

Feel the Tenderness of Love and Loss

At 3 pm on Sunday, November 13th, the Williamsport Civic Chorus will perform favorite pieces by Gabriel Fauré and Eric Whitacre. We are overjoyed that we will be accompanied by a delightful string orchestra at St. Mark's Lutheran Church in Williamsport, and that Christian Humcke will make a guest appearance as organist.

Music Director Michael Connor has reprised the Fauré *Requiem* (1893) at singers' request.

That piece was last showcased by the Chorus in 2009. It is known for intimate melodies and the haunting "Pie Jesu."

You will additionally hear Eric Whitacre's medley of *Five Hebrew Love Songs* that he composed for his then-wife-to-be, the Israeli soprano and poet, Hila Plitmann. The Chorus does not often sing in Hebrew, especially modern Hebrew, having last done so in a concert of global music way back in 1996!

Whitacre's composition, also dating to 1996, is heavenly.

Concert tickets may be purchased in advance for \$8 (students and seniors) and \$10 (general admission) at the Otto Bookstore, R.M. Sides Family Music Center, and [online](#). Seats sold at the door will cost \$10 and \$12. Children under 12 as well as patron ticket holders will be admitted without charge. 🎵

Singers' Corner, Moving Beyond

The Williamsport Civic Chorus has been invited to perform for the residents of Camphill Village at Kimberton Hills, near Phoenixville, PA, in May 2023.

Camphill is a residential community with an agricultural emphasis for developmentally challenged adults. From time to time, the Village hosts outstanding musicians for everyone's enjoyment in its acoustically superb performance space.

Now one of over 100 such communities worldwide, Camphill Village at Kimberton Hills has been in existence for 50 years. Said Helen Zipperlen, a

founding member, "Camphill was involved with a wave of remarkable people and organizations responding to the new perceptions of 'the handicapped' as human beings—'people first'—people with so-called disabilities. This army of vulnerable, hitherto largely invisible people raised awareness and questioning of the whole idea of community."

In accepting the invitation, the Chorus plans an overnight trip to sing, to mingle, and to dine with Camphill villagers and staff. The following day will provide ample time to savor the beauty of Longwood Gardens in Chester County. All singers and friends are en-



couraged to reserve space on our luxury motorcoach, with initial deposits for transportation, lodging, and the Longwood Gardens' tour due not later than Monday, November 7th. For more information, please email us at wccmail@yahoo.com. 🎵

Know the Score



Michael Connor

Dear Reader,

I know that you're out there. I don't know exactly who is reading this right now, but if it is you... Hello. I hope that you're doing alright. I'd like to say that "we're out of it," but, I fear that we aren't.

So, this message is for you. And me. And anyone who happens to still be following along.

Keep your head up. Continue to do good. The world needs more good these days. It seems like a lot of us are trying. Just keep going. Do some good every day.

For my singing friends, keep making music. Don't stop. Don't forget how cleansing it feels to complete a difficult season with the reward of an amazing concert. Remember caroling and costumes and good and bad notes. Keep our time secluded fresh in your mind and bathe yourselves in every moment that we have together.

For my listening friends, it's ok that you don't sing... I forgive you. (Wink)

In all seriousness... every performance needs an audience. You're doing a great job at that. When I look at you, I see smiling faces. I don't see you as often... such is the plight of a conductor. I get to look at the choir. It's a good view. You guys are nice, too. A nice smiley, big audience is the best thing to perk up an ensemble, outside of some coffee and a semi-interesting rehearsal. Show up with a big smile and a bunch of your friends, and you'll get the performance of a lifetime.

The rest of you, I'm not sure who you are and where and why you want to continue reading this, so.... I offer you this. Challenge yourself. Do the thing you've put off, if you can. Also, maybe become a singer or a listener? Either side is always looking for new members. :-D

Our next concert is going to be one that you should not miss... Fauré's *Requiem* is undoubtedly one of my favorite works, ever! Bringing our dear friend Christian Humcke back to play organ is a real treat. A full string section will provide lush accompaniment. *Five Hebrew Love Songs* by Eric Whitacre is accompanied by a fine string quartet and guest percussionist Jim Fink. This is a well-rounded concert that will leave us all wanting for more.

Be there, Singer, Listener, and the rest of you, too. 🎵

"Know the Score" is provided for the enjoyment of our readers by Michael

Connor. Currently in his eighth year as music director of the Williamsport Civic Chorus, Michael holds a master's degree from Bucknell University, having served as a graduate assistant to Dr. William Payn there. Mr. Connor is director of choral activities at Central Mountain High School in Clinton County. A tenor, he has appeared with many ensembles regionally and abroad.

BE MERRY with the Civic Chorus

Order Gardners holiday candy from singers between Oct. 24th and Nov. 21st for pick up on Dec. 12th

or

[online](#) through Dec. 15th using group ID 10-2413

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**HOLIDAY
FUNDRAISER**



Hear the Civic Chorus sing Christmas carols:

Fri., Dec. 2nd, 6 to 7 pm
at the Otto Bookstore
107 W. Fourth Street
Williamsport

Fri., Dec. 16th, 6 pm
Joining "An evening of Christmas
Caroling and Giving"
candlelight procession on
W. Fourth Street from Trinity
Episcopal Pro-Cathedral
to Park Place

79th SEASON

Sunday, Nov. 13, 2022
3 pm

**THE FAURÉ REQUIEM AND
FIVE HEBREW LOVE SONGS**

and

Sunday, Apr. 30, 2023
3 pm

JAZZIN' WITH THE WCC

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.

**ENDOWING FUTURE
CHORAL MUSIC**

The Civic Chorus has developed an endowment fund with a \$25,000 campaign goal as we prepare for the future. For more information, please email wccmail@yahoo.com.



All music was once new, even now.

Willing to break barriers, Eric Whitacre was born in 1970, and as a youngster, had dreamed of becoming a rockstar. He didn't enjoy practicing piano very much, played synthesizer in a pickup band in high school, and became serious about music studies only during his college years in Reno, his hometown, at the University of Nevada. It was there that he fell in love with the music world when singing the Mozart *Requiem*. Whitacre went on to the famed conservatory at the Juilliard School, and the rest, including a 2012 Grammy Award for writing the album called *Light and Gold* that includes the Hebrew songs that we will perform, is history. A YouTube sensation and experimenter with virtual choirs, Whitacre is known primarily as a choral composer and is currently in residence at Sidney Sussex College, Cambridge University.



Gabriel Fauré



Eric Whitacre

Whitacre's prolific work, though contemporary, remains accessible to singers and audiences alike for its lush tonalities. One of his mentors, the composer, John Corigliano, has a resume with through lines to Gabriel Fauré, the other musical giant who is featured in the WCC's upcoming concert.

Fauré (1845-1924) was born in the south of France to a family of modest means. Unlike many of the great European composers, he was not raised with classical music in mind. Rather, he found himself enjoying quiet time at the piano in the school where his father had become headmaster. A hometown benefactor soon "discovered" the young Fauré's talents and provided the financial support that permitted the boy to attend a music boarding school directed by the Swiss composer and teacher, Louis Niedermeyer. Fauré studied piano there with Camille Saint-Saëns, who intro-

duced him to classical music and composition. By 1896 Fauré had become organist at the church of La Madeleine in Paris and professor of composition at the Paris Conservatory. Later, as director of that conservatory from 1905 through 1920, he had the good fortune, and finally the time, to compose as well as to teach. Among his students were Maurice Ravel, Georges Enesco, and Nadia Boulanger. Boulanger would go on to become John Corigliano's teacher, which as hinted earlier, connects Eric Whitacre's musical pedigree to that of Gabriel Fauré.


Moreover, both these composers are known for crossing musical eras. Fauré began writing during the waning of romanticism and was instrumental in infusing modern, atonal music with fresh harmonies. Whitacre, for his part, writes classical-style choral works that have found their place in concert halls, in popular music, and in the emerging field of virtual, multimedia projects. 🎵

Visit us:
williamsportcivicchorus.org

**Find us on
Facebook**

**THE FAURÉ REQUIEM AND
FIVE HEBREW LOVE SONGS**Sunday, Nov. 13, 2022
3 pm
(an audience reception follows)St. Mark's Lutheran Church
142 Market Street
Williamsportwilliamsportcivicchorus.org

“The Williamsport Civic Chorus is an open community of singers dedicated to making fine music accessible to all through education, participation, and inspiration. Our diverse and inclusive membership welcomes all singers and listeners as we perform music from a wide range of cultures, ethnicities, and traditions.”

A Newsletter From  WILLIAMSPORT
CIVIC CHORUS

Volume I, No. 1

Fall 1998

Above is a partial masthead from the inaugural issue of this newsletter, showing that the copy you are now reading begins our 25th year of continuous publication.

“Hitting the High Notes” brings Civic Chorus commentary to singers and audience members. Our newsletter has spanned the entire tenures of two music directors, two editors, numerous offic-

ers of the Williamsport Civic Chorus, and a generation of music lovers. In wishing the newsletter a happy birthday, we reprint a still timely message from former WCC president (1998-99) Doris Carle requesting readers to reach out. So, please share this issue with others, and if you or they wish to save trees, kindly email wccmail@yahoo.com to receive your copy digitally.

“The Williamsport Civic Chorus has played a vital role in the performing arts in this area. Yet there are many people who are not acquainted with our organization and what we have to offer... Won't you help us? Please share this newsletter with a friend, colleague, or family member who might be interested in becoming a member, attending our concerts, or receiving our next newsletter.” 