Gordon Nelson: A Tribute

Choral Favorites and Songs of Springtime and Love

Saturday, May 10, 2014 7:30 pm

Grosse Pointe Woods Presbyterian Church
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Dear Friends,

Welcome! This evening we celebrate the career of our founder and Artistic Director of 27 seasons, Gordon Nelson. We are delighted that you are here to share in this very special occasion.

In 1987, Gordon Nelson founded the Detroit Concert Choir based on his vision to offer our community a rich variety of quality choral music through performance, appreciation and education. Under Mr. Nelson’s leadership, the Detroit Concert Choir has garnered a worldwide reputation for excellence and has provided our audiences with a vast repertoire from around the world.

To honor Gordon Nelson and his contribution to the many lives he has influenced and inspired, tonight’s concert will include many of Mr. Nelson’s favorite songs, including classical selections, gospel and spiritual music, and sentimental love songs. Each piece that Gordon has selected for this concert has a significant and meaningful place in his heart and a message of happiness, peace, faith, and hope.

Gordon, we dedicate this concert to you with our deepest devotion and love for what you have taught us, where you have led us, and how you have woven into our lives a great love for magnificent choral music.

Christine Rouce
Executive Director
Everyone wants to be remembered and to leave some indelible mark on the world to make it a better place.

Why not start with the Detroit Concert Choir Endowment Fund?

The newly-established Detroit Concert Choir Endowment Fund allows those who want to help ensure the long-term success of the Detroit Concert Choir a means to make contributions beyond assisting with the annual operating expenses.

The Endowment Fund is completely separate from Detroit Concert Choir accounts for operating expenses. Contributions are retained in perpetuity; only the earnings on contributions are eligible for withdrawal. This will ensure that there is financial assistance available for those times of financial hardship in the future.

Donations of any size may be made to the Detroit Concert Endowment Fund. Donations in memory of loved ones will be recognized in their honor. The Endowment Fund accepts cash donations, securities, and bequests from wills and trusts. For more information, contact Richard Aude at 313-922-3292 or the Detroit Concert Choir Office at 313-882-0118.

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Detroit Concert Choir

presents...

Gordon Nelson: A Tribute

DETROIT PERFORMING ARTISTS, INC.
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Gerrie Ball, Accompanist

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The Detroit Concert Choir is an activity of the Detroit Performing Artists, Inc., whose mission is to provide and encourage choral music and facilitate the education of its members and the public in the performance and appreciation of quality musical literature, and to promote the social and artistic cooperation among members and other allied arts. The organization will be the standard bearers of quality choral and instrumental music for the community, country and world through concerts and competitions regionally, nationally, and internationally.

This season is supported by the Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs and the National Endowment for the Arts.
The Detroit Concert Choir celebrates 27 seasons under the leadership of the group's founder and artistic director, Gordon Nelson. Recognized as local, national, and international pacesetters of choral music, the group provides an outstanding collection of inspiring and enlightening performances to local audiences each year. The choir’s vast repertoire spans the range from contemporary a cappella compositions, to American folk and gospel, to the great classical works for chorus and orchestra.

In addition to the choir’s own concert series, the ensemble seeks to enrich the cultural offerings for the city by singing for community events and by collaborating with fellow arts groups. The choir has performed numerous concerts with the Detroit Symphony Orchestra and has been featured on four separate occasions at American Choral Directors Association Conventions. The group has also performed for local television and radio programs, sporting events, and as featured artists for various community functions.

With a desire to play a vital role in our area's cultural landscape, the Detroit Concert Choir is dedicated to promoting choral music of high artistic merit and cultural enrichment for the community. Goals of the choir include providing artistic and performance opportunities for volunteer and professional musicians as well as educational outreaches for young people and adults.

The Detroit Concert Choir is proud to represent the United States and its rich musical heritage to audiences from around the world and has successfully participated in eight international competitions. The Detroit Concert Choir is the recipient of eighteen national and international honors and acclamations, including the prestigious title of “Choir of the World” at the Llangollen International Musical Eisteddfod in Wales, and the nationally acclaimed Margaret Hillis Award for Choral Excellence.

In 1987, Gordon Nelson, driven by his great love and passion for quality choral music, and by his desire to enhance the lives of others through that music, founded the Detroit Concert Choir. Twenty-seven years later, this same organization continues to provide a venue for musicians, professional and amateur, to share their love of music and talents with the community.
Thank you!

Thank you, Gordon, for twenty-seven years of musicianship, artistry, wisdom, sensitivity, and love … poured so generously into the Detroit Concert Choir!

Your Choir

What has been the secret of the success of the Detroit Concert Choir over the years? It’s really no secret at all! It is the outstanding vision and leadership from conductor Gordon Nelson, a unique level of talent from the singers, and hard work and special dedication from all. I’m grateful to be a part of this magical experience called the Detroit Concert Choir.

Stan Harr
President
**ARTISTIC PERSONNEL**

**STAN HARR**, Associate Director, has been a member of the Detroit Concert Choir since 1996. He holds a masters degree in Choral/Vocal Music from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and has sung over the years with Don Neuen, Robert Fountain, Joseph Flummerfeldt, William Weinert, and Robert Shaw. For twenty-five years Stan was the choral director at West High School in Madison, WI. When auditioning for Gordon, Stan was delighted to discover that he and Gordon had sung for the same choral director (Paul Warren Allen) in college many years ago. An immediate kinship developed – as though it was meant to be.

**ANN MARIE KOUKIOS, D.M.A.**
Ann Marie is an accomplished conductor who met Gordon in Cincinnati in the early 1980’s through a mutual friend. The colleagues became instant friends and enjoyed talking about music and attending concerts. They reconnected in the early 1990’s at Helmut Rilling’s Oregon Bach Festival and attended some of the same master workshops. Their friendship continued as Ann Marie and her family moved to the Detroit area in 2001. She joined the Detroit Concert Choir as a guest conductor on several occasions. Ann Marie teaches at Wayne State University where she directs the Women’s Chorale and teaches Graduate Choral Conducting, Choral Literature, and Music Theory. She serves as Minister of Music at the First United Methodist Church of Ann Arbor and is the conductor of the Ann Arbor Cantata Singers. In December 2013, Ann Marie conducted the Detroit Concert Choir Christmas performance at the Macomb Center for the Performing Arts.

**DINA SORESI WINTER**
Dina has traveled the world as a singer, teacher and operatic coach, and was introduced to Gordon in 1993 by a singer who encouraged her to attend a Detroit Concert Choir performance. Dina recalls attending the concert with her husband Eric and hearing Gordon speak about “the dance” of music. Intrigued by this concept, she invited Gordon over for a cappuccino. They talked about opera and classical music, and Dina was thrilled to learn that Gordon was eager and open to collaboration and to introduce his extraordinary choir to operatic music. For the last 20 years, Dina has lent her expertise to the choir as vocal teacher and coach, narrator, director for operatic programs, guest conductor, and foreign language coach. Dina is currently the President of The Tuesday Musicale of Detroit, presenting the finest in professional concerts and contributing in various ways to the music community.

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GORDON NELSON, Artistic Director and Founder of the Detroit Concert Choir, is highly respected in the choral music field. More than a musical academician, Mr. Nelson has built a truly great choral ensemble by challenging its members to reach beyond their own expectations to achieve extraordinary goals. In 1987, Mr. Nelson created the group to enhance the lives of others through music and to provide a venue for musicians, professional and amateur, to share their talents with the community.

Gordon Nelson’s outstanding programming choices continue to keep concertgoers engaged, inspired and entertained. His passion for excellence and his extensive musical knowledge have led the Detroit Concert Choir to eighteen national and international honors, including the “Choir of the World” title at the Llangollen International Musical Eisteddfod in Wales and the lifetime Margaret Hillis Award for Choral Excellence.

Mr. Nelson’s musical background includes a Bachelor of Arts degree from Wheaton College, Master of Education degree from Wayne State University, and Master of Music degree from the University of Michigan. From 1961 to 1979, Mr. Nelson served as Choral Director of Denby High School in Detroit and established a standard of excellence rarely envisioned at the high school level. Mr. Nelson studied with such choral experts as Robert Shaw, Helmuth Rilling and Bev Henson and participated in workshops and conventions with the American Choral Directors Association and Chorus America.

GERRIE BALL, an accomplished and talented pianist, accompanist, and organist, has shared in the Detroit Concert Choir’s artistry since 1988. He has contributed to their rising success and growing reputation worldwide as its premier accompanist. Gerrie has a Bachelor of Music degree in piano performance from Wayne State University, a Master of Music degree in vocal accompaniment from the University of Cincinnati – College Conservatory of Music, and is certified by the Archdiocese of Detroit as a Minister of Music at the organ. For many years, Gerrie was Director of Music Ministries and organist at St. Dorothy. He also served as Minister of Music at St. Thecla in Clinton Township. Gerrie has served on staff at Wayne State University since 1976, accompanying choruses, operas, students and faculty. As a member of the faculty at Wayne, Gerrie has taught piano classes since 1988. Gerrie has also served as accompanist at the Interlochen National Music Camp and is a member of the professional music fraternity, Phi Mu Alpha. Throughout his professional career, Gerrie has accompanied numerous choruses and soloists in concerts and competitions regionally and internationally, including the WSU Men’s Glee Club as accompanist and singer.

“Gordon Nelson makes music with the Detroit Concert Choir that one simply listens to. There is a feeling for sound, melody, meter, effect, and spiritual presence, there is spirit and soul.”

Spittal an der Drau International Choral Contest, Austria
Detroit Concert Choir presents

Gordon Nelson: A Tribute

Gordon Nelson, Artistic Director
Stan Harr, Associate Director
Gerrie Ball, Accompanist
Ann Marie Koukios, Dina Soresi Winter, guest conductors
Bob McKay, trumpet, Paul Sikorski, percussion

Part One

How Lovely Is Thy Dwelling Place (Requiem) ......................Johannes Brahms
O blest are they that dwell within Thy house; They praise thy name evermore!

The Eyes of All Wait Upon Thee ........................................Jean Berger
Psalm 145:15-16
The eyes of all wait upon Thee; thou givest them their meat in due season.

Sous le dôme épais ‘Flower duet’ (Lakmé) .........................Léo Delibes
Michele Marszalkowski and Cynthia Webster, sopranos

Ave Signor (Mefistofele) .................................................Arrigo Boito
The vast choir of angels in heaven sing their praises to the Almighty.

Va Pensiero (Nabucco) .................................................Giuseppe Verdi
Hasten thoughts on golden wings. Hasten and rest on the densely wooded
hills, where warm and fragrant and soft are the gentle breezes of our native land!

Michigan Morn (Michigan Dream) ...................................Jennings/Reed
There is gold in the sound of the morning, in Michigan where I was born.
Pamela Berger, soprano

Prelude in D Major ..................................................Johann Sebastian Bach
Gerrie Ball, pianist

Wir eilen mit schwachen (Cantata 78) .......................Johann Sebastian Bach
Let Your gracious countenance be joyful to us!
Detroit Concert Choir Women

For He Shall Give His Angels Charge Over Thee (Elijah) ... Felix Mendelssohn
For He shall give His angels charge over thee; .. that they shall protect thee in
all the ways thou goest.

On Eagle’s Wings .....................................................Joncas/Hayes
And He will raise you up on eagle’s wings, bear you on the breath of dawn,
make you to shine like the sun, and hold you in the palm of His hand.

Praise His Holy Name ................................................Keith Hampton
Sing till the power of the Lord comes down. Shout Hallelujah!
Intermission

Part Two

**Some Enchanted Evening** (South Pacific) ......................... Rodgers/Hammerstein

**Blue Skies** .................................................................................................................. Irving Berlin
  Elizabeth Buchanan, soprano; Carl Fernstrum, tenor; Ernest Taylor, bass

**Pie Jesu** “Merciful Jesus” (Requiem)................................. Andrew Lloyd Webber
  Cynthia Webster and Dawn Surma, sopranos

**Do the Dance** ............................................................................................................... Carl Fernstrum
  Dedicated to Mr. Gordon Nelson  Carl Fernstrum, tenor

**Shenandoah** ................................................................. American folksong arr. Erb
  *This ethereal arrangement recalls the sheer beauty of an early American landscape.*

**My Tribute** ‘To God Be the Glory’ ................................................................. Andraé Crouch
  James Moore, Jr., tenor solo

**Sanctus** (Gospel Mass) ...................................................................................... Robert Ray
  Ernest Taylor, bass; James Moore Jr., tenor

**I Can’t Tarry** .............................................................................................................. arr. David Morrow
  James Moore, Jr., tenor and Detroit Concert Choir Men

Two Choruses from ‘Frostiana’ .......................................................... Randall Thompson
  The Road Not Taken
  Choose Something Like A Star
  Words by Robert Frost

**Unforgettable** ......................................................................................................... Irving Gordon
  Rebecca Meyers, alto; Ronald Hirchberger, Jr., baritone

**AN IRISH BLESSING**

  May the road rise to meet you,
  May the wind be always at your back,
  May the sun shine warm upon your face,
  The rains fall soft upon your fields,
  And until we meet again,
  May God hold you in the palm of His hand.

Please join us for an afterglow reception in the church hall following the concert.
Gordon Nelson, Artistic Director

Stan Harr, Associate Director
Gerrie Ball, Accompanist

Christine Rouce, Executive Director
Sandra Cooper, Administrative Assistant
Bob Weig, Concert Logistics

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Allison Brengle
Elizabeth Buchanan
Joy Crawford
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Community Partner
Dear Friends,

Our talented and beloved founder, Gordon Nelson, has spectacularly led the Detroit Concert Choir for the past 27 years and has developed a magnificent choir known for choral excellence. We have performed hundreds of concerts in our local communities and have served as positive representatives of our city, state, and country in esteemed music conventions and international competitions.

The Detroit Concert Choir was built upon Gordon Nelson’s vision to provide our community with the opportunity to experience outstanding choral music. We are committed to continue to provide you with inspiring and uplifting concerts and to perform the wide range of music you love - building on the beautiful choral artistry that has become the very core of the Detroit Concert Choir.

There is a special joy that can only be found in the powerful blending of voices united in song. I hope you will consider making a donation to the Detroit Concert Choir’s Annual Giving Campaign this year! Your remarkable support throughout the years has allowed us to provide our city with the great choral excellence of the Detroit Concert Choir. All donations will directly support the development and production of our concert season as well as promote our mission of growth and service to our local communities.

Sincerely,

Joseph Wanchik
President Emeritus & Chairman of Annual Giving

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Phil Cooper                           John Kelley                              Deanne Remlinger                          Joe Tomaszcyki
Cheryl Costantino                     Cynthia Kempton                         Hannah Remlinger                          Bob Weig
Joy Crawford                          Chris Klein                              Harold Remlinger                          Russell Yamazaki
Marvin David Crawford                 Pete Klein                               Anne Rouce

Our appreciation to Grosse Pointe Woods Presbyterian Church and the Grosse Pointe Public School System for their continuing support in providing rehearsal, performance and office space.

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Daily Happy Hour
3pm - 6pm - $1 off drinks

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