



Fall, 2024

## Dear Friends,

Please lend your support for a very special year for Portsmouth Pro Musica. The 2024-25 season is an extraordinary milestone for artistic director Priscilla Stevens French. It marks her 40th year leading choral groups in the region. In 1985 she founded the Portsmouth Women's Chorus. Then in spring of 2006, she invited some men to join the group so that she could program the vast repertoire written for mixed voice choirs. It has been known ever since as Portsmouth Pro Musica.

To honor Priscilla's 40th anniversary, we have commissioned Greg Brown to write a piece, which we will present in December. The text is from local poet Mimi White and is called "Where the Owl Lives." Greg may be familiar to you as the composer of the mesmerizing work that was performed by PPM and the Portsmouth Symphony Orchestra for the Portsmouth 400th anniversary.

In the spring, we are scheduled to perform Carl Orff's "Carmina Burana," joined by three Boston-based soloists. The last time we presented this masterwork of the 20th century was in April 2010. It is based on satirical texts in Medieval Latin and Middle High German, some of them bawdy, some lighthearted, and it is full of intricate rhythms and percussion. We are arranging for special venues for the concerts to accommodate the musicians and audiences.

We couldn't be happier with how the previous season turned out. We presented the little-known work "The Ballad of the Brown King" by Margaret Bonds in December and "American Landscapes" in April. In both cases, our remarkable soloists captivated the audiences and added immeasurably to our ensemble. We hope you agree that they were exceptional concerts. And once again, we are eternally grateful that you came through with the financial support that made them possible.

We are counting on you to help us out for the upcoming season. Please consider making a donation or becoming a sponsor. Or please take out an ad in our program, which is seen by hundreds of concert goers. The funds we raise will be used to bring you more beautiful and inspiring music. And, if you can, please add a little extra for the orchestra fund. It builds up our capital so that we can continue presenting glorious masterworks for years to come.

And please visit our website at <http://ppmnh.org> for more information about upcoming concerts and for some special features looking back on our decades-long history.

Sincerely,

Frederick Calcinari  
*President*