

WOMEN'S VOICES RISING by the SEA

ChoralFest at the Ferry Beach Conference Center, Saco, ME



November 2018

ChoralFest will have a new sound this coming summer

If you attended ChoralFest 2018, you know that last summer was the first time that not one single man attended ChoralFest. Our fabulous new Music Director, Jeff Lipton, did a great job cajoling some of the GAYLA brothers to fit some of our rehearsals into their schedule and several altos gallantly agreed to sing tenor, so all parts were covered and covered quite well. However an idea began to percolate. Why not recognize that ChoralFest has historically attracted mostly women and go with the flow? So that's what we have done.

Longtime attendees Lorraine Adams, Ellie Rolnick, Barb Weber and I have weighed the pros and cons and looked at how our rehearsals sessions would work. We've talked to Jeff who has agreed to lead us again next summer and gave his blessing. We've started exploring music selections. We're on our way and really excited about how next summer is shaping up.

Those of you receiving this newsletter may have sung in an all-women's group or are singing in one now. If so, you know that there is a power to us all pulling together to interpret the music and celebrate the power of women's voices joined in song. The Ferry Beach theme this coming summer is Hope and we will sing music that will inspire hope in today's troubled world.

We will continue to sing four-part harmonies at the morning chapel services with the men from GAYLA who share the campus with us.

Other changes for next summer

Although the final schedule is still in progress, we anticipate giving our attendees more free time. Mornings will remain our main rehearsal session to prepare pieces for the talent show and Friday morning chapel service, but we are considering opening up some of the afternoons

for some fun workshops, walks on the beach, trips in the area or just down time. Right now, we are also thinking of leaving several open evenings for attendees to hang out after dinner. More information to come in future newsletters and on our website page at www.ferrybeach.org.

Won't you join us on our new adventure?! Registrations open in January. Call 207-282-4489.

Suzanne

Last year's successful line-up returning for 2019

Jeff Lipton, ChoralFest Music Director

It didn't take long for last year's attendees to recognize that Jeff was in his element conducting us during our rehearsals. He worked us making sure we had the right rhythms and notes and at the same time encouraged us to sense the emotions behind the music. He brought us an eclectic range of artfully arranged music from a big band swing song to several gospel pieces to the crowd pleaser, Over the Rainbow. By the end of the week, we were relaxing into the music and had fun singing. We're so glad that Jeff agreed to come back next summer and we can't wait to see what he will have in store for us.



Tim Horne, ChoralFest accompanist

For the seventh year, Tim will be back at ChoralFest. Every summer we marvel at how quickly and expertly he can sight read every piece. We have been spoiled to



have him on the piano for us. He has become an important part of our ChoralFest family.

Michele Kelley, Musician of the Week

Although Michele has been to Ferry Beach many times with her church, last summer was her first time as Musician of the Week. One of her duties was to lead the morning chapel choir through an extremely short rehearsal to ready them to sing at the service, not an easy task. She more than rose to the occasion. We are so pleased that she is willing to return next summer and we congratulate her on being named the Music Director for the Universal Singers at the First Unitarian Universalist Society in Franklin, MA.



Rev. Duncan Teague, Minister of the Week

Morning chapel services with Rev. Teague last summer had us laughing and brought us to tears and to our feet. The services were joyous, slightly raucous and definitely worth attending. We are so happy that Rev. Teague, minister of the Abundant LUUV Church in Atlanta, GA, will be heading north again next summer as the Ferry Beach Minister of the Week.



ChoralFest 2019

July 13 to 19

Jeffrey Lipton, Music Director
Suzanne Adams, Coordinator
978-241-9450, sue@gndhome.com
www.ferrybeach.org