

# hitting the high Notes

A Newsletter From  WILLIAMSPORT  
CIVIC CHORUS

Volume 21, No. 1 Oct., 2018  
Barbara Hemmendinger, editor

## ***Journeying within and beyond for 75 consecutive years***

This year marks the Williamsport Civic Chorus' 75<sup>th</sup> consecutive season—a remarkable journey to inspire and involve our community in the beauty of song. Since no one of us is always courageous, we may embark on many journeys with trepidation. Fear is dispelled each time we rely on our inner strength and trust that our lives are in good hands. Whatever courage or strength is needed is as close as our willingness to go within or to commune with others. So, we sing.

As Music Director Michael Connor explains on page 2, our November 18<sup>th</sup> concert, "Journeys Within and Beyond", is the culmination of being immersed in transformative music. Listeners will be moved by healing sounds and words. The Chorus' rendition of Connor's composition, "Invictus", will be a special treat, performed among other pieces including "Song for the Mira" by Allister MacGillivray and "Blackbird" by John Lennon and Paul McCartney.



Tickets for this 3 pm concert may be purchased at The Otto Book Store, R.M. Sides Family Music Center, [online](#), and at the door; children under 12 are free. 🎵

## **Singers' Corner: 2019 Performance Tour**

Come journey with us to the Republic of Ireland in late June, 2019! Several seats for singers and fans remain for this performance tour to the Emerald Isle. Round-trip transportation from Williamsport to Dublin, hotels, and many meals are included. There will be four concert venues plus one evensong service in the historic St. Patrick's Cathedral.

You will be among friends for an unforgettable time that entails sightseeing at the Blarney Castle, Limerick, Galway, and, of course, the Guinness Storehouse.

For more information, please visit [bookings.wittetravel.com](http://bookings.wittetravel.com) and use booking code 062819HEMM. 🎵





## Know the Score



**Michael Connor**

A good journey is transformational. A good journey teaches you something about yourself. A good journey should be shared.

This past summer was a journey for me. While my travels, very often, didn't take me farther than my back yard, the trips that I took musically, physically, emotionally, and spiritually were some of the most rewarding to come my way to date. Here are some of my takeaways...

1. A good journey is not always fun. First journey: my mind. There were certainly blood, sweat and tears spilled this entire summer. However, mentally, I needed a change. I felt as though I held others to a higher degree than I held myself; I expect more from my students and choir members. Why? I decided that this needs to change, and in addition to working for others, I would work for myself. Big, rusted-shut doors began to open.

2. A good journey is one that you can revisit. Once my mind was made up, it became clear that physical limitations might constrain what I wanted to accomplish. Knowing that my journey was initially a mental one, I pushed my body onwards. The body, like the mind, would sometimes prefer to limit us. But, over the course of the summer, I convinced myself that I could in fact have my body do the things that I wanted to accomplish. There were days that I was so sore and dirty from my engagements that I could barely walk or recognize myself in the evening. Sometimes when you want to clean yourself, it is necessary to get very, very messy.

3. A good journey needs a soundtrack. The soundtrack changes the journey completely! The "Music in Movies" class that I teach at school illuminates the power that music can have over any particular scene. Change the soundtrack, and the meaning that we extract can be quite different. Likewise, keep the track, but change the video, and we come to something completely different. Through experimentation I have determined that doing yard work to Wagner is very different from Metallica...but, in the end you get the same result.

4. A good journey is what you make of it. Whether that journey is around the world or a few steps to one's backyard, the journey is what you make of it. In a world that seems as divided now as ever, a good journey can

bring you back to what is important. While I cannot spell out what may be important to you, this summer's actions honed and refocused me. I'll never let up, no matter what comes my way.

Our next concert will be a concert of journeys—"Journeys Within and Beyond." As I worked this summer transforming myself, my family, my yard, my mind, these choral works transformed me and educated me. Consequently, this soundtrack contributed to a change of outlook. That is why I am hoping that you will share this journey with us. 🎵

*"Know the Score" is provided for the enjoyment of our readers by Michael Connor. Currently in his fourth year as music director of the Williamsport Civic Chorus, Michael holds a master's degree in education with music specialization from Bucknell University, having served as a graduate assistant to Dr. William Payn there. Connor teaches choral music at Central Mountain Middle School in Clinton County and has also appeared as a frequent vocal soloist with the Chorus and with numerous other performing organizations. He is also the proud father of Aidan, Gabrielle, and Liam.*



Find us on  
**Facebook**



## 75<sup>th</sup> SEASON

### "Journeys Within and Beyond"

Sunday, Nov. 18, 2018  
3 pm

St. Mark's Lutheran Church  
142 Market Street  
Williamsport

### "Anton Bruckner's Te Deum"

with  
Williamsport Symphony Orchestra  
Tuesday, Feb. 12, 2019  
7:30 pm

Community Arts Center  
Williamsport

### "American Choral Classics"

Sunday, May 5, 2019  
3 pm

Faith Wesleyan Church  
1033 Tucker Street  
Williamsport

The Chorus gratefully acknowledges a continuation grant from Northern Tier Partners for the Arts



Hear us caroling out and about:

Dec. 7, 6-7 pm, Otto Book Store  
Dec. 8, 11:30 am, Pajama  
Factory, Holiday Market

### Patrons Reminder

The Civic Chorus patron campaign is underway. You can now do your part by making an important contribution: mail to P.O. Box 752, Williamsport, PA 17703, or donate securely online using PayPal. Thank you!

[williamsportcivicchorus.org](http://williamsportcivicchorus.org)

**PayPal**<sup>™</sup>



Preparing to perform at the Little League World Series, 2018



**WILLIAMSPORT  
CIVIC CHORUS**

**P.O. Box 752  
Williamsport, PA 17703**

Nonprofit Std.  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
Williamsport, PA  
Permit #183

**"Journeys Within  
and Beyond"**

Sunday, November 18, 2018

3 pm

St. Mark's Lutheran Church

142 Market Street

Williamsport

*reception will follow*



 **WILLIAMSPORT CIVIC CHORUS NEWSLETTER** 

**"The Williamsport Civic Chorus is an open community of singers dedicated to making fine music accessible to all through education, participation, and inspiration."**

**Holiday shopping?**

**Give a basket containing  
Chorus fundraiser items—**

- **WCC tee-shirts**
- **Gardners Candies**
- **Music CD**

**Details from singers and  
online.**

*The Williamsport Civic Chorus receives state arts funding support through a grant from the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, a state agency funded by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the National Endowment for the Arts, a federal agency.*

**Visit us:**

[williamsportcivicchorus.org](http://williamsportcivicchorus.org)

