

Williamsburg Choral Guild

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Dear Friends and Patrons of the Williamsburg Choral Guild:

As the chorus finalizes its preparation for the March 13 and 14 performances of Dvořák's glorious *Stabat Mater*, I am happy to share news about an extraordinary offer. To celebrate the Williamsburg Choral Guild's 35th Anniversary in 2010-2011, **an anonymous donor has issued a challenge grant of \$10,000. Our benefactor has agreed to match, dollar-for-dollar, all new donations to our Annual Fund or any existing donor's increased contribution over the 2009 Annual Fund gift; meeting this challenge will yield a combined total of \$20,000. To qualify for this match, these gifts must be received by December 31, 2010.**

Why should you consider supporting the Guild, especially in these demanding economic times? Thirty-five years ago a group of singers organized to perform at An Occasion for the Arts. Delighted by the opportunity to sing together, the group elected to perform other concerts and formalize the organization, leading to the Guild that we know today. Their vision created Williamsburg's only all-volunteer mixed community chorus whose mission remains to promote the study, performance, public awareness and enjoyment of fine choral music. Especially in times of economic uncertainty and strain, the Guild's music soothes the soul and provides welcome relief from stress for both singers and listeners alike.

I am pleased to announce that plans for a thrilling commemorative 2010-11 season are underway. They include repertoire by Bach, Beethoven, Brahms and Britten in November; our annual free Christmas concerts in December; an all-Haydn program in March; and, in May, a season finale that includes **the world premiere performance of a first-ever work commissioned** by the Guild in honor of this 35th anniversary milestone.

Our challenges are great even in the best of times. In this period of financial insecurity, the Guild must seek alternative funding sources; the state and government grants, upon which we have relied for so many years, can no longer provide the assistance we need to develop each season of our fine choral music. Significant resources are required to secure venues, engage outstanding orchestral musicians and soloists, and accomplish all the work behind-the-scenes needed to bring this magnificent music to you, all while maintaining affordable ticket prices. We depend on contributions from loyal and generous donors like you to sustain us.

Please take advantage of this remarkable 35th Anniversary challenge grant opportunity! It will effectively double your Annual Fund gift this year and, with your new or increased financial support, ensure a promising future for the Williamsburg Choral Guild. Acknowledge our benefactor's generosity with your own gift – now!

We look forward to seeing you at our March and May performances. Until then, thank you in advance for your generosity and support of the Williamsburg Choral Guild.

Sincerely yours,



Suzanne Neely
President