

Letter to our Messiah Chorus Singers

Dear Friends - I have come up with a way to perform this Christmas without getting together in person for rehearsals and performances and thus risking infection. We canceled the spring performances but we cannot afford to cancel our Christmas performances because A) we need to do something to fulfill our state grant obligations and B) we don't want to lose our "bragging rights" to being the oldest continually performing Messiah Chorus giving free public concerts.

We are going to give two live online streaming performances at the same days and times we planned to do our normal performances, Friday and Saturday Dec. 4 and 5 at 7:00pm. We will not perform on Sunday, Dec. 6. This will fulfill our obligations and demonstrate our commitment to our mission statement.

I currently live stream my church's Sunday traditional service, so I have the know knowledge, the tech team, and the equipment to live stream our performances to either Facebook or YouTube and our web

The soloists and orchestra will perform live both evenings to an empty room, probably a church sanctuary.

For the choral movements we will do two things. First, we will create a virtual choir this fall to record three choruses, one each falling at the beginning, "And the glory", the middle "Glory to God", and the end "Hallelujah" of the Christmas portion. This is the only way I can think of to have the chorus "perform" in the online streaming event. If you are not familiar with virtual choirs, it works like this; each one of you will video record yourself singing your part to each song while listening to your practice CD. Then you submit your recording to me by text message or email. I in turn submit all of the individual recordings for each chorus to a hired video editor who combines all the separate recordings into a single recording. All of our videos of us singing will be placed onto a single picture-in-picture page so we can see everyone singing at one time. The quality of the resulting recorded "performance" is not as good as our normal performances but this enables us to continue to meet our mission.

For the rest of the Christmas choruses we will place recordings from our past performances. We have some good videos of great performances we've given.

This is an exciting opportunity to perform Messiah in a new way using technology to reach people online. I hope you will participate in this project! We will ask you to record one song at a time through September, October, and November, starting with our favorite "Hallelujah Chorus"! Please look for more emails with the how-to instructions.

Blessings from your Board and I,
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