



Dear Friend:

“Do you know us?”

The Choral Society of Northeast Pennsylvania is a long-standing partner of the NEPA Philharmonic, having sung in literally dozens of their holiday and masterwork programs. If you've enjoyed a choir singing with our Philharmonic, then **you know us**. If you've been to the arena to enjoy Kenny Rodgers or last fall's Star Wars in Concert, and wondered where they found all of those singers, then **you know us**. If you tuned your radio to WVIA-FM for a Sunday Concert Hall and heard interviews with our artistic director, or listened to their broadcast of our Kirby Center performance of Brahms's *German Requiem*, then **you know us**. If you've attended a state music conference and felt the pride in seeing an NEPA choir invited to their stage, then **you know us**. If you've stood on the steps of the state capital and heard the comforting sound of a children's choir leading the annual Blue Mass for fallen law officers, then **you know us**.

For the past 11 years, the Choral Society of Northeast Pennsylvania has served as your regional voice for the best in choral performance and education, offering 7 unique choirs for singers age K-adult. Choral Society ensembles regularly appear in the area's most outstanding venues and work collaboratively with its finest arts- and community-institutions and professional musicians. We've brought hundreds of performances to you, including commissions and numerous regional premieres of important new or recently-discovered works. We've honored the great masterworks while at the same time showing how choral music can move beyond art to shine light on the horrors the holocaust, or the cause of children's advocacy. Our children's programs achieve outstanding performances, but also give the gift of musical literacy. We don't just sing. We teach; we learn.

Choral Society ensembles are guided by the mottos **“Artistry through Opportunity”** and **“Excellence through Education.”** We, too, do it the “old fashioned way.” We earn our success through hard work, and we try to pay for thing ourselves. Our singers pay tuition and purchase their own music. They sell tickets, hold fundraisers, and volunteer their time and labor so we can keep ticket prices low and make our music accessible to all. Children 18 and under receive free admission to most of our programs and we offer discounts to seniors, students, supporters of WVIA public radio/television, and members of the Lackawanna Library System.

None of this comes without cost. To build and maintain a staff of the region's finest choral educators, to utilize its best venues and musicians, and to promote these opportunities to you requires the broadest base of public support. We need your help. The state has cut arts funding to the bone. Businesses are finding it more and more difficult to make large donations. **But if choral music teaches us anything, it is that there is strength in numbers and that there are great things that can only be accomplished through the participation and sacrifice of many.** In that spirit we ask that you consider becoming a member of our supporting cast. Enclosed you will find a response card noting a choice of giving levels and accompanying benefits. We've also enclosed a bookmark listing our 2010-2011 concerts. We hope you'll use it to remind you of upcoming programs.

The answer: “Yes, you do know us...we're your regional voice for the choral art. “

John Cardoni, Jr
Co-President, Board

Alan Baker
Artistic Director

Susan Kelly
Director, Children's & Youth

Carol McMullen
Co-President, Board

**The Choral Society is a fully registered 501 (c) 3 Not-For-Profit organization.
All contributions are fully tax deductible to the allowable extent of the law.**