



October, 2011

Dear Friend of GRCMB,

As I prepare for the choir's 22nd season, I find myself drawn to this Gospel text: *"I tell you...if they keep quiet, the stones will cry out."* (Luke 19:40) In other words, *"If my children will not sing, I will cause the stones to break forth in song."* Nothing against stones, but, God seems to have a preference when it comes to being glorified in praise: He likes it voiced.

This realization makes it worth the time and effort we spend teaching our boys this demanding tradition of choral music. **For in the learning, performing and perfecting of this great music, choristers begin to experience an expanded sense of the great privilege of praising God.** This is our mission. It's why we do what we do.



Knowing that we are singing for God, our boys have set their performance bar extremely high. The outcome has resulted in many blessings. Here are just a few:

- **Dr. Martin Neary (former Director of Music - Westminster Abbey, London)** is now GRCMB's Principal Guest Director and Music Advisor, spending more and more time each year in Grand Rapids training the choir and directing GRCMB performances all over West Michigan.
- **Andrew Nestingha, (Director of Music - St. John's College Choir, Cambridge)** after his week working with GRCMB for the Lenten Meditations Service, has expressed interest in returning soon to Grand Rapids to train and direct GRCMB again.
- **The boys of the GRCMB have been invited to spend a week in Cambridge, England,** to train alongside the boys of St. John's and King's Colleges in all of their daily practices. This is the only American choir to ever have received such a prestigious invitation.
- **GRCMB is a recipient of the DeVos Institute of Arts Management at the Kennedy Center's "Grow Grand Rapids Capacity Program."** The goal is to strengthen our West Michigan communities through the arts.
- **The GRCMB will be releasing its first Music CD,** a collection of Christmas Carols, just before Thanksgiving
- **GRCMB has experienced four consecutive years of growth** in the ranks of our boy choristers. This year, summer camp was attended by 43 boys, representing 35 different schools and 40 different churches across the region.

Post Office Box 6152 · Grand Rapids, Michigan 49516
Telephone (616) 460-0598

The Grand Rapids Choir of Men and Boys is a 501(c)(3) organization. All donations are tax deductible.
Tax-exempt #38-2919772

It is exciting to share with you how God is blessing the Grand Rapids Choir of Men & Boys. As wider doors open presenting additional means to serve and sing, we're continually reminded of the responsibilities that come with these opportunities. Our response has been the creation of a 5 year plan (enclosed) that, if implemented as we hope, will take the GRCMB to heights we have only dreamed of in the past. But to get there, we need your help.

In years past, we have managed our finances year to year. Funding comes in, expenses are paid, and all-the-while God has blessed by providing just what we need. However, with our look to the next 5 years, **we are asking God to allow us to approach our financial management differently by bringing us all of this year's funding by December 15th**. Doing so will give us the breathing room we need to focus on this year's activities, while at the same time, allowing us to finalize the plans for the next few years.

In the light of an economy that continues to sputter, seeking to have all of our 2011-2012 funding in before year end may seem like a lofty goal. However, we can meet that goal with a donation of **less than \$100 per person** from our existing base of supporters. Will you help us to "Keep the Stones from Singing"?

If you can and are willing to support The Grand Rapids Choir of Men and Boys to help us reach our objectives by December 15th, then please fill out the enclosed reply letter and mail it to the address on the form in the enclosed envelope. Or, you can donate online by going to **www.grcmb.org** and clicking on the "Donate" tab. All donations are tax deductible.

Thank you for your friendship, prayers and support of our ministry. We're looking to see what God has in store, and to keeping those stones quiet.

With much gratitude,

Scott Bosscher, GRCMB Director of Music

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Scott Bosscher
Director of Music
Grand Rapids Choir of Men and Boys
Post Office Box 6152
Grand Rapids, MI 49516

Dear Scott:

I would love to help Grand Rapids Choir of Men and Boys meet its goal of funding this season by December 15th. Please find enclosed my gift in the amount of...

\$1000 \$500 \$250 \$100 \$50 \$25

Other Amount \$ _____
(please specify amount)

Sincerely,

(Signature)

Name (print): _____

Address: _____

City: _____

ST: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email Address: _____ @ _____

Please make all checks out to: *Grand Rapids Choir of Men and Boys*

Mail to:

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