



Fall, 2025

## Dear Friends of Portsmouth Pro Musica,

Your support inspires us. Whenever you attend our concerts or offer positive feedback on our performances or send us a check to help fund our efforts, you build a community of support that enables us to thrive and to seek greater artistic achievements. And this year we are offering more programming that will exceed your expectations.

Our December concert will feature Christmas music from Northern Europe. It includes pieces by Michael Praetorius, the great composer of the German Baroque era, who lived a century before J.S. Bach. Also on the program is music by the Norwegian composer Ola Gjeilo, whom you have heard in some of our previous concerts, and the "Ave Maria Stellis" by Edvard Grieg. It promises to be a sublime evening of music.

In the spring, we are taking on our most ambitious project ever. PPM and the Manchester Choral Society are joining forces to present Franz Schubert's "Mass in E-flat" and Mendelsohn's "Psalm 42". The combined choruses, the full orchestra, and the soloists will create an extraordinary musical ensemble that will bring these masterworks to life the way they were intended. The concert will be jointly conducted by our own Priscilla Stevens French and by Dan Perkins, music director of MCS. Performances will take place in Exeter and Manchester. You won't want to miss it.

Last season was a landmark for us, both in celebrating our 40th year with the brilliant original composition by Greg Brown and in presenting the magical "Carmina Burana" in the spring. The stunning ticket sales and unprecedented level of donations showed us that you were fully behind us. I hope we were successful in showing our gratitude through the quality of our performances. Thank you.

Once again we are making an appeal for donations to support our 2025-26 season. We know that people may be facing financial uncertainty. We hope that you consider sending us whatever you can. Or if you have a business, please buy a program ad. Art, and specifically music, is a fundamental element of our community, and it's up to all of us to keep it alive. We don't rely on any government support.

Please visit our website at <https://ppmnh.org> watch videos of past performances, to find out more about how you can help.

Sincerely,

Frederick Calcinari  
*President*