

NORTHWEST CHAMBER CHORUS

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Dear Friends,

Rehearsals for the December concert, **Season of Peace**, are off to a great start. Artistic Director, Mark Kloepper, now beginning his 11th year at the helm of this group, has one of the largest and best choirs in the history of the chorus. We have welcomed 8 new members this fall and each is already making a great contribution to our sound and quality.

Sometimes it's hard to sing about peace, when every day our television and computer screens are filled with images of destructive wars and traumatized refugees fleeing to anywhere they might find safety and make a new start. Sometimes we just get numb and start to lose hope as there seems to be so little any of us can do to stop the terror and bloodshed.

Next summer, a group of 20 or more NWCC singers will go on tour to Finland and the three Baltic Countries. What we know from what we have read and what we learned from the documentary film, *The Singing Revolution*, the Baltic citizens never gave up their quest for peace and freedom during 45 years of oppression by the Soviet Union. When even speaking the native Baltic languages was banned, the people still gathered in large choirs to sing from their hearts against impossible odds and the risk of arrest, until the Soviet Union collapsed and they were free. In this Season of Peace, we sing to celebrate Christmas, and to remind ourselves that despite the odds, we must keep hope alive and work for peace and justice every day.

We are entering our 49th concert season this fall and are looking forward to singing music that we'll take with us on our tour to the Baltics. In December, we present our *Season of Peace* Christmas concerts with music by Lauridsen, Whitacre, Howells, Holst and others, plus our popular traditional carol sing-along. March brings *Music of Light* as the theme, with shimmering music by Whitacre, Poulenc and Latvian composer Esenvalds. In June we sing an *American Masters* program with music by Shaw, Parker, Barber, Barnum and other great American composers.

It will be a busy year and we hope to see you at our concerts. Words alone cannot express how grateful we are for your contributions at any level you can afford. Your help makes it possible for us to buy music, hire guest musicians, tour and present community outreach programs. Your gifts make up a substantial part of our annual budget, and we would not be the choir we are today without your generous support.

Tuners (\$25-\$99) receive acknowledgment in concert programs and on our web site.

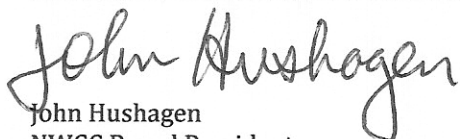
Hummers (\$100 to \$249) receive 2 tickets to your choice of season concerts (\$48 total value).

Singers (\$250 to \$499) receive all of the above and 2 admissions to our Benefit Auction on April 29, 2017 (\$178 value).

Divas (\$500 to \$999) receive two season tickets and 2 admissions to the Benefit Auction, April 29, 2017 (\$260 value).

Directors (\$1,000 or more) receive 4 season tickets and 2 admissions to the Benefit Auction on April 29 (\$390 value).

On behalf of all the members of NWCC, we thank you for all you do to keep us singing!



John Hushagen
NWCC Board President

P.S. Looking for a more affordable and convenient way to support the Chamber Chorus? Simply arrange a monthly gift online at our website or through the enclosed form. Charged to your credit card on a monthly basis, a sustaining gift will make a tremendous impact while remaining affordable.