

For immediate release
Contact: Robert O'Brien, Managing Director
robert.obrien@gmchorale.org

GMChorale's Brahms Requiem Brings 46th Year of Music to Greater Middletown

Revisiting a magnificent choral masterpiece for the first time since 2007, the GMChorale will present Brahms' *A German Requiem* on **April 30, 2023 at 4:00pm** at the Santo Fragilio Performing Arts Center at Middletown High School. For this concert, the chorale welcomes *Orchestra New England*, *Elm City Girls' Choir*, and nationally acclaimed soloists *Sherezade Panthaki* and *Mark Womack* to deliver a major performance of a deeply moving work of humanistic solace on a large, technically sophisticated local stage.

"We feel comfortable at the Santo Fragilio Performing Arts Center. We are glad to return there for our Spring 2023 concert and present Brahms' *Requiem* to new and existing audiences," says GMChorale President, Michael Balinskas.

Brahms' classic non-liturgical requiem, focused on the hope and resilience of the living, has unique significance for the GMChorale. With text in the original German of the Luther Bible, the comforting words of scripture help the group to celebrate the life of late member and former Board President David Morgan, who passed away in the winter of 2022. The Wesleyan professor of history recognized the power of classical music to enrich individuals and communities, and donors from the Middletown community joined together to honor David's commitment to keeping the spirit of choral music alive for future generations.

GMChorale performs classical and contemporary choral masterworks of the highest order, and since the transition to the facilities of Middletown High School, the group benefits from the artistic freedom and scale of a large and technologically modern theater, privileges usually available only to professional ensembles.

GMChorale's long-time Artistic Director, Joseph D'Eugenio, who led the choir in its 2007 performance of the Requiem, has commented how special it is to have such a space in Middletown.

"The high school theater is really a jewel. It has excellent acoustics, sophisticated technical infrastructure, and a level of comfort unmatched by any other local performance space. Most importantly, it centers us right within the Middletown community we are looking to serve with every increasing energy."

With a newly rebuilt governance structure and expanded professional staff, the GMChorale has committed to maintaining its place in the Connecticut arts community for years to come.

GMCHORALE

JOSEPH D'EUGENIO
ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Background

In the last two decades, the GMChorale has invested in the Middletown community, growing the audience for regional music with bold and appealing programming. That commitment, accompanied by increased donor support, determined GMChorale's recent choice of venue, the Santo Fragilio Performing Arts Center at Middletown High School. With a new platform, GMChorale undertook such ambitious works as Mendelssohn's oratorio, *Elijah*, in 2010, complete with lighting and stage design, and a newly commissioned contemporary masterwork, *Letters from Italy*, by composer Sarah Meneeley-Kyder. The latter debuted to wide acclaim, and GMChorale soon partnered with Hartford Chorale and the Hartford Symphony Orchestra to perform it at The Bushnell Center for the Performing Arts in Hartford, Connecticut.