



Church/Community Event

BRANDYWINE AREA COMMUNITY CHOIR

The Brandywine Area Community Choir, under the direction of Steve McFalls, will present encore performances of “America: A Pilgrim’s Prayer, A Patriot’s Dream” in several venues this spring. BACC has performed musical cantatas for over 45 years in the greater Chester County area and beyond. Members consist of men and women representing various church choirs in the area, as well as those who simply have a love of singing. The choir assembled this year is made up of nearly 70 singers.

Through this impressive collection of music, the listeners will enjoy patriotic offerings, including a salute to our patriots -- the past and present members of our armed forces; they will be moved by the arrangements of well-known anthems of faith, including spirituals of joy and indomitable strength; they will hear a tribute to our unsung heroes of compassion and assistance for those in need – our volunteer “army”; and they will experience a joyous celebration of praise to God for the blessings, wisdom and mercy He has showered on our country and its people.

Although the concerts are free and open to the public, the Brandywine Area Community Choir has in the past received freewill offerings for various charities. Offerings received this spring will be for the benefit of local charity, David’s Drive, which was created in memory of David Turner who died suddenly at the age of 20 of a suspected heart arrhythmia. David worked at the Coatesville Veterans Administration Medical Center and had a tremendous respect for the veterans he served, many of whom were homeless, in early stages of recovery or who came to the hospital without essential items. David’s Drive is committed to improving the quality of life for hospitalized and homeless veterans and people in need in the community. More information can be found at davidsdrive831.org.

The “America” cantata was first performed in 2001 before the events of 9/11 and the group came together again following that tragic day for the benefit of the New York Fire & Rescue personnel who responded. Forming again in 2007, the group performed “America” for the benefit of Operation Troop Appreciation, established in 2004 by Kristen Holloway, whose parents sing with the group. At that time, through numerous performances, the group raised over \$20,000 for OTA, which provides wish list items for troops deployed around the world, as well as home essentials for returning veterans. BACC has also presented “America” for the benefit of the Travis Manion Foundation, whose namesake is a young marine who gave his life for America in Iraq in 2007 and whose mission is to empower returning veterans and families of the fallen in character development. The group last sang this moving cantata on the 10th anniversary of the events of 9/11 for the benefit of the Downingtown Area Fire & Emergency Personnel.

Mr. McFalls has volunteered his time and talent to this group for over 45 years. Steve retired from the group in 2013 but is bringing the group together again to perform their signature “America” piece. Steve also directed the Coatesville Choraliers for over a decade and was choir director at the Forks of the Brandywine Evangelical Presbyterian Church for 46 years.

Accompanist Jane Hall may be recognized for her vast experience as former organist at Our Lady of the Rosary Church in Coatesville, church organist at St. Joseph’s Church in Downingtown, accompanist at Bishop Shanahan High School in Downingtown, accompanist with the renowned Chester County Voices Abroad, as well as other accomplishments.

Concerts will be held at the **Forks of the Brandywine Evangelical Presbyterian Church, 1648 Horseshoe Pike, Glenmoore, at 7:00 on Sunday, March 24**; at the Stonecroft Building at Tel Hai Retirement Community, Beaver Dam Road, Honey Brook, at 7:30 on Wednesday, March 27; at St. Joseph’s Church, 338 Manor Avenue, Downingtown at 7:00 on Sunday, March 31; and at Freedom Village Retirement Community, Reeceville Road, Coatesville, at 7:30 on Wednesday, April 3.

