

THE VALLEY VOICE

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

| | |
|-----------------------------|---|
| <i>President's Desk</i> | 2 |
| <i>Around the Community</i> | 2 |
| <i>Spring Concert Recap</i> | 3 |
| <i>Annual Meeting</i> | 3 |
| <i>Farewell to Seth</i> | 3 |
| <i>About Us</i> | 4 |
| <i>Director's Notes</i> | 4 |

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 Molly Faust
 Bruce Markley
 Christopher Lutz-Long

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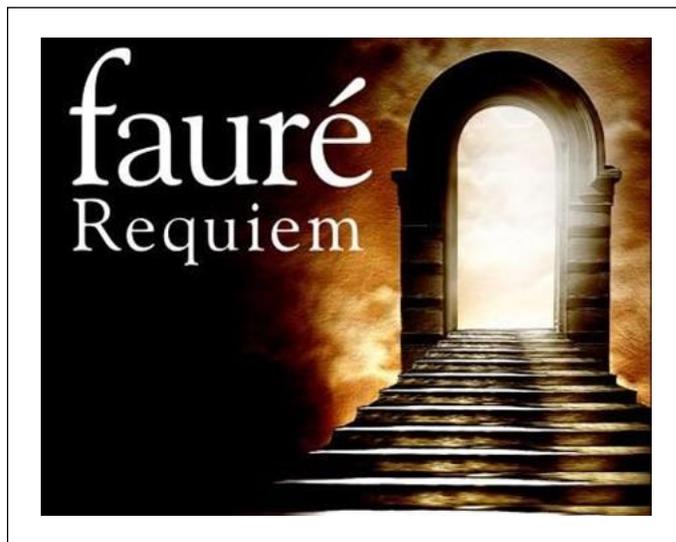
GM: Darcy McConahy
 Webmaster: Lew Phillips

VCS ANNOUNCES 36TH SEASON PROGRAM

Valley Choral Society is proud to announce their 36th season concert line-up beginning with "A Christmas Carol" in December 2019. This concert will celebrate Christmas past, present, and future, but not in the way you may think of Ebenezer Scrooge!

VCS's most recent concert used the gift of music to explore the power that those around us and even ourselves, to shape us. This December we will experience music from varying genres that link us to generations, memories, and celebrations of the past, present, and future.

Additionally, preparation is in full swing for Gabriel Fauré's *Requiem*, presented in Spring 2020. Composed between 1887 and 1890, this magnificent choral-orchestral setting of a shortened Catholic Mass for the Dead is focused on eternal rest and consolation in its scored seven movements. Fauré wrote of the work, "Everything I managed to entertain by way of religious illusion, I put into my Requiem, which moreover is dominated from beginning to end by a very human feeling of faith in eternal rest."



Valley Choral Society to present Fauré's *Requiem* in Spring 2020

With such a masterful work chosen, Valley Choral Society is working hard to seek additional patron, sponsor, and grant support to present both May 2020 concerts with full orchestra. And if that was not enough, VCS will be extending invitations to other local choral and church organizations to share in the experience and gift of presenting such a beautiful piece of music. And if you still did not think that was

enough, Valley Choral Society will be pairing this beautiful work with the creative and expressive *Lux Aeterna* by Morten Lauridsen.

The 36th season of Valley Choral Society is sure to be a stand-out year! For more information on becoming a VCS singer or supporting as a patron, please contact Artistic Director, Andrew Lutz-Long, at director@valchor.com.

HOW CAN I SUPPORT THE ARTS?

Valley Choral Society is a registered 501c3 nonprofit organization that relies on membership dues, company and individual sponsorship, and grant monies to sustain its mission and offerings each year. There are numerous

marketing and advertising options available to businesses whom support VCS. Please consider helping support the 36th season by contacting info@valchor.com on sponsorship opportunities.



FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK...

SUMMER IS HERE...hope many of you are enjoying a slower pace and some relaxation!!

Valley Choral ended our 35th season with our "Words of Soul" Spring concerts; such beautiful, inspiring and meaningful selections. We



hope many of you were able to attend and enjoy the concerts.

As we look toward our 36th season which will begin early September, we welcome new singers to join us on our journey of bringing musical excellence to our communities, whether it be at our Winter and Spring concerts or a run-out concert at a local event or retirement community. Please feel free to contact us via our website for more information on becoming a member. This past season saw us blossom under our new

artistic director, Drew Lutz-Long and we know that Drew will continue to challenge our singers and delight our audiences with the programs for our next season...you won't want to miss the concerts so be sure to stay up to date with VCS.

Until our next edition of *The Valley Voice*, may your Summer be filled with fun, food, family and friends!

Vickie

Vickie Long
Board President

"That arrangement of How Great Thou Art rocked me."

AROUND THE COMMUNITY

Outside of the 35th season concluding concerts, Valley Choral Society also offered a special concert performance of *Words of Soul* at Souderton Mennonite Homes on Thursday May 23rd to a full room of residents. Souderton Mennonite Homes is a community of Living Branches, an organization that VCS has had a long-standing relationship of recent concerts at another of their communities, Dock Woods.

On Thursday June 13th, members of Valley Choral Society kicked off the day



VCS sings concert at Souderton Mennonite Homes, May 23, 2019

bright and early with their yearly offering of the National Anthem for the Upper Perkiomen Chamber of Commerce Meeting at the Perkiomen School in Pennsburg. Former VCS member and current Executive Director of the Upper Perkiomen YMCA, Michael Tannous, received special leadership recognition presented by current member and former past president of VCS, Kirk Walters. Special thank you to VCS General Manager, Darcy McConahy, for leading the group of over 25 singers!

Concluding their summer engagements, VCS once again performed a number of selections for Make Music Upper Perk on Friday June 21st. In its seventh year, Make Music Upper Perk is a yearly, all-day, all-free, all-over the Upper Perkiomen Valley celebration of National Music



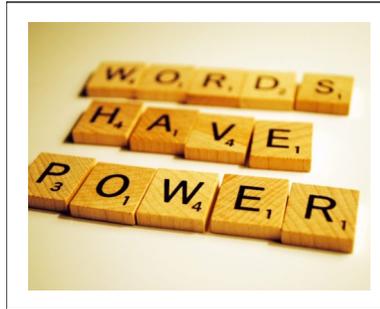
VCS sings for 7th Annual "Make Music Upper Perk" June 21, 2019

Day shared with 108 countries around the world. VCS member Homer Royer has worked in coordinating the day's events since its inception and once again invited Valley Choral Society to perform at the Upper Perkiomen YMCA. VCS presented eight songs from their most recent *Words of Soul* concert in addition to other numbers from their standards list. Thank you for once again inviting VCS to share in the day's celebration of music!

POWERFUL “WORDS OF SOUL” CONCERTS

“One of the best concerts ever. My favorite one yet.”
 “We were upstairs...the sound was unbelievable. I loved it.”
 That is how Valley Choral Society concluded their 35th season on May 17th and 18th. *Words of Soul* took the audience on a powerful and moving journey, exploring how our lives are shaped and formed by the greater world around us, by the community and those we share life with on a daily basis, and the inner strength we all possess to

overcome challenges. “That arrangement of *How Great Thou Art* rocked me. Very moving.” With spectacular arrangements of familiar tunes like *True Colors* and *What a Wonderful World* to the gripping text of *I Believe* that was found etched on a church basement wall during the Holocaust, VCS told an incredible story with the gift of music, proving *We are Made for Music*.



Words of Soul concludes 35th season

VCS ANNUAL MEETING UPDATE

On Tuesday, May 7th, the Valley Choral Society convened their Annual Membership Meeting with main order of business to elect the continuing group of officers and board members for the next fiscal year. The current board was very excited to present a full slate for the membership’s consideration, replacing, with deepest appreciation: Vice President Fred Moyer,

Treasurer Lindee Fitting, and Board Members, Matt Renz and Elaine Vanlavanaugh. In a unanimous vote, VCS welcomes: Vice President Peter Moyer, Treasurer Brian Nester, and Board Members, Christopher Lutz-Long, Joanne Reigner, and Monica Strawbridge. Additionally, Board Members Bruce Markley and Molly Faust will continue to serve for a second term. Both arriving and

departing members gathered at the June board meeting. As always, board meetings are conducted with an open-door policy and follow-up minutes are available at www.valchor.com.

“...the sound was unbelievable.”

FAREWELL TO OUR ACCOMPANIST SETH

After two seasons with Valley Choral Society, we report that Accompanist, Seth Trumbore, has chosen to not renew his contract with the choir for the upcoming season. The bittersweet news comes with Seth’s acceptance of an offer to play with Opera Westminster. Seth currently has adjunct commitments with Westminster Choir College and this incredible opportunity only further

highlights the tremendous talent Seth possesses at the piano. Additionally, Seth will continue his musical commitments at Church of the Holy Spirit, Harleysville. While VCS is sad to see him depart, we wish him nothing but the best in the next chapter of his musical career. Valley Choral Society will seek to fill the open accompanist position throughout the summer and fall.



Thank you and farewell Seth!



Valley Choral Society

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We're on the web!
www.valchor.com

Upcoming 2019 Events:

September 10
New Season Begins
First Rehearsal

December 6—7PM
A Christmas Carol
St. Mark's Pennsburg

December 7- 4PM
A Christmas Carol
Trinity Lutheran Perkasio

Connect with us...



ABOUT THE CHOIR

The choir performs music of all styles and genres in at least two major concerts a year in the late fall and in the spring. It has been accompanied by the Choral Arts Society Chamber Orchestra, and in collaborative efforts, by the Upper Perkiomen High School Choirs, the Red Hill Band, and the Bel Canto Children's Chorus. In addition to the full choir, the Ensemble is a select auditioned group of choir members that performs at concerts and is available to sing for various functions upon request.

The choir has performed at Longwood Gardens and the Pennsylvania State Capital Building, as well as for the Reading Express, Lehigh Valley Iron Pigs, and the Philadelphia Phillies. As part of its community outreach, the choir regularly performs at retirement homes throughout the area and at "Make Music Upper Perk."

In the summer of 2007, members of the choir went on a successful goodwill concert tour of Germany, Austria, and the Czech Republic. With renewed enthusiasm and dedication, Valley Choral Society has increased its performances in the Upper Perkiomen community and hopes to expand to surrounding counties and to continue to represent the United States internationally.

Valley Choral Society (formerly The Choral Arts Society of the Upper Perkiomen Valley) was founded by Richard F. Lampe in 1983. Prospective members are asked to sing a range test for placing in the volunteer choir. Ensemble members are asked to audition for the artistic director, singing sight reading examples.

A NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Thank you, everyone, for your support during the 2018-2019 season - singers, listeners, board, and roadies! Each and every one of you plays a role in VCS being all it can be.

I am very excited by the ways the 2019-2020 season is taking form. Our winter concert, *Christmas: Past, Present, and Future*, allows us to delve into various aspects of beloved sounds of the season - old, new, predictable, and unexpected! I cannot wait to see what other selections fit into the puzzle of our winter program.

Spring 2020 is a time we hope to form some new relationships with others who love to do what we do. We will



2019-2020, 36th season, taking form!

These beloved works are icons of their composers and are near and dear to anyone who knows them. I am excited to use them in demonstrating the opportunities music making provides us by breaking down walls and building bridges - with those we already know and with those we have yet to meet.

be inviting area community and church choirs to join us for a semester as we prepare Gabriel Fauré's *Requiem* paired with Morten Lauridsen's *Lux Aeterna*. Both selections allow us the chance to work with orchestra, opening the door to relationships with even more fellow musicians.

Drew

Andrew Lutz-Long
Artistic Director