

GP Community Chorus presents spring concert April 28

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By Jody McVeigh

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The Grosse Pointe Community Chorus presents its 71st spring concert, “Music of Great Poets,” at 3 p.m. Sunday, April 28, at St. Clare of Montefalco Catholic Church, 1401 Whittier, Grosse Pointe Park.

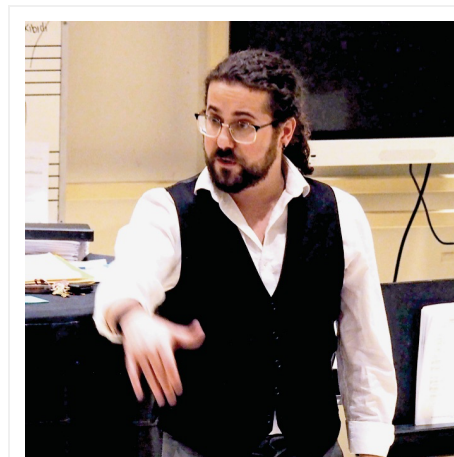
“I’ve always been fascinated with the poetry of music and the philosophy that music should act in service to the text,” GPCC Director Kayvon Kashani-Gharavi said. “Once I found a choir that I believed could follow that vision, I knew that I wanted to focus on musical settings of great poets such as Robert Frost, Maya Angelou and others.”

The lineup features beloved poetry, such as Angelou’s “I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings” and Frost’s “The Road Not Taken” — two of Grosse Pointe Woods singer Amy Moulton’s favorites.

“I wake up with the words in my head,” she said of Angelou’s poem.

Among other poetry being sung are Frost’s “Choose Something Like a Star,” Lewis Carroll’s “Jabberwocky” and Emily Dickinson’s “If I Can Stop One Heart from Breaking.”

“We’re also doing ‘A Million Dreams,’ from “The Greatest Showman,”” Moulton added, noting other songs include Sting’s “Fields of Gold” and the traditional Scottish song, “The Parting Glass.”



Photos courtesy of Wm G. Polom
Director Kayvon Kashani-Gharavi.



Kashani-Gharavi directs the alto section.

Founded in 1953, by Malcolm and Marion Johns, the chorus includes more than 60 singers. Moulton has been with the group around six years. This is Kashani-Gharavi’s second year conducting the chorus, which is accompanied by Ron Pietrantoni.

“Since I started with GPCC last season, the choir has responded amazingly,” Kashani-Gharavi said. “They are always engaged and eager to embrace the new style I bring with me. The choir has supported my goals and my passion

for this program. Just as they have learned from me, I have learned from them. They teach me how to be a better director every day.”

Moulton said the feeling is mutual.

“We’re learning a lot with our conductor,” she said. “He’s working on his Ph.D., so he’s bringing us to a higher level than we’ve been before. It’s enjoyable though; there’s no pressure. It’s good camaraderie and fun.”

Moulton said even on cold, gray winter days when she would rather stay home than venture out to rehearsal, her mood shifted as soon as she joined fellow GPCC members.

“Once you start to sing you feel so alive,” she added. “It’s a wonderful thing, so relaxing.”

Ticket prices, which include a dessert reception after the concert, are \$25 for adults, \$5 for ages 12 and younger, and available in advance or at the door. Tickets also are available at Moehring Woods Florists, 20923 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods (313) 882-9732, or from a chorus member.

“I look forward to showcasing the concert to the community and would greatly encourage anyone interested in joining as a singer to inquire with us about our next season,” Kashani-Gharavi said.

Registration for the fall season begins in August. More information will be posted online at grossepointecommunitychorus.org or scan the QR code.

“We don’t audition people,” Moulton said. “As long as you like to sing, that’s great. If you can read music, too, that’s even better.”



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The tenor section rehearses.



The soprano section rehearses.