

Mount Desert Summer Chorale

Celebrating Fifty Two Years of Magnificent Music in a Magnificent Place

summerchorale.org/

Dear Member,

It is our pleasure to welcome Amy Wlodarski to the podium as our guest conductor for the 2020 Season. Amy's knowledge of and association with the Chorale will help us maintain our level of excellence while David is away. The masterworks program includes the Fauré *Requiem* and Brahms *Schicksalslied*, pieces that are loved by both audiences and singers.

Amy is a member of the alto section of the Mount Desert Summer Chorale. When she isn't singing with us, she can be found at Dickinson College in Carlisle, Pennsylvania, where she is an Associate Professor of Music and Director of the College Choir.

Based on singer feedback, we have made some changes to the rehearsal schedule, basically returning to one rehearsal a week. There is one Sunday night rehearsal and one Sunday night sectional rehearsal.

Please take a few minutes to read through the newsletter for information on the concert, activities and other news. We are all looking forward to seeing you this summer on MDI.

The MDSC Board

Barb, Geoff, Bob, Marsha, Ariane, Charles, Linda and Jenny

Come Sing With Us!

Join with singers from Maine and from away as we rehearse and sing the Fauré *Requiem* and *Schicksalslied* by Brahms. Registration will open on May 1. Returning singers will be able to register online through our Choral Genius website.

Note: The \$5 fee for registering after June 19, 2020 will be waived this year.



Upcoming Events

June 24

First Rehearsal
7 to 9:30
MDI High School

July 22

Annual Meeting
Rehearsal

Link to the Calendar

Calendar

<https://summerchorale.org/calendar/>

PROGRAM SPONSORS

When you are out and about on MDI, please consider visiting our program sponsors. If you get the chance, thank them for sponsoring our concert.

If you know of a new business on MDI that might want to advertise in our program, please contact Dave and Marty at summerchorale@gmail.com

A Note From Our Guest Conductor

I am honored and delighted to join the Mount Desert Summer Chorale for its fifty-second season on the island. Having grown up in the area, I remember attending summer concerts when I was in high school, and one performance—of the Brahms *Requiem*—sticks in my memory as my first encounter with what would become one of my most cherished pieces in the repertoire. As I have furthered my career as a professional musicologist and choral conductor, early experiences like this one served as an important reminder of the joy that music can bring to our lives—how it provides for and nurtures us, often in ways that can be felt for a lifetime. This past summer, I had the pleasure of singing the *Carmina Burana* with the chorale, and the welcome extended to me as a new member was wonderfully warm. Thus, the opportunity to continue its mission this coming season is a meaningful experience for me on a professional and personal level. In short, I am excited, and I hope that you are as well!



This season, we will prepare two beautiful choral works for our audiences: Brahms's lush *Schicksalslied* (Song of Fate) and Fauré's serene *Requiem*. Musically, both offer tender and memorable melodies, wonderful chromatic harmonies, and a balance of energetic and elegiac choral writing. At a thematic level, the works are also connected by their peaceful meditations on the universal experiences of loss and difficulty. Brahms began sketches for the *Schicksalslied* during a personal sojourn to the ocean, accompanied by a volume of poetry by the German master, Friedrich Hölderlin. Three years later, he completed the masterpiece, which traverses an emotional path from resignation to resolution, aided by choral writing reminiscent of his earlier *Deutsches Requiem*. Fauré wrote his *Requiem* in 1887, shortly after the passing of both of his parents, and the setting reflects his deep religious belief in the promise of redemption. As he explained in an interview, "Some have called [my *Requiem*] a lullaby of death. But it is thus that I see death: as a happy deliverance, an aspiration towards happiness above, rather than as a painful experience." To this day, it remains one of his greatest masterpieces and most beloved works.

I do hope you will join us for this summer of beautiful music, whether as a performer or a loyal friend of the chorale.

Amy

GREAT RECORDINGS OF OUR CONCERT SELECTIONS:

There is a beautiful online recording of the Brahms *Schicksalslied* featuring the Frankfurt Radio Symphony live at a lovely slow tempo (which I prefer, due to the organ): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HrXSzkdgljI>

Robert Shaw recording of the Faure *Requiem* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UnilUPXmipM> (If you want to order a physical CD, here is the link to Amazon: <https://www.amazon.com/Faure-Requiem-Op-48-Durufle/dp/B000003CU2>)

Summer Chorale Donor Night

The board is committed to a goal of raising more income to fund the Summer Chorale. A committee of the board has been hard at work planning our first Summer Chorale Donor Night. The inaugural event will be held at the home of Charles Hamlin in Somesville. Our speaker is Amy Wlodarski. Clayton will provide music for the event. This event is to recognize major donors to our Annual Campaign, which will begin in May. You will find specific information about the event in the late April newsletter. You can include your donation in your member registration for the 2020 season.

Housing Needs

One of the important "behind the scenes" volunteer jobs is finding housing for our orchestra members and soloists. For the past few years, Sarah Fraley has volunteered to find hosts to meet our housing needs. You do not need to provide meals for your guests, but access to a kitchen is greatly appreciated.

At this time, we are unsure of our housing needs. The dates are Monday, July 27th through Saturday August 1st.

Anyone interested in hosting may contact Sarah at sfraley88@gmail.com or (207) 244-3605.

Thank you for considering this request!

Do you Shop on Amazon?

Did you know that you can support the chorale through the Amazon Smile program? If you purchase through Amazon and designate MDSC as the beneficiary, we get a small donation from Amazon!

Click here to go to Amazon Smile:
smile.amazon.com/ch/31-1781633

Lynam Grant Received

We are pleased to announce that the Chorale has received a grant from the Lynam Trust.



Chorale Administrators

Dave and Marty Ward

Summerchorale@gmail.com

Orchestra Personnel Coordinator

Sarah Fraley

Please contact Sarah if you are willing and able to help house orchestra members during the concert week.

Publicity Coordinator

Claire Daniel

Please contact Claire if you have any leads for new ways to advertise the concerts or promote the chorale.

RISER CREW

Please consider assisting us with the set up of the risers at St. Saviour's Church on the afternoon of Sunday July 26th. We will need about 10 people to help bring the risers up from storage and set them up. The more people we have, the faster it goes. Mark your calendars now. Thanks!

Resources for Singers:

Here are YouTube links for individual part-learning for the Faure:

Soprano: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JGWdf0gIOSI&list=PLa3ZBVWX19VN07FNRVcsxndLWqrUMKNNC>

Alto: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yICBdPWD6Vo&list=PLa3ZBVWX19VOnUb6HUMHfqJlw3h_G7E2G

Tenor I: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SZJg9sd5Jd8&list=PLa3ZBVWX19VMNvTkrJJSJT0n-USF45n3W>

Tenor II: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nI3vqUglUnU&list=PLa3ZBVWX19VMibSctQa6UAtnu5MOkwTQK>

Bass I: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XVTJsz3rXXU&list=PLa3ZBVWX19VOO0qaWSKaC4CpCVNbiERph>

Bass II: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ei_qiXI54ik&list=PLa3ZBVWX19VPAppiD249ABODZWGmLdkCK

The YouTube part-learning resources for the Brahms are at warp speed and therefore unhelpful. Cyberbass has links to MIDI files, and the link to that page is here: http://cyberbass.com/Major_Works/Brahms_J/brahms_schickalslied.htm

For those who would like to hear a good pronunciation of the German text, they may use this link (we will make certain adjustments in rehearsal): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nHb9XcJNgQo> (Please note that other YouTube resources have errors!!!)

MARK YOUR CALENDAR NOW!

Here is our rehearsal schedule for the upcoming season. The times for rehearsal week will be included in the April Newsletter.

Wednesday, June 24, 7 – 9:30 p.m.:	First rehearsal
Wednesday, July 1, 7 – 9:30 p.m.:	Rehearsal
Wednesday, July 8, 7 – 9:30 p.m.:	Rehearsal
Sunday July 12, 7 - 8:15p.m.:	Soprano and Alto Sectional
8:15 to 9:30p.m.:	Tenor and Bass Sectional
Wednesday, July 15, 7 – 9:30 p.m.:	Rehearsal
Sunday, July 19, 7 - 9:30 p.m.:	Rehearsal
Wednesday, July 22, 7 – 9:30 p.m.:	Annual Meeting and Rehearsal
Final Week: at St. Saviour's	
Sunday, 7/26: Time to be determined	Rehearsal, anticipating a 6:30 start
Monday, 7/27: Time to be determined	Rehearsal, anticipating a 6:30 start
Wednesday, 7/29: Time to be determined	Rehearsal, anticipating a 6:30 start
Concert: Friday July 31, 8:00 p.m.	6:30 Call Time
Concert: Saturday August 1, 8:00 p.m.	6:30 Call Time