

WOMEN'S VOICES RISING by the SEA

ChoralFest at the Ferry Beach Retreat and Conference Center, Saco, ME



May 2021

From Molly J. Webster, our Music Director



Hello everyone and welcome to what is hopefully, the other side of a trying and difficult year that has upended not only our lives in general, but also our music-making lives!

I am so incredibly hopeful and excited to be able to meet you all (in-person!) this summer. It was a wonderful thing to be able to get to know each of you a bit during our Zoom sessions last summer, but to be able to be in the same room or space singing together is truly something I could only imagine last year!

With that being said...our theme this summer is "Imagine"; how apropos! I am in the process of finalizing the music selections for ChoralFest, but among the very top contenders is a wonderfully energetic and positive song called, **Be the Change** by Jacob Narverud that speaks to eliciting change within our lives and beyond in an effort to make the world a better place. I think that is something that resonates with all of us moving forward. I also have **This is Me** from The Greatest Showman as a finalist on the list, so get ready!

While I am so excited to see you in person, I want you all to know that we will be observing all of the latest scientific data to mitigate risks to ourselves and others as much as possible. I am staying up on the latest data from not only the CDC but studies done specifically for those of

us in the music world (singers, instrumentalists, etc.) and currently all things are pointing towards a "close-to-normal" experience. This may change by July, but as of right now, my thought is that we will be observing the mask wearing and distancing of sixish feet while singing inside together. I am hopeful that we will be able to sing maskless while distanced outside. We will be implementing 30-minute rehearsal blocks alternating between indoors and outdoors to allow the indoor space ample time to air out. Again, there is room for amending within this early framework as many things can change in the next few months. Another factor to take into account is whether everyone is vaccinated or not as this may allow for additional wiggle room.

I know that we are all so excited to get back to normal and to be able to sing unimpeded "like the old days", but the absolute last thing we want is to be premature in our celebration and to cause someone pain (or worse) because we were too eager and didn't do all that we could to mitigate the risks. I hope that you all understand and feel the same way.

I can't wait to see you all and get to know you more and I absolutely can't wait for a week at the beach! Stay safe and be well and I'll see you soon! Oh, and bring a friend (or two)!

Yours,
Molly J. Webster

News from Ferry Beach

- Per the Maine CDC, Ferry Beach is allowed to be fully open at the end of May with masking, social distancing and cleaning in place. They will continue to monitor Covid requirements and will post guidelines as they change on www.ferrybeach.org.
- They have reduced cost for adults by one third to help those who may have been hit by the pandemic.
- Registration will be contactless. Registration will contact you about your room, you will text them when you are on campus and they will put all of your registration materials in your room or at your campsite. Payment will be taken over the phone.
- The dining room will be cafeteria style and not buffet style for food and they will work to stagger meals for the larger conferences.



ChoralFest 2021
July 17 to 23
Molly J. Webster, Music Director
Suzanne Adams, Coordinator
978-241-9450, sue@gndhome.com
www.ferrybeach.org/choralfest