



Athens Symphony Guild

Winter 2009 Newsletter

Our Mission

The mission of the Guild is to promote and support the activities of the Athens Symphony, Inc. in all appropriate ways, including education, public relations, fund raising, and other ways deemed necessary. Funds raised in the name of the Athens Symphony Guild or Athens Symphony, Inc. belong to Athens Symphony, Inc. and will be transferred to Athens Symphony, Inc. within reasonable time of project completion (approved by the membership May 13, 2003).

Holiday Message from the President, Athens Symphony Board of Directors, Inc. Dr. Dick Hudson - Christmas '09

During this time of reflection and hope in the year, I send this note to thank each of you for all you do to further the mission of the Athens Symphony, that of providing free quality music to Athens and the surrounding communities. Your time and effort in supporting the treasure we have, make a very positive difference, and all of us involved with the Symphony greatly appreciate all that each of you continues to do.

At this year's Christmas Concert, we are starting what we hope will be an on-going tradition at our concerts, that of asking those who attend to bring cans of food to help those less fortunate. There will be boxes outside the doors at each performance, with the Salvation Army monitoring the collection. Our plan is to have such collections at other concerts during the year, as the need for cans of food continues throughout the year and the community distribution centers are extremely low on supplies.

So, as these wonderful holidays approach, know how much you are appreciated and what a positive difference you are making to our community. Thank you again for all you do, and on behalf of Albert Ligotti, Susan Dinwiddie, the Board of Directors, and those who volunteer their time for the orchestra and the chorus, may your holidays be safe, enjoyable, and a meaningful time for you and your families.

Guild President Message for the Holidays By Becky Matheny

In this season of Advent, we will hear Handel's Messiah several times. The first performance of the Messiah was performed in 1742 and one comment was that Handel had produced some "great entertainment." Handel was appalled that someone thought it was "entertainment." This was not just entertainment. This was his way of telling the entire story of the Christ through passages of scripture put to music. He began with the Old Testament foretelling of Christ, moved to the New Testament's accounts of the birth of Jesus, then forward through his death, and resurrection, all seen through the eyes of the writers of Scripture and beautifully written for orchestra and voices.

In an age when illiteracy was widespread and written copies of the Bible were expensive and rare. Handel pioneered the "oratorio," a musical composition designed to teach the Scriptures by setting them to music.

Today we can enjoy the music of this master composer, but also have our hearts and souls moved by the telling of the story of Jesus during Advent. As our Symphony chorus sings the words of the Hallelujah Chorus, may you find the Christmas spirit within you and continue to live in that spirit throughout the year.

We wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and encourage you to be involved with all the activities of the Symphony Guild this year. We enjoy the beauty of music from our Athens Symphony all year. Thanks be to God for the guild members continued commitment to serve our community.

Guild Officers:

President:

Becky Matheny (706) 549-7069
 president@athens-symphony-guild.com

Vice President:

Ann Moseley (706) 353-2922
 hmosjr@aol.com

Secretary:

Martha Baldwin (706) 559-0093
 martha.baldwin@ga.usda.gov

Treasurer:

Betty Mundy (706) 546-1942
 bmundy112@charter.net

Standing Committees:

Fund Raising:

Rosie Hildebrand (706) 354-4039
 Ann Moseley (706) 353-2922
 Libby Hollett (706) 340-5424 (C)

Member Calling:

Membership Tea:

Mary O'Donnell (706) 548-9883
 Vera Tucker (706) 559-4528

Newsletter/Webmaster:

Cheryl A. Brock (706) 425-2417
 webmaster@athens-symphony-guild.com

Stage Decorations:

Vonceil Payne (706) 769-7885
 Betty Mundy (706) 546-1942

Young Member Outreach:

Volunteering for Committees

The life blood of any organization is its volunteers. Each one of you have talents which if shared, help the group to succeed. Please consider taking a leadership role in our organization. The ship runs better when everyone picks up an oar.

Please note the open committees above. We need your help. You may even want to share leadership of one of the committees with a friend. Please contact Becky Matheny at (706) 549-7069 to share your talents for a worthy cause.

We would love to have someone volunteer for the following committees: Member Calling and Young Member Outreach.

Membership Tea Results

Martha Henderson hosted a lovely tea at her home in Athens. Mary O'Donnell and Vera Tucker did a wonderful job with the preparations. As a result, we've added ten new members.

We have still not received annual dues from 21 of last years members, so even with the new members, our rolls have decreased. If you have not mailed your dues and wish to continue your membership, please send them to the Athens Symphony Guild, P.O. Box 726, Athens, GA 30603, Attn: Betty Mundy.

WINTER CONCERT

Sunday, November 15, 2009 4 PM

SPRING CONCERT

Saturday, April 3, 2010 8 PM

CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Saturday, December 12, 2009 8 PM

Sunday, December 13, 2009 3 PM

POPS CONCERT

Friday, May 7, 2010 8 PM

Saturday, May 8, 2010 8 PM

Our Next Luncheon

The Luncheon will be held at the **Athens Country Club on Tuesday, January 26th from 12:00 PM to 1:30 PM**. Tickets are **\$20 per person**. Please make your reservations and payments to Betty Mundy at (706) 546-1942 no later than Thursday, January 21st in order to ensure seating availability.

Guild Website

We've interviewed several of the current members and their stories can be found in the Member Spotlight. I hope you are enjoying these. I think it's such a wonderful way to get to know the members better and what brought them to the Symphony Guild.

For those of you with computers, it's a good idea to check the website frequently for updates. The URL for the website is: <http://www.athens-symphony-guild.com/> or you can go to www.athenssymphony.org and click on the Guild's link.

This is your newsletter and website. If you have any ideas for content for either the newsletter or the website, please contact me (Cheryl A. Brock) at (706) 425-2417 or email me at webmaster@athens-symphony-guild.com.

Treasury Update

As of December 1, 2009, we have \$5,911.21 in our treasury.

Holiday Concert

The 2009/2010 Christmas Concert will be held on Saturday, Dec. 12th at 8 PM and Sunday, December 13th at 3 PM. The Athens Chorus will be highlighted in this presentation and it is always a seasonal event, not to be missed. Be sure to pick up your tickets at the Classic Center quickly, as seat availability is lost quickly.

2009/2010 Annual Fund Raiser

Each year the Athens Symphony Guild raises money in support of scholarships for the UGA music students who play a principle roll in the Athens Symphony concerts. This year we are kicking off a new fund raiser for the ASG, a **Kentucky Derby Party**.

The Kentucky Derby Party will be held at the Classic Center on **Saturday, May 1, 2010**. ASG members and their guests will gather in Derby finery while we watch the pre-race and the actual "Run for the Roses" on two big screens from 4:30 to 7:30 PM.

Wind and Brass quartets from the Athens Symphony will entertain us with Derby style music along with faux betting and the announcement of raffle items and door prizes. A bountiful buffet of favorite Derby foods, signature mint juleps, and a cash bar will be presented within a beautiful rose/derby theme. All of this festive fun is just \$75.00 per ticket with all the proceeds to benefit the Athens Symphony scholarships.

Please put this date on your calendars and plan to support the Athens Symphony Guild in this fun and very worthwhile event!

Please feel free to invite guests that may be interested in joining the Guild to our functions! We need and welcome new members.

Refer them to the Athens Symphony website at

<http://www.athenssymphony.org/>
which contains information on the symphony as a whole and to the guild website at **<http://www.athens-symphony-guild.com/>**.

To Join the Athens Symphony Guild

Annual dues are \$25.00 per person and are payable by **September 1st** of each year.

Members who have not paid their dues by Feb. 1st will be dropped from all remaining announcements and publications for the year. If you are unsure of your payment status, please contact Betty Mundy.

Mail your check to:

Athens Symphony Guild
P.O. Box 726
Athens, GA 30603
Attn: Betty Mundy

From:

Athens Symphony Guild
P.O. Box 726
Athens, GA 30603

To:



Address Correction Requested