

Dear Singers-

I hope that this message finds you enjoying the end of a great summer. I am just back from my annual sojourn to Texas to visit family. It is nice to come home to cooler weather.

As you will recall, 24 members of our chorus went to Germany last month to sing at the Leipzig International Choral Festival. They performed at incredible venues including the Gewandhaus (one the most famous halls in the world) and St. Nicholas Church (where Bach conducted his B Minor Mass). They did an amazing job, and represented the NOVA Community Chorus extremely well. You can here recordings of 2 performances at www.novachorus.org and click on 'reports from Leipzig International Choral Festival'.

I am very excited about our upcoming season:
Mendelssohn's *Song of Praise* is in the bookstore
Daniel Pinkham's *Christmas Cantata* is on its way and will be in any day

If you know good singers who would like to sing these masterworks with full orchestra in a great concert hall, please encourage them to join us. Mendelssohn is big, romantic music that would benefit from more voices. Please help me find them.

Rehearsal CDs are ready. I will FedEx a number of them today to Nighat Sabir (845-6250) in the Division Office in Tyler. You should be able to pick them up no later than Monday. As you know our Mendelssohn Concert comes up very quickly. The dress rehearsal is October 12. I encourage you to get an early start learning the music.

As we have discussed, we now have to pay full price to perform in the Schlesinger Center. The rental comes to nearly \$5000 per concert. In addition, we spend \$1000.00 per concert for honoraria for faculty soloists and \$600.00 to have the risers moved to Church of the Epiphany. So our expenses are almost \$7000.00 per concert.

In order to meet these expenses I propose the following:

- * Every singer sell *at least* 5 tickets to each concert (\$15 each). You did a great job selling tickets to *A Sea Symphony*. We must keep it up. I will have the tickets early in September.

- * Seniors *who can afford it* donate \$90 to the NVCC Music Club. This is the amount that other singers will have paid to register. Many seniors do this already, and it really helps.

- * Everyone keep the chorus in mind as you plan you tax-deductible giving to non-profits. We have had three or four generous gifts each year, and could not have done without them.

Like you, I would rather not have to worry with money. But the good news is: we have a great orchestra and a great concert hall and great music to perform. I also have a great group of singers who can help meet these goals.

Again, enjoy the rest of the summer. I look forward to seeing you at our first rehearsal on August 26.

Peace-DrW