If the Andover Choral Society is familiar with one word, it’s practice. After all, tireless hours of practice is what landed several of the vocalists the opportunity to travel to New York City in June, when they joined forces with more than 200 other singers from around the world to perform at Carnegie Hall in June.

Fifteen Andover Choral Society singers take stage at Carnegie Hall

By Jessica Valeriani

The performance drew a crowd of more than 1,800 people. A sea of black and white tuxedos mixed with black evening gowns filled the stage, and the harmonious sounds of the singers filled the auditorium. There were 223 singers in all. All of us were scattered on the stage among people from other countries, which was wonderful,” says group member Pamela Bloomstein, who also serves as the clerk of Andover Choral Society’s board of directors.

The unique opportunity was “remarkable,” Bloomstein says. She speaks highly of Palmeri and his work, commending him for his effectiveness in conveying to the group his own interpretation of the music he composed more than 20 years ago. “He’s a brilliant composer, and also a wonderful conductor,” Bloomstein says. For the Andover Choral Society singers, their debut at Carnegie Hall marked the second time that they have performed “Misatango.” They previously performed the piece in Vienna, Austria, in September 2017. The audience responded with a lengthy ovation, which Bloomstein says followed nicely. “It’s a friendly, nice group and very open to new people coming in. It’s just been getting better and better over the years,” Bloomstein says.

The piece, composed and conducted by Argentinian composer Martín Palmeri, pairs the ancient Latin Mass text with the exhilarating rhythms and melodic features of Argentine tango. The performance drew a crowd of more than 1,800 people. A sea of black and white tuxedos mixed with black evening gowns filled the stage, and the harmonious sounds of the singers filled the auditorium. There were 223 singers in all. All of us were scattered on the stage among people from other countries, which was wonderful,” says group member Pamela Bloomstein, who also serves as the clerk of Andover Choral Society’s board of directors.

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The group was formed in 1929 and has done a number of traditional and classical pieces, but has also put together more unusual repertoires, Hickman notes. “The whole group is just growing nicely,” Hickman says. “It’s a friendly, nice group and very open to new people coming in. It’s just been getting better and better over the years.”

Andover Choral Society members joined forces with more than 200 other singers from around the world in a performance of “Misatango” at New York’s Carnegie Hall in June.