



The Boys Are Back!

Faith, family, community, shared purpose...these are things that make life meaningful and beautiful. These last twenty months of silence and separation have been heart-breaking and heart-aching. This is why it feels so good to share that the Grand Rapids Choir of Men & Boys is back, and that with your financial support and your returning presence at upcoming concerts, the special healing that our music of faith offers will begin again.

Music is one of the world's great treasures. But sacred choral music, if we close our eyes and imagine, has the ability to help us hear the actual music of the angels. So, while the world works to find its way back, the Grand Rapids Choir of Men & Boys will do its part, returning as *"a bird that feels the light and sings while the dawn is still dark."*

Let me start by sharing what your choir has been up to. This past July, GRCMB launched its return with our seven-week chorister summer camp. We welcomed twenty returning choristers alongside fifteen new boys. Summer was a resounding, energetic success involving hours of musical training for the boys alongside equally important hours of summer recreation. In September, we asked the men to return. GRCMB is blessed to have some of our area's finest alto, tenor and bass singers in our back row. This year the bar high is set high with one of our best men's sections ever.

The GRCMB Leadership Dream Team Update!



Martin Neary

After twelve years as GRCMB's Associate Director, Martin Neary is retiring, but will remain our close friend, advocate and advisor. Stepping in as our new Associate Director is Matthew Owens, OCM of Belfast Cathedral in Northern Ireland. Matthew's prior leadership at Wells Cathedral resulted in his choir being twice voted the *'finest choir in the world involving children'* and the *'sixth greatest choir in the world overall'* by an international jury. GRCMB is thrilled to have Matthew in his new role.



Matthew Owens

GRCMB is triply blessed to also be continuing our privileged relationships with Richard Webster of Trinity Church, Boston and Andrew Nethsingha of St. John's College Choir, Cambridge. These two giants in the fields of church music, choir training and organ performance bring so much musicianship and joy each time they take residency with us. Look for them to be returning to Grand Rapids soon!



Richard Webster

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Andrew Nethsingha

Our Choir's Important Covid Safety Guidelines

Safety protocols also mark our return. We have moved to a larger rehearsal space in the Music Center at Grand Rapids Community College. Conscientious attention to our singers' vaccinations together with masking have opened the door to our return. Following the protocols of the GRSO, Opera GR and others, GRCMB concerts this year will follow suit with mandatory audience masking for everyone attending in person. We will also begin live streaming for the very first time for those who want to join us from home. The live stream links will be posted on our choir's website (www.grcmb.org).



Performance Dates 2021-22

Christmas Lessons & Carols: The Cathedral of St. Andrew
(Located at 301 Sheldon Blvd. Downtown GR)

- Friday, December 17, 2021
- Saturday, December 18, 2021 (also Live Streamed)
- Tuesday December 21, 2021

All performances begin at 7:00 PM – Freewill offering taken.

(Note: Masks required for all in attendance.)

Lent & Easter Meditations: The Cathedral of St. Andrew

- Friday, March 25, 2022
- Saturday, March 26, 2022 (also Live Streamed)

All performances begin at 7:00 PM – Freewill offering taken.

Spring Concerts: Featuring our newly appointed
Associate Director - Matthew Owens

Friday, May 20 / Saturday, May 21 / Sunday, May 22 (2022)

Location and start times coming soon.

***Does the Restart of GRCMB restore something that has been missing in your life?
Then we need you to partner with us! Please help as you are able.***

These last twenty months of shutdown and separation have made artistic endeavors particularly challenging. As a result, the Grand Rapids Choir of Men & Boys now has financial catching up to do in order to get our feet back firmly beneath us. God has blessed our return with the first half of the equation: fifty-two dedicated men & boys along with music of heaven just waiting to be given voice. Now we prayerfully seek your financial support to lift-up this work so that we may once again walk alongside each other, bringing musical and spiritual inspiration, and sharing the love and joy for which we were created. All GRCMB concerts will continue to be offered free of charge. Your gifts make this possible. Together may we listen to God's voice and give God a voice through ours. Especially in this rebuilding year, please give as generously as you can.

Appreciatively, Scott Bosscher – GRCMB Director of Music

The Grand Rapids Choir of Men & Boys is a registered 501 (c) (3) Non-Profit organization. The Choir's tax-exempt ID# is 38-2919772.
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For Online Giving: <http://grcmb.org/giving>