

hitting the high Notes.

A Newsletter From  WILLIAMSPORT CIVIC CHORUS

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Barbara Hemmendinger, editor

“Salute to Veterans” in two counties opens our season

The Williamsport Civic Chorus begins its 73rd season on Saturday, November 12th with a “Salute to Veterans” in honor of those people who have served our country in uniform and those who still do. The Saturday afternoon performance at the Central Mountain High School in Mill Hall, PA, includes select middle school students. It will be reprised on Sunday afternoon, November 13th, in Klump Auditorium at the Pennsylvania College of Technology in Williamsport. Sponsored

there by the College’s Veterans’ Club, the Chorus will host a meet and greet reception following Sunday’s concert.

Too often veterans’ contributions to this country have been “unsung”, so please invite your friends and neighbors in Clinton and Lycoming Counties to hear about their sacrifices in beautiful rhythm and harmony.

Each 3 pm performance will entail choral arrangements of fa-



miliar patriotic songs and laments, some of which will feature trumpeter Dave Sorgen. The audience will join the Chorus in honoring veterans (and current

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Singers’ Corner: Engaging the senses



Know the Score



Michael Connor

When I told a friend whose husband was recently deployed, “Thank you for your service,” I’m not quite sure she knew how to respond at first. So, I smiled uncomfortably and nodded, graciously trying to clarify that I understood that her husband was the one “serving,” but that she and her little boy were also providing a wonderful service to our country.

When I think of the phrase “service to our country,” I can see the bayonets and the tattered flag waving valiantly in the breeze. I conjure images of the wounded, the battered, the proud declaring victory on Yorktown battlefield. I picture my grandfather fixing planes in the Air Force so that they can continue to fly during the Korean War, a long way from his bride in Pennsylvania. I imagine my uncle, writing letters to my aunt during the War with Spain and asking how life was in Lock Haven. I imagine the steely resolve juxtaposed against trembling bottom lips of recent high school students, taking their places on the front lines in WWI, WWII, Korea, Vietnam, and in the Gulf, Afghanistan, and on all fronts.

Thinking of my friend’s husband and of my friends and family who served in peacetime and in wartime, in jungles and in deserts, I am humbled and honored by their commitment to our country. The land of the free, because of the brave. But, rarely did I think of what

my friend did — loving a man in uniform — as service.

Until this past May...

This year, while getting our flags ready to place at my house in honor of Memorial Day, my littlest son asked if there would be fireworks, as often happens when it comes to national holidays. I did my best to explain to him that we were honoring the sacrifices that so many men and women have made.

When he asked about the meaning of sacrifice, I tried my best to explain that it was “giving something up, or going without.” And on this day, we honor the people that did just that. With all the wisdom and excitement of a 5-year-old, he looked at me with those bright blue eyes, and I thought of a friend who was recently deployed. His little boy was making a sacrifice without his daddy.

On Veterans Day, I think it’s worth remembering the fortitude of those who give our heroes their strength. This, too, is a type of service. I think of the mothers who pace their kitchen floors, anxious for a phone call to say, “I’m O.K.” following news of an attack, and of the moms who kiss their sons at the airport praying that it won’t be the last time.

I think of the fathers. I wonder if they see the hair buns tucked below helmets and are transported back to a time when their little girls performed in recitals and twirled in their living rooms. I think of those dads, sending their innocent little girls, now courageous and incredible women, off to war.


I think of the siblings, whose graduations, weddings, promotions and so many milestones are missed.

I think of the children. I think of the tears shed at bedtime and the “promise me you’ll come home.” I think of the paper chains, the countdown calendars, the missed birthdays, the holidays—big days and little days.

I think of the spouses. I think of the ones left behind, entrusted to keep it all together. I think of the ones who kiss

the tears, console the mothers, reassure the fathers, keep in touch with the siblings, and do their very best to put one foot in front of the other, when their hearts are aching too. I think of the ones who welcome their babies into the world with proud new daddies watching an ocean away on Skype.

I think of those who bear the Gold Stars. I think of the women I watched clutching folded American flags at a memorial that I attended not long ago. I think of the mothers, fathers, siblings, spouses, children and incredible men and women whose sacrifices have truly been ultimate. I think of the incredible community that continues to rally around our military families. The signs in the grocery store, the meals from the neighbors, and the man at the baggage counter. Do you know my friend’s reply that day? “Thank you.”

This Veterans Day, I want to say, “Thank you to all of you who sacrifice for your country.” All of our veterans will be admitted into our Veterans concert for free. It is such a small offering compared to the selflessness of your service to our country. 

“Know the Score” is provided for the enjoyment of our readers by Michael Connor. Currently in his second year as music director of the Williamsport Civic Chorus, Michael comes to us from the Harmonia Gesang Verein, where he is entering his fourth year as conductor. He 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.



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73rd SEASON

"Salute to Veterans"

Saturday, Nov. 12, 2016

3 pm

**Central Mountain High School
Mill Hall, PA**

and

Sunday, Nov. 13, 2016

3 pm

**Klump Academic Center
Auditorium
Penn College**

"The Body Electric"

Sunday, Feb. 5, 2017

3 pm

**Main Lobby—Williamsport
Regional Medical Center
700 High Street**

"A Rock Tour

**Collaboration with the
Uptown Music Collective"**

Saturday, May 27, 2017

7 pm

**Community Arts Center
220 West Fourth Street**



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service members) of all eras as the colors are presented. Veterans and military personnel on active duty will be admitted without charge.

Tickets may be purchased at The Otto Book Store, R.M. Sides Family Music Center, and at the door. As always, children ages 12 and under receive free admission. 🎵

Chorus to sing with the Williamsport Symphony

On Tuesday, February 14th, 2017, the Chorus will resume its tradition of performing with the beloved Williamsport Symphony Orchestra.

Maestro Gerardo Edelstein has invited two community choral ensembles, the Lycoming College Choir and the Williamsport Civic Chorus, to sing the chorale movement of Gustav Mahler's *Symphony No. 2 "Resurrection"*. That finale is a forceful and hopeful statement about the beauty of afterlife and resurrection, completed upon the death of Mahler's colleague, opera conductor Hans von Bulow. This last movement, set to a German poem largely written by Mahler himself, has made this symphony one of the

Patrons Reminder

The Civic Chorus patron campaign is underway. You can now make those very important contributions by mail at P.O. Box 752, Williamsport, PA 17703, or on our website using PayPal. Thank you!

williamsportcivicchorus.org



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.

composer's most popular and enduring works. Some have called it the epitome of nineteenth century symphonic music.

Seats for this Valentine's Day performance by the Williamsport Symphony Orchestra should be purchased at the Community Arts Center box office, or at: <https://tickets.caclive.com/Online/> Please note that Arts Center policy does not grant reciprocity to WCC patron ticket holders. 🎵



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

Thank you, veterans, for your service! We honor you with free admission to our “Salute to Veterans” concerts in Clinton and Lycoming Counties on Saturday and Sunday, Nov. 12 and 13.

Holiday shopping?

Give a basket containing Chorus fundraiser items—

- Aunt Jan’s salsa
- Gardners Candies
- Rada Cutlery

Details from singers & online.

