Quincy Choral Society



Bringing music to
the South Shore and the
world since 1981

Our 46th Anniversary

Members Essential FAQ Handbook 2026-2027

2026 – 2027 Concert Season

The Carol Tradition: Ancient Songs, Timeless Joy

Sunday, December 12, 2026
4:00 pm
Wollaston Church of the Nazarene
37 E. Elm Street
Quincy, MA

QCS CABARET

Saturday, February 13, 2027
6:00 pm
The Fours, 15 Cottage Street
Quincy, MA

On The Road – Annual Pops Concert and Silent Auction Fundraiser

Sunday, February 21, 2027

2:00pm - 4:00pm
Doors open at 1:15
Quincy Catholic Academy
370 Hancock Street
Quincy, MA

Beethoven Mass In C Major Op. 86

Sunday, May 2, 2027, 4:00 pm
St. Mary of the Hills Church
29 St. Mary's Road
Milton, MA

✦ Carnegie Hall ✦

Beethoven Mass in C Major Op. 86
With Sarah Labrie, directing.
Stern Auditorium/Perelman Stage
Carnegie Hall
June 27, 2027

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 part of our costs. We do our best to keep costs as low as possible for members. QCS has two seasons: September – December, and January – May. Dues are $35 per person and $50 per couple ***per season***.

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 do not 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. Even if you receive a copy of the music by email from the Director, you are still expected to purchase a hard copy of the music. As noted below, the monies go towards running QCS.

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: We ask that all members sell, buy, or donate the cost of four (4) tickets to each of our two concerts or donate to QCS. This helps us all to have a stake in the future of Quincy Choral Society.

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



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 can 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 added rehearsals. Be sure to make a note of them on your calendar! During the week of a major concert, there will be one or more added 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 do not 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

 

Watch Sarah & Be attentive!!

Please do not talk during rehearsals to make it more 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. Be sure to use the mp3 and You Tube links provided by the director, as well as websites like chordperfect.com and cyberbass.com for Major Works.

♬ Sing at extra gigs ♬

They are 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 will send you an email. If you, or your car, do not 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

QCS members may wear any combination of the following items for performances:

Formal Clothing:

- QCS standard black dress
- Long or ankle length black skirt
- Black dress pants or slacks….NO jeans or leggings
- Black long-sleeved blouse or dress shirt
- Black suit/tuxedo with black dress shirt

Accessories:

- Black closed toed shoes
- Black socks or hose if any skin would be showing
- Tie/Bow tie optional
- QCS approved pearls.

Any changes for a particular concert will be announced well in advance of the concert.

PERFORMANCE

Do look like you are happy to be singing!!

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

All music must be put in a black folder.



Some Helpful Hints

pianissimo

piano

mezzo forte

FORTE

FORTISSIMO

cresCENDO

DIMINUendo

SForzando

rita r d a n d o

a c c e l er ando

stac · ca · to

leeegaaatooo

♥ dolce ♥

fermataaaaaaaaaa



OUR DIRECTOR

Sarah Labrie is a Boston-based conductor, singer, and music educator who joined Quincy Choral Society (QCS) as its first female Artistic Director in Fall 2019. She also serves as Choral Director at Lexington High School in Lexington, Massachusetts. In 2023, she received the Abigail Adams "Remember the Ladies" Award from the City of Quincy and Mayor Thomas P. Koch in recognition of her contributions to arts and culture. In 2026 she was named a Semi Finalist for the GRAMMY Music Educator Award.

Ms. Labrie regularly conducts festival choirs and serves as a guest clinician for school choirs and large-ensemble festivals throughout New England. Her guest lectures and conference presentations have included engagements with state music education and choral organizations, Holyoke Community College, the University of Arkansas, and the Westminster Choir College Conservatory of Music.

As a professional singer, Ms. Labrie performs with the Tanglewood Festival Chorus and Boston Symphony Orchestra and has appeared in symphonic choirs alongside the New York Philharmonic, Boston Pops, Vienna Philharmonic, Vienna Chamber Orchestra, Philadelphia Orchestra, and New Jersey Symphony Orchestra. Her international choral work has included Viatores Mundi (Croatia), Sarteano Musica Sacra Choir (Italy), and Sarteano Reunion A Cappella Ensemble (Mexico), as well as performances with Vox Futura Professional Recording Studio

Choir and Labyrinth Choir. Her 2014 performance of Beethoven's Ninth Symphony with Westminster Choir and the Vienna Chamber Orchestra was nominated for a GRAMMY. Her solo orchestral performances include Ralph Vaughan Williams's *Serenade to Music* with the Farmington Valley Symphony and the *Pie Jesu* from Duruflé's *Requiem* with the Pioneer Valley Symphony. She is also a lead singer with the Boston Rock and Soul Revue, a cantor at St. Leonard's Church in Boston's North End, and a regular chorister at Trinity Church, Copley Square.

Ms. Labrie earned a Bachelor of Music in Music Education from Westminster Choir College, graduating *summa cum laude*, and both a Master of Music and a Certificate of Advanced Graduate Studies in Choral Conducting from Messiah University, also graduating *summa cum laude*. Her conducting and rehearsal technique mentors include Simon Carrington, Brian O'Connell, 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.

Ms. Labrie serves as Repertoire and Resources Chair for Community and Continuing Choirs for the Massachusetts chapter of the American Choral Directors Association (ACDA). She is also an active member of the Massachusetts Music Educators Association (MMEA), the Massachusetts Instrumental and Choral Conductors Association (MICCA), and the National Association for Music Education (NAfME), and has served Massachusetts music education organizations as an adjudicator, festival manager, and board member.

OUR ACCOMPANIST



Virginia (Gingy) Grimes 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 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.

WAYS TO GIVE TO QCS

As a final gift:

When drawing up your estate plans include QCS in your will.

Add QCS as a beneficiary in either your IRA or 401(k). You can make the gift as small as 1%. So if you have 3 kids leave them each 33% and no one fights over the larger portion.

As a tax-advantaged gift:

If you have stocks with capital gains consider setting up a Donor Advised Fund with your brokerage. Then you can make your contribution in one year and make the gifts in subsequent years. For example, if you have stock that you bought for $10,000.00 and it is now worth $30,000.00 you can contribute the full amount this year which will now make you eligible to itemize your taxes. This could be useful if you have a lot of medical expenses this year. But you can make donations to any charity from the fund in any subsequent year for a little as $50.00 a donation. And you never have to pay the capital gains on the stock.

As a QCD (Qualified Charitable Donation):

If you are taking RMDs (Required Minimum Distributions) from your IRA you can contact the company holding the IRA and request that part of your RMD be a QCD. This is money that you would have had to withdraw anyways but you won't have to pay any state or federal withholding taxes on the QCD. You tell them where to send the money. This will also lower your AGI (Adjusted Gross Income) which might lower your Medicare part B payments.

QCS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

2026-2027 SEASON

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COMMITTEES

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

ADS (Gordon Behrer)

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(Mary Welsh)

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PUBLIC RELATIONS

(Marie Pereto-Hedin and Nancy Ahonen)

SILENT AUCTION (Vicki Karns)

TICKETS (Vicki Karns)

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 Greyfriars 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 an outdoor concert in Stresa (where mosquitoes surrounded us!)

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, "Eroica." 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: fifty 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.

