



P.O. Box 1431
Rochester, NH 03866

January 2012

On behalf of the Board of Directors of Granite State Choral Society and its singers, I would like to thank you for considering a corporate sponsorship. As you know, the non-profit performing arts world has been challenged with the decline of available grant funding and GSCS continues to search for other funding sources to enable us to strengthen our organizational infrastructure, programs, and outreach. As we continue our 37th year of providing great music and a diverse repertoire of music to please many different tastes, we are searching for the support of forward-thinking corporate sponsors such as yourselves.

Your gift will not only keep GSCS's music and vision alive, but will also attract and expose our large and diverse audiences to your products and business.

Please take a few moments and review the information that we have prepared for you. We invite you to learn more about us, including our goals and our challenges, by visiting our website at www.gschoralsociety.org.

We welcome the opportunity to partner with your company as we proceed with the second half of our 37th year. Please contact Karen Manning, President, at 207-698-7841 if you need any additional information.

Again, thank you for your consideration and generous support!

Sincerely,

GSCS Member
www.gschoralsociety.org

P.S. Mark your calendar and plan to join us for our May 5th & 6th concerts!!

CORPORATE SPONSOR AND
ORCHESTRAL INSTRUMENT SPONSOR BENEFITS

CORPORATE CONCERT UNDERWRITER - \$1300.00

- ❖ One year full page ad in the program booklet with your provided logo and information
- ❖ 8 complimentary tickets (to be used at either our December or May concerts)
- ❖ Your company name on our press releases
- ❖ Your company name and logo on our concert poster for our concert
- ❖ Company logo and web link to your company site for one year on GSCS web site
- ❖ Display of your company banner provided by you at our concert
- ❖ Curtain introduction as a corporate underwriter at our concert
- ❖ Free CD of our concert (not for resale use)

CORPORATE CONCERT SPONSOR - \$750.00

- ❖ One year full page ad in the program booklet with your provided logo and information
- ❖ 6 complimentary tickets (to be used at either our December or May concerts)
- ❖ Your company name on our press releases
- ❖ Your company name and logo on our concert poster for our concert
- ❖ Curtain introduction as a corporate sponsor at our concert

ORCHESTRAL INSTRUMENT SPONSOR (If Applicable) - \$300.00

Trumpet I, Trumpet II, Trumpet III, Timpani, Flute I, Flute II, Oboe I, Oboe II, Bassoon, Violin I, Violin II, Viola, Cello, Bass, Organ/Harpsicord

- ❖ Special recognition in our concert program
- ❖ 4 complimentary tickets to our concert
- ❖ GSCS aluminum water bottle

CHORAL SOLOIST SPONSOR (If Applicable) - \$250.00

Soprano I, Soprano II, Alto, Tenor & Bass

- ❖ Special recognition in our concert program
- ❖ 2 complimentary tickets to our concert
- ❖ GSCS aluminum water bottle



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CORPORATE SPONSOR DONATION FORM

(Please print clearly. Thank you.)

Date: _____

Name of Company: _____

Company Representative: _____

Representative Phone: _____

Representative Email: _____

Company Address: _____

_____ **\$1300.00 Corporate Concert Underwriter**

How do you wish your company's name to appear in the program? _____

Please provide a Company Logo for us to display on the GSCS web site and to use in our promotional poster.

Please provide us with your ad-ready copy for a full-page ad in our program

Will you provide a company banner for display at our concert? Yes _____ No _____

Please provide a brief statement to be used for our Curtain Introduction.

_____ **\$750.00 Corporate Concert Sponsor**

How do you wish your company's name to appear in the program? _____

Please provide a Company Logo for us to use in our promotional poster.

Please provide us with your ad-ready copy for a full-page ad in our program

Please provide a brief statement to be used for our Curtain Introduction.

_____ **\$300.00 Orchestral Instrument Sponsor**

How do you wish your company's name to appear in the program? _____

Which instrument, if you have a preference, would you like to sponsor? _____

_____ **\$250.00 Choral Soloist Sponsor**

How do you wish your company's name to appear in the program? _____

Which soloist, if you have a preference, would you like to sponsor? _____

Please send a check with a copy of this document to:

GSCS

PO Box 1431

Rochester, NH 03866

You may email your company's logo and any other information to:

diane@digrafika.com and ktlady104@aol.com

A FEW FACTS ABOUT GSCS:

- As a nonprofit organization, we depend on a broad network of public and private support. Like all arts groups, concert ticket sales pay for only a fraction of the total cost of a performance.
- Your donations enable us to share our mission of performing choral music to entertain and enlighten the community with music from various time periods and cultures.
- Our audience listens to our recommendations and supports those companies who align themselves with our organization.
- Music Director: Seth A. Hurd
- President: Karen Manning
- Community Memberships:
 - Member of the Rochester Chamber of Commerce
 - Member of Barrington Chamber of Commerce
 - Pending membership in the Dover Chamber of Commerce.
- Participants: 30-40 singers, ranging from experienced singers and musicians to novices discovering the joys of choral singing.
- Annual Budget: Approximately \$25,000
- Repertoire: classical, Broadway, folk, contemporary, popular, jazz, opera, spirituals and more
- Annual Concert Series:
 - 2 concerts each session, Fall & Spring, by full chorus
 - Outreach and 'community sing' events, providing music and caroling for local rest homes
 - Providing music at the annual Rochester Chamber of Commerce After-Hours Events
 - Participating in Strawberry Banke's Candlelight Stroll every December
- Concert Attendance annually: 600
- Collaborations: Multiple collaborations with Rochester Choral Society from England, First United Methodist Church Adult and Youth Choirs, Strafford Wind Symphony, and more.
- Performance Venues:
 - First United Methodist Church, Rochester, NH
 - First Church Congregational, Rochester, NH
 - South Congregational Church, Kennebunkport, ME
 - South Church, Portsmouth, NH
 - St. Mary's Church, Rochester, NH
 - Rochester Opera House, Rochester, NH
 - Wakefield Opera House, Sanbornville, NH
 - Spaulding High School, Rochester, NH
 - Noble High School, North Berwick, ME
- Founded: Rochester Community Chorus in the Fall 1974, adopted the name Granite State Choral Society in the Spring 1995.
- Giving Back to Our Communities: Multiple fund-raisers for various churches, Veterans organizations, raising money for renovations of the Rochester Opera House, My Friends Place, First United Methodist Church Choir donation, ushered at Prescott Park, and participated in Somersworth Children's Festival and Rochester's Centennial celebration.
- Non-profit status: Section 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization

HISTORY OF THE GRANITE STATE CHORAL SOCIETY (ROCHESTER COMMUNITY CHORUS)

In the fall of 1974, Reverend Frank Gulinello told the music director Sylvia Dowst, at the United Methodist Church in Rochester, that he dreamed of a community chorus from Rochester and surrounding communities to sing Handel's *Messiah*. On December 15, 1974 they saw their dream realized as the 64-member Rochester Area Community Chorus presented a single performance of the Christmas portion before a packed house under the direction of Sylvia Dowst.

On June 14, 1976 the community chorus undertook a patriotic concert, "Flag Waving", to celebrate the 200th birthday of our nation, under the direction of Justine Leighton. On March 27, 1977 the chorus presented the Easter Portion of Handel's *Messiah* under the direction of Charlene Guptill at the First Church Congregational of Rochester. Sylvia Dowst returned as the active director in 1978 and stayed with the group until 1989. *Messiah* concerts were held every two years with other works such as Vivaldi's *Gloria*, Bach's *For Us a Child is Born*, Faure's *Requiem* and a contemporary musical drama called *Celebrate Life*.

In 1988, singing member Becky DeMott, who had been instrumental in the development of the chorus, had a dream to produce Menotti's *Amahl and the Night Visitors*. Sylvia told her to "take it and run with it" and that is exactly what she did. Becky personally trained the boy soprano, Richie Pedrick, and she sang the part of the mother.

In 1989 Sylvia passed her director's baton to David Warfield, who had been the rehearsal accompanist for her for several seasons. Mr. Warfield presented Bach's *Magnificat* his first season and broadened the musical repertoire by adding Mozart's *Requiem*, Bach's cantata *Wachet Auf* and diverse music such as the Rutter *Gloria*, the Tribute to Veterans Concert, Broadway music and, of course, continuing with Handel's *Messiah*. Mr. Warfield was instrumental in connecting the two choruses from Rochester, NH and Rochester, England. Under his direction the chorus also worked with the city of Rochester, NH on its 100th anniversary celebration, the Somersworth Children's Festival and the Rochester Opera House Restoration Association. In May of 1995, the community chorus voted to incorporate and adopt the name Granite State Choral Society. Mr. Warfield resigned his position as Music Director in December 1998.

Catherine Beller-McKenna, came to the choral society in 1999. Dr. Beller-McKenna continued to expand the Choral Society's repertoire with thematic programs such as "Songs from America and the British Isles" (2000); a concert of music by American composers showcasing the music of New England composers Amy Beach and Gwyneth Walker (2003); and "Soldiers, Sailors and Suitors," a concert of opera and operetta choruses (2004). In May 2002, GSCS presented "By George!" a program of music by George and Ira Gershwin featuring a guest appearance by the Strafford Country Wind Symphony and Adrienne Hounsell playing *Rhapsody in Blue*. Kitty continued the connection between the two Rochesters, inviting Roger Sayer to perform the virtuosic organ accompaniment of Durufle's *Requiem* in 2001. In July of 2003 the Granite State Choral Society visited Rochester, England to perform with the Rochester Choral Society in the Rochester Cathedral.

Director Dr. Paul McGovern began his relationship with GSCS in Fall 2005. In his first performance with GSCS he led GSCS in Handel's *Messiah*. In Spring 2006 Paul challenged the choral society with a 250th anniversary celebration of musical genius Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart with a performance of his most celebrated works. The program included Mozart's masterpiece *Requiem* (K. 626), his *Vesperae solennes de confessore* (K. 339), and his famous motet *Ave verum corpus* (K. 618). The performance was accompanied by Jim Bullock on the organ, and featured soloists selected from within the Choral Society.

Our current music director, Seth A. Hurd, added another chapter to GSCS history by joining us in Summer 2009. For his first performance with GSCS, Seth planned a holiday concert entitled **Gloria! Songs of Jubilation**, which featured a number of holiday classics. The program included two spirituals, 'Round the Glory Manger and Hail Mary as well as some classical repertoire such as *Gloria In Excelsis* by Mozart. He then led us in an exciting collaboration with the Rochester Choral Society from England and the First United Methodist Church Choirs that culminated in concerts around the seacoast area that included selections from Handel's *Four Coronation Anthems*, Fauré's *Requiem in d minor, Op 48* and some wonderful spirituals thrown in for even more fun. The great concerts have continued under Seth's leadership with **A Feast of Carols**, **A Broadway Review** and our last concert presentation, **Bach's Magnificat and Other Choral Selections** that took place in December with a full orchestra.

Over the years the chorus membership has been numbered from 35 to 110. There are currently two members, Patty Dunlap and Donald Brown that have been with the chorus since it was founded in 1974. The choral society is currently enjoying its 37th year.