

Conductor's Comment

Paul Wiens

May 11, 2024

Blessings

As I reflect over the 2023-24 concert year, I count many blessings:

1. Welcoming a strong starting membership
2. Roger's conducting of the SWS performances
3. Developing our organizational structure with Matt's leadership
4. Adding crucial new & returning singers (since January)
5. Welcoming Laura and Gary as our accompanists
6. Enjoying productive rehearsals
7. Performing at the Tabernacle, SG Catholic, Cedar, Good Shepherd
8. Rachel's leadership
9. Jared's design of beautiful concert programs
10. Lisa's development of our web site
11. Roger's recording of rehearsals and performances
12. Learning to know you more personally through the Music Moments
13. Celebrating Regina's tenure as accompanist
14. All your commitment, sacrifice, and musical/vocal contributions
15. Disciplined, mature, and beautiful performance
16. Our bright musical future in 2024-25

Planning for our next season has been underway for many months now, and—the Artistic Committee will meet next week to firm up important details, the board will meet to approve plans and budget, the first auditions of new/returning members are being scheduled for May 28. Then repertorial decisions will be finalized, scores ordered, and the conductors/accompanists will begin preparing for the first rehearsal in September. As this progresses, you will be kept informed.

The most important thing you can do now—after rest and recuperation—is to consider your vocal/musical friends for membership. Who could contribute to our ensemble? If you have someone in mind, please discuss the possibility and ask them to contact me personally (by text or email).

While the repertoire next season will be dominated by Handel's *Messiah* and the Brahms *Requiem*, numerous *a cappella* works will surround these choral masterworks. The richness of great choral repertoire is astounding, and the joy of rehearsal and performance will flood our days—and we will be blest.