



ANDOVER CHORAL SOCIETY
P.O. Box 633, Andover MA 01810

November, 2019

Dear Friends,

When most people think of 1929, they think of the stock market crash. But there were many good things that happened in 1929. Ernest Hemingway's *A Farewell to Arms* was published. Hollywood held the first Academy Awards. Popeye made his debut. Locally, the Boston Bruins won the Stanley Cup, Rose and Sarkis Colombosian founded Colombo Yogurt, and Andover Choral Society was founded.

Andover Choral Society has been bringing people together through music for 90 years. We are still going strong and looking for new and exciting ways to engage with the Merrimack Valley community, which is why I am writing today **to ask for your financial support.**

We are excited about our concert programs for this year. On January 26, 2020 at 3 p.m., we will perform Haydn's *The Creation* with soloists and a full orchestra at the West Middle School Auditorium in Andover. For our spring concert on May 2, 2020 at 3 p.m., in Veterans Memorial Auditorium in Andover, we have commissioned a choral work by Andover composer Demetrius Spaneas. His new piece for Andover Choral Society, entitled *becoming*, will premiere at this concert celebrating our 90th anniversary. The concert will also feature works of other local composers: Leonard Bernstein, world-renowned composer and conductor from Lawrence; Kevin Siegfried, composer and professor at the Boston Conservatory at Berklee and an Andover resident; and Gwyneth Walker, composer of over 300 pieces and a graduate of Phillips Academy.

You have helped us in the past by making a financial contribution and attending our concerts. We thank you so much for your support. Once again we are asking for your financial support to help us expand our presence in the Merrimack Valley. We want to continue to provide a rewarding experience for our singers, offer exciting and innovative concert programs to our audience, and expand our community outreach programs. For economically disadvantaged families, we participate in the Massachusetts Cultural Council's EBT Card to Culture Program. We offer several outreach programs to local high schools; high school students may sing with Andover Choral Society at no cost through our Choral Scholars Program, and local high music teachers are offered discounted tickets to all of our concerts. We also work directly with senior living residences to provide group tickets for each performance.

Although we carefully control our expenses, it is a constant challenge to cover our costs. Dues paid by our members cover only a third of expenses. Ticket sales, program advertisement revenue, and grants make up the rest of our income, but these revenue sources still do not fully cover our expenses for concerts and community outreach programs.

I know that you receive many requests for donations, but I hope that you can include Andover Choral Society in your annual giving. A contribution of any amount is welcome and will help us to continue to bring fine choral music to the Merrimack Valley. You may also donate online at <http://andoverchoralsociety.org/support>. All contributions are recognized in our concert program and are fully tax-deductible.

This year we will raffle off two free tickets for our 90th anniversary spring concert. If you return the enclosed card by January 1 you will automatically be entered into the raffle, whether or not you choose to make a donation. On behalf of Andover Choral Society, thank you for your support, and I hope to see you at our forthcoming concerts.

Sincerely,

Tom Connolly, President
Andover Choral Society Board of Directors