

July 24, 2017

Dear Friend in Music Ministry:

It is my hope that you will be able to join me and members of the Chattanooga Boys Choir in our sixth biennial Community Hymn Festival on Sunday, October 29, 2017. As part of this event, you and your choir will have the opportunity to contribute to a special service of song and spoken word featuring a sizeable festival choir comprised of local singers, combined anthems with the Chattanooga Boys Choir, and congregational singing utilizing hymn arrangements with organ, brass, and timpani. With this invitation, I've included a picture of a previous CBC Community Hymn Festival for reference.

This year's event features noted composer and conductor **Eric Nelson** (Artistic of the Atlanta Master Chorale and Director of Choral Studies at Emory University), who will deliver the address during this special service of music and word. Eric Nelson is Professor of Music and Director of Choral Studies at Emory University. He is also the Conductor and Artistic Director of the Atlanta Master Chorale. Dr. Nelson's choirs have performed in some of the most prestigious venues across the United States and throughout the world, including including multiple division and national ACDA convention performances of both the Emory Concert Choir and the Atlanta Master Chorale. He is widely recognized for his work in the area of music and worship, where he has been clinician/conductor for worship arts workshops and conferences, composed numerous anthems for church choirs (Colla Voce, Augsburg Fortress, and MorningStar Music), and works closely with Emory's Candler School of Theology to further the scholarship and development of worship practice.

Please note that there is NO COST to you or your singers to participate in this event other than sheet music. The only requirement is that you secure and prepare the sheet music for your own choir in advance of our rehearsal and festival. Participants are asked to attend a rehearsal of the combined festival choir and the Chattanooga Boys Choir on Saturday, October 28 from 10:00am-12:00pm. Repertoire for the event will include the following:

- ***Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ*** arr. Bradley Ellingboe, Neil A. Kjos Music Company (KJ.8833)
A delightful Fred Keene text set to LINSTeAD and based on a Jamaican folk melody, this arrangement – using organ, congas, and flute – is a rousing call to the table which proclaims a sending forth “with shouts of joy!”
- ***Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing*** arr. Roland Martin, St. James Music Press (permission secured by CBC)
This creative setting pairs the beloved “Come Thou Fount” text with NETTLETON and sets them with the prelude from J.S. Bach's *Cello Suite No. 1* (including cello accompaniment). **This arrangement is provided to all participating singers and churches compliments of the Chattanooga Boys Choir.**
- ***There Is a Balm in Gilead*** arr. William Dawson, Neil Kjos Music (KJ.T105)
This timeless arrangement of the beautiful spiritual will be a wonderful addition to this service, speaking to the importance of hope and healing through unshakeable faith.
- ***Children of the Heavenly Father*** arr. Eric Nelson, MorningStar Music (MSM-50-6085)
An especially fitting selection, the festival choir will perform this arrangement by our festival guest speaker in combination with the Chattanooga Boys Choir.
- ***Hail the Day That Sees Him Rise*** arr. Mack Wilberg, Oxford University Press (9780193391727)
A spirited Mack Wilberg setting, we will sing the alternate text “Praise the Lord! His glories show...” (included in the octavo) in this stirring arrangement of LLANFAIR with full brass, organ, and timpani accompaniment.

You should feel free to contact me if you have any questions. I'll follow up in August to see if I am fortunate enough to include you and members of your choir in the event. Please accept my best wishes as you prepare for fantastic fall.

Sincerely,



Artistic Director
Vincent Oakes (voakes@cbchoir.org)