



Fall, 2023

To Friends and Supporters of Portsmouth Pro Musica:

We had a very ambitious vision for last year's concerts, and we managed to pull it off brilliantly thanks in large part to your generous support. In December we brought you the sublime beauty of J.S. Bach's Cantata 140 "Wachet Auf", and in the spring we presented Haydn's masterwork "The Creation" featuring a full orchestra and world class soloists. Through our all auditioned choir, professional instrumentalists, and our music director, Priscilla French, we achieve a level of excellence rarely found outside of Boston. You can be proud in knowing that you are a key participant in this endeavor.

We have been honored this year by being selected to join the Portsmouth Symphony Orchestra in performing a piece commemorating Portsmouth's 400th anniversary. The piece, called "At This Point", was composed by Greg Brown with texts written by Todd Hearon. Through poetry and music, it evokes several facets of this city's history and its setting. This can't miss performance will be at the Music Hall on November 5.

Attending our December concerts has become a cherished tradition for many of you, judging by the packed houses we see. The major piece for this year will be "Ballad of the Brown King" by Margaret Bonds with text by Langston Hughes. This delightful and accessible Christmas cantata was composed in 1954 and is set for chorus, tenor soloist and orchestra. Ms. Bonds performed as a soloist with the Chicago Symphony in her day, the first African American to do so. The program will also include a selection of shorter seasonal pieces.

The spring concert will feature American music including early hymn tunes, Shaker songs, spirituals and works by living American composers. Once we make the final selections, you'll be able to find all the details on our website at <https://ppmnh.org>.

Portsmouth Pro Musica's mission also includes helping to nurture the next generation of talent in our community. We do this by providing college scholarships to three local graduating seniors who are active in music. According to the recipients, the recognition and support we provide have made a positive impact on them.

We were really overwhelmed by the generosity of our donors last season. We were able to restore our coffers to nearly the level they were at before the pandemic while putting on a very full program. Won't you contribute once again to excellent choral music right here on the Seacoast?

Please note on the contribution form that you can earmark some or all of your donation to the Orchestra Sustainers Fund. This is the money that we use to pay for the professional instrumentalists that add so much to our performances. Or you can advertise your business in our program, which will be seen by the 500 plus people who attend our concerts. We appreciate all donations, no matter the size.

Our website (<https://portsmouthpromusica.org>) permits donations through PayPal, or you can send it to: PPM, PO Box 234, Portsmouth NH, 03802. The site also allows you to listen to past concerts and to get the latest information about the upcoming season.

Sincerely yours,

Frederick Calcinari
President