



December 2016

Dear Friends,

“What in the world is a bandoneon?” I thought to myself as Mike, our director, proposed his concert program for the upcoming season. It’s placement in the budget, just above the piano and strings, provided a clue. This little accordion-like instrument would transform an ordinary Latin Mass into one with an Argentine flare!

Our January concert will feature music of Argentina, including Martín Palmeri’s *Misatango* and works of other Argentinian composers. Written in 1996, *Misatango* made its New York debut at Carnegie Hall in 2015 and will make its Massachusetts debut with the Andover Choral Society on January 29, 2017 at 3 p.m. at North Andover High School. The piece is a brilliant pairing of the ancient Latin Mass with the exhilarating rhythms and melodic features of an Argentine tango. It represents a new style of music for our group, which has traditionally sung works from the Renaissance and Baroque eras. Personally, I’m finding it to be some of the most enjoyable music I’ve sung since joining the Andover Choral Society and I can’t wait for you to hear it!



bandoneon

This concert has also given us a unique opportunity to include a live tango demonstration as part of the program. But tango dancers and a bandoneon player cost money. That is why I am asking for your help. Andover Choral Society is a frugal organization. Our annual budget of \$52,000 is far lower than that of most other choral groups our size. Dues paid by our membership cover less than 30% of our annual budget. Tickets, program advertisements and grants also help to defray our expenses, but these revenue sources still do not fully cover the many costs that come with performing two large concerts each year. Although the addition of a bandoneon player and tango dancers increases our costs, the value that they will add to our concert program is priceless.

Would you help us to fund this extraordinary concert with your tax-deductible contribution? We know that you receive many requests for donations at this time of year, but we hope you will find a way to include the Andover Choral Society in your year-end giving. When we say “we can’t do it without you” we really mean it. One of our primary funding sources, the Massachusetts Cultural Council, substantially cut funding to all arts organizations this year, leaving us with an unexpected deficit. We constantly look for ways to reduce expenses without compromising the quality of our performances, but we are finding it increasingly difficult to fund the types of programs that you have enjoyed for so many years. Every donation, no matter how small, is so appreciated by our membership, and all contributions will be recognized in our concert program. If you choose to make your donation electronically, you can do so by going to <http://andoverchoralsociety.org/support/>.

Our spring concert, *In Troubled Times*, will be performed on Saturday, May 6, 2017, at 3 p.m. at the Pike School in Andover. It will feature Haydn’s *Lord Nelson Mass*, David Conte’s commemorative piece to those who perished on September 11, 2001, *September Sun*, and Mormon Tabernacle Choir Music Director Mack Wilberg’s uplifting arrangement of the African-American Spiritual *Peace Like a River*. Tickets are available online at andoverchoralsociety.org/concerts. We offer a group rate for purchases of ten tickets or more, and a discount for tickets purchased now for both concerts in January and May.

On January 16, 2017, we will raffle off two free tickets for our *Misatango* concert. If you return the enclosed form so that it is received before January 16, you will automatically be entered into the raffle, whether or not you choose to make a donation. On behalf of the Andover Choral Society, thank you so much for your support. See you at the concert!

Sincerely,

Jennifer Hickman

Jennifer Hickman
President, Andover Choral Society



My support is enclosed for the
Andover Choral Society Annual Fund

Please make checks payable to:
Andover Choral Society
P.O. Box 633
Andover, MA 01810

All forms received by January 16 will be entered into the raffle for two free tickets to the ACS winter concert, *Misatango*!

_____ Platinum \$1000+ Name: _____

_____ Gold \$500-\$999 Street/PO Box: _____

_____ Silver \$100-\$499 City/State/Zip: _____

_____ Bronze \$50-\$99 Email: _____

_____ Friend \$5-49 Home Phone: _____

_____ I do not wish to donate at this time but please enter me in the raffle for 2 tickets to the ACS winter concert

_____ I have enclosed my donation but do not wish to be entered into the raffle for 2 free tickets