**Quincy Choral Society**



*Bringing music to*

*the South Shore and the world since 1981*

***Our 41st Anniversary***

**2021-2022Concert Season**

**SOMEWHERE IN MY MEMORY**

Sunday, December 12, 2021, 4:00 pm

**QCS CABARET**

**Saturday, February 5, 2022**

**The Fours, Quincy**

**MUSIC FROM THE SCREEN**

MARCH 2022

**A SERENADE TO MUSIC**

MAY 2022

**Members’ Essential FAQ Book**

2021-2022

**QUINCY CHORAL SOCIETY**

Quincy Choral Society was founded in the summer of 1981 by a small group of people, organized by Andy and Nancy Nelson, who wanted to revive a community chorus for the South Shore. In response to many letters sent to area churches and schools, as well as by word of mouth and radio announcements, we held our first rehearsals in September of 1981 with Robert Brown as conductor and Carla Errichiello as accompanist.

From 1988 to 2016, the Quincy Choral Society blossomed into a group of dedicated non-professional musicians who create quality music under the direction of John Nichols and with the support of accompanist Gingy Grimes. After his retirement, John was succeeded by Joshua Rohde as QCS's director in the summer of 2016. A doctoral candidate in choral conducting at Boston University and an accomplished conductor, Joshua continued QCS's trajectory toward musical excellence.

Today, under the direction of Sarah Labrie and with the support of accompanist Gingy Grimes, we have come to consider ourselves a group of dedicated, non-professional musicians, who strive to create quality music in a warm and friendly atmosphere. It is a social as well as musical endeavor for us all. We consider ourselves to be a ***musical family***, as stated in our signature song, "Uma Familia" (One Big Family-One People).

We continue to evolve and grow as we take on more challenging choral works. Some of our large musical repertoire includes: Bach’s Mass in B minor, Beethoven’s *Missa Solemnis*, Brahms’ *A German Requiem*, Dvorak’s *Te Deum*, Handel’s *Messiah* and *Coronation Anthems*, Haydn’s *The Creation*, Mendelssohn’s *Elijah*, Mozart’s *Requiem* and *Coronation Mass*, Schubert’s *Mass in A flat* and Vivaldi’s *Gloria*. We have also performed major works by contemporary composers Britten, Bush and Rutter, to name a few, as well as American spirituals and show tunes.

Each year, the QCS performs seasonal music in December, show tunes and popular music in March, and a major classical work in May. We also sing in special performances at the Church of the Presidents, Fuller Village, and at nearby retirement communities. Finally, we have our own cabaret dinner in February when we sing and perform for each other!

**MEMBERSHIP RESPONSIBILITIES**

Did you know that during an average season it costs the equivalent of $350 for you to sing in the QCS? The figure is even higher in seasons when we hire additional instrumentalists or soloists!

**DUES:** Membership dues cover a portion of our costs. We do our best to keep costs as low as possible for members. This season, dues are $30 per person and $50 per couple.

**MUSIC:** In September/January, sheet music for the Fall/Spring concerts is handed out along with the cost for each piece. Please take only the music you don’t have (if we have sung a piece before, we only order copies for new members). The treasurer will announce when monies owed for dues and music will be collected.

**COSTS:** The cost of operating the QCS includes paying Sarah’s and Gingy’s stipends, hiring instrumentalists and soloists for some of our concerts, publicizing our concerts, printing tickets, posters and postcards, mailing postcards, paying for rehearsal and concert space and paying for other services.

TICKETS: At concerts we expect to sell out, we will make sure that each member is able to purchase at least two (2) tickets. For other concerts, we strongly require that individuals either purchase 4 tickets (couples 6) or donate to QCS. This helps us all to have a stake in the future of the Quincy Choral Society.

ADS Et al: You can also sell ads for the Fall and Spring concert programs, sponsor instruments, donate items to the Silent Auction, buy items at the Silent Auction, and/or make a tax-deductible donation to the chorus!

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**As a community performance organization, we should expect that there will be pictures and videos of our performances which may be used for publication or local television.**

Local papers like to caption photographs with the names and towns of QCS singers. With our signed permission, we are able to use your name for publicity purposes.

**REHEARSALS**

We rehearse Monday nights, including most holidays, from 7:30-9:30 p.m. at East Congregational Church, 610 Adams Street, Milton. Specific rehearsal schedules will be given out each September and January. These schedules also contain dates of concerts, extra gigs, and additional rehearsals. Be sure to make a note of them on your calendars! During the week of a major concert, there will be one or more additional rehearsals. Those rehearsals are held at our concert locale so they are important!

If you miss more than two rehearsals for a concert, Sarah can ask you to demonstrate that you really know the music. If you don’t know the music, Sarah might ask you to skip that concert.

**🕗 Come to rehearsal on time!**

If you are in your seat and ready to warm up at 7:25 pm, we can start rehearsal on time

**🖉 Mark your music during rehearsals!**

Keep your pencil handy! Sarah will let us know where we should breathe, how to observe dynamics, and tricky sections to watch out for. To remember her instructions, please **MARK YOUR MUSIC!**

**Watch Sarah & Be attentive!!**

If there’s too much noise, rehearsals are less productive.

**Sit up straight with both feet on the floor & hold your music up so you can see Sarah!**

**Mark your calendars**

You are expected to know the rehearsal and concert schedule, so mark your calendars and plan other activities accordingly.

**Practice your music between rehearsals!**

WE will look and sound more professional! YOU will be communicating the meaning of the music and not just singing the notes. [**www.cyberbass.com**](http://www.cyberbass.com)is a great website to use!

**Sing at extra gigs**

They’re fun; they help publicize the QCS; they help us earn extra money to offset our operating costs.

**Bad Weather**

We rarely cancel rehearsals. When we do, we’ll send you an email. If you, or your car, don’t feel safe coming to a rehearsal, then, please stay home and be safe!

**WEBSITE**

Please visit our website, quincychoral.org, for press releases, concert recordings, and members-only information, such as pictures of recent trips and information, this FAQ book, and up-to-date information about who does what for the chorus.

**CONCERTS**

PLEASE--NO perfume or cologne!!!! The person next to you may be allergic to it!!

**Required Concert Attire** (any changes for a particular concert will be announced well in advance of the concert):

**Women:**

QCS-issued long-sleeved **BLACK** dress

Dark (black or off-black) stockings & black closed-toed shoes

QCS-issued pearl necklace with pearl (stud) earrings of your choice

**Men:**

**Black** suit

White shirt, black shoes, and black socks

Red bow tie for December & Black bow tie for other concerts

Concert attire for March is usually not as formal as December and May. Descriptions will be announced well in advance.

**All music must be put in a black folder.**

Do look like you’re happy to be singing!!

Do use your face to express the emotions of the music.

 **OUR DIRECTOR**

Sarah Labrie joined QCS as its first female director in the Fall of 2019. She has the distinct honor of holding that position for over a year before directing the chorus in a concert. COVID and the lock down of 2021 occurred the week of our March 2020 concert, and it was December 2021 when QCS performed again.

Boston-based conductor, singer, and music educator, Sarah, is also the Choral Director at Stoughton High School in Stoughton. and Artistic Director of Vellichor - Professional Vocal Ensemble.

Outside of conducting and teaching, she actively sings with the Tanglewood Festival Chorus and Boston Symphony Orchestra, Viatores Mundi (Croatia), Sarteano Musica Sacra Choir (Italy), Vox Futura (Professional Recording Studio Choir), Labyrinth Choir, and in other numerous other choral performances throughout New England and Europe. She has also sung professionally in choirs with the New York Philharmonic, Boston Symphony Orchestra, Boston Pops, Vienna Philharmonic, Vienna Chamber Orchestra, Philadelphia Orchestra, and New Jersey Symphony Orchestra. Sarah's 2014 choral performance of Beethoven's 9th Symphony with Westminster Choir and the Vienna Chamber Orchestra was nominated for a Grammy. Solo orchestral performances include Ralph Vaughan Williams Serenade to Music with the Farmington Valley Symphony, and the Pie Jesu from Maurice Duruflé's Requiem the Pioneer Valley Symphony. Sarah also is a lead singer for The Boston Rock and Soul Revue, and is a cantor at St. Leonard's of Port Maurice in the North End, Boston's oldest church built by Italian immigrants. Sarah is in high demand as both a choral and solo musician.

Sarah graduated Summa Cum Laude from Westminster Choir College in 2014 with a B.M. in Music Education, and graduated Summa Cum Laude from Messiah University in 2021 with an M.M. and C.A.G.S. in Choral Conducting. She has had the pleasure of studying conducting and rehearsal technique with Simon Carrington, Dr. Joe Miller, Dr. Amanda Quist, Tom Shelton, Dr. Joy Meade, and Dr. Rachel Cornacchio. She studied voice with Dr. Rochelle Ellis and jazz voice with Ellen Cogen.

Sarah is an active member of the American Choral Directors Association (ACDA), the Massachusetts Music Educator Association (MMEA), the Massachusetts Instrumental and Choral Conductors Association (MICCA), and the National Association for Music Educators (NAfME.) She has been on the Executive Board of the Southeastern Massachusetts MMEA chapter for 5 years, and has managed and adjudicated at both the Senior and Junior levels for 7 years. In 2021, Sarah was chosen to conduct the Junior Mixed SEMSBA Festival Choir.

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 **OUR ACCOMPANIST**

Virginia (Gingy) Grimes, Accompanist, is a graduate of Duke University, with a major in piano accompaniment. She has accompanied the Quincy Choral Society for many years. She teaches at Milton Academy, and she also serves as the Minister of Music in Norwell.

Gingy has performed with Evelyn Lear, Raymond Montoni, and other well-known singers and instrumentalists throughout the East Coast. Locally, she has performed with Brenda Kelly and Paul Frazer. Gingy has been musical director for several theater productions including Sondheim's *A Little Night Music* and Mencken’s *Little Shop of Horrors*.

Gingy can play all parts of an orchestral score on the keyboard, figure out where the conductor wants to start up in the middle of complicated pieces, and lend a helping hand to a section struggling to find a note. And she does it all without ever missing a beat. She also has a little-known talent for singing show tunes in the shower.

Her husband, Frank, is a professional viola player and performs regularly around Boston and with QCS. Their son, Brandon, has been a featured soloist with QCS. We also performed the premiere performance of his first choral and orchestral composition.

**QCS BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**2021-2022 SEASON**

CYNDI FEDEWA — President

DYAN RUFFEN-MADRY— Vice President

GORDON BEHRER — Treasurer

NANCY AHONEN

TRICIA ALVAREZ

DWIGHT DEWSNAP

JANET HALLORAN

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GREG MERCHANT

DEBORAH JEAN PARSONS

MARY SCHIARIZZI

 **COMMITTEES**

Talk to a Board Member or one of the people listed below to get more information!

ADS (Gordon Behrer)

ARTS OUTREACH (Diane Murphy)

CONCERT DRESS COORDINATOR (Mary Welsh)

CONCERT RECORDING COORDINATOR (D.J. Parsons)

CONCERT SET UP (Fred White)

CORRESPONDENCE (Cyndi Fedewa)

HISTORIAN/LIBRARIAN (Diane Murphy)

MEMBERSHIP (Greg Merchant)

MUSIC SELECTION (Sarah Labrie)

PROGRAMS & BROCHURES (Nancy Ahonen)

PUBLIC RELATIONS (Marie Pereto-Hedin)

SILENT AUCTION (Martha McMahon and Vicki Karns)

TICKETS (Vicki Karns)

TRIPS (Janet Halloran, Diane Murphy, and Joan Walsh)

**Taking our show on the road…**

**1997 – England:** We performed in York and London's All-Hallows Church to commemorate the 200th Anniversary of the wedding of John Quincy Adams to Louisa Catherine Johnson.

**1999 - France:** We performed at Chartres Cathedral & l'Eglise Allemande in Paris.

**2001 –Wales, England, and Scotland:** We performed at Atlantic College, Bolton Castle and Greyfriar's Church during the Edinburgh Music Festival.

**2003 – Austria and the Czech Republic:** We performed in Baden (near Vienna) and in Cesky Krumlov. We sang at the historic St. Nicholas Church in Prague as part of the Tenth Annual Sacred Music Festival in the Czech Republic.

**2005 – Venice, Florence and Stresa (on Lake Maggiore) in Italy:** We performed at a wonderful Mass at San Marco’s in Venice and at an outdoor concert in Stresa where we were surrounded by mosquitoes!

**2007 – Helsinki, Finland, and St. Petersburg, Russia**: We performed in Stockholm, Sweden, and we were the first American chorus to perform at the International Festival of Choral Art in St. Petersburg, Russia.

**2009 – Germany and the Czech Republic**: We performed the European premiere of “Songs of Sorrow & Hope” at the Lobkowicz palace in Prague and sang in the same room where Beethoven first performed his Symphony No. 3, “Erioca.” We also sailed along the Elbe River on the first QCS international cruise trip.

**2011 -- Switzerland and Austria**: We performed a sung Mass at the Hofkirche in Lucerne and at the Engadin Music Festival in St. Moritz. The final concert was at St. Gilgen, Austria with a collaboration of musicians from the Salzburg Mozarteum in a program of opera selections by W.A. Mozart.

**2013 – Switzerland and Netherlands**: 50 singers and musical ambassadors traveled the Rhine River from Basel, Switzerland to Amsterdam, Netherlands aboard Avalon Cruise’s boat the "Felicity". Concerts were held in Basel, Switzerland; Rudesheim, Germany; and Oude Kirke, Amsterdam, as well as a Farewell shipboard concert.

**2014 – Washington, D.C.:** We performed with eight other choral groups from throughout the U.S. as part of The National Memorial Day Choral Festival at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts as well as the Memorial Day Parade on Constitution Avenue.

**2015 – New York, NY:** Members of QCS performed Mozart’s *Requiem* at Carnegie Hall along with choruses from Kansas, Texas, and Virginia as part of Manhattan Concert Production’s Masterworks Series. The combined chorus performed with the New York City Chamber Orchestra under the direction of Dr. Joe Miller from Westminster Choir College, Princeton, NJ.

**2016 – Ireland:** Fifty QCS singers and ambassadors toured the Emerald Isle in August. Concerts were held in Kylemore Abbey; St. Coleman’s Cathedral in Cobh, County Cork; and in Adare, QCS performed an evening Sung Mass at Holy Trinity Church, followed by an informal recital. A highlight was the concert at St. Patrick’s Cathedral in Dublin, sung in conjunction with a group called Music Matters.

**2018 – Canada**: We performed in French. Latin, and English in Montreal and Quebec City.