To begin preparations for these concerts, please mark your calendars with the following important dates:

#### **Soprano Hearings: Wednesday, August 29<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 pm – 10:00 pm at Xavier Center, by appointment.**

Beginning August 20<sup>th</sup> membership Chairperson Becky A will call all sopranos to arrange hearing times (Becky is currently on vacation until August 20<sup>th</sup>!). Hearing requirements are included in Andrew's attached letter.

**First Rehearsal: Wednesday, September 5<sup>th</sup>, 7:30 pm – 10:00 pm at Xavier Center.** Prospective members are invited to attend.

**Auditions for Prospective New Members: Thursday, September 6<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 pm - 10:00 pm at Xavier Center, by appointment.** Becky Adams will help schedule auditions.

#### **Chamber and Touring Choir Auditions: Date and time TBD in mid September, by appointment.**

Associate Conductor Tom Cunningham has some exciting plans for our Chamber and Touring Choirs this year, and Becky A will help schedule auditions. More information will be available at our first rehearsal. Both the Chamber and Touring Choirs are open by audition to members in good standing of the Chorus at large, and require additional dues from those who are accepted.

#### **Morris County September 11<sup>th</sup> Memorial Service: On Sunday, September 9<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 pm**

Morris County has again hired The Masterwork Chorus to participate in the county's remembrance and candlelight service. Repertoire and additional details will be available at our first rehearsal.

**Fall Workshop: Mark your calendars for Saturday, October 6<sup>th</sup>, at the Millburn Library, morning start time TBA.** We will once again have an opportunity to enjoy a day filled with music, learning and lots of rehearsal time, not to mention spending a great day with friends.

#### **Membership Requirements for 2007/2008**

The membership requirements for 2007/2008 are detailed on the attached membership form and are the same as the 2006/2007 season. Members pay a flat \$300 annual contribution that is consistent with the dues from 2005-2006.

### **Other Ways to Get Involved**

If you are looking for other ways to deepen your relationship with The Masterwork Chorus, please consider joining a committee. Masterwork Committees include Finance, Long-Range Planning, Membership, Concert Logistics, Music, Marketing/Public Relations, Web, Community Outreach, Education, and Development. Contact any Executive Committee or Board Member if you are interested.