

WE RISE AGAIN

VIRTUAL CONCERT WITH SOUNDS ACADEMY

We Rise Again, the theme of our 92nd season, is also the theme for Orpheus' spring virtual concert. The concert, which will premier online May 9 (Mother's Day) will include several video performances from Orpheus Male Chorus of Phoenix.

One of our selections will be the song "We Rise Again", written by Leon Dubinsky and arranged by Stephen Smith, a favorite among many Orpheus singers and an appropriate theme as it symbolizes we will overcome the challenges of the pandemic to look forward to performing in person for you.

Another selection will be Leonard Cohen's "Hallelujah" which will include strings accompaniment by several students from SOUNDS Academy.

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ORPHEUS REHEARSES IN PARKING GARAGE

After a year of rehearsing on Zoom due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the chorus resumed in-person rehearsals March 9 at the Biltmore Fashion Park parking garage in Phoenix.

The chorus meets all three criteria established by the Centers for Disease Control to safely meet in person: the rehearsals are outdoors, the singers and staff wear masks and all singers are socially distanced.

While up to 50 of our singers rehearse in person at the garage, an additional 10 to 12 singers who choose not to join the rehearsals in person continue to attend via Zoom.

Thanks to the Orpheus Board of Directors, Orpheus Artistic Director Brook Larson, Orpheus Operations Director Cyndee Chaffee and representatives of Macerich, owners of Biltmore Fashion Park, for arranging the safe and creative way to resume in-person rehearsals.

INSIDE ORPHEUS

The fifth chapter of Inside Orpheus, a series of interviews with several of our singers, is now available. The interviews were conducted by Mary Jo West, a member of our Orpheus Advisory Council, as a way to get you to know more about our singers. Many of you will recognize Mary Jo from her days as a TV news anchor in Phoenix. She has been a supporter of Orpheus since the 1970s.

During the interviews, you learn why our singers joined Orpheus, what they like about rehearsals and performing, and those special "a ha" moments when they knew they were right where they were supposed to be.



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GEORGE BERG

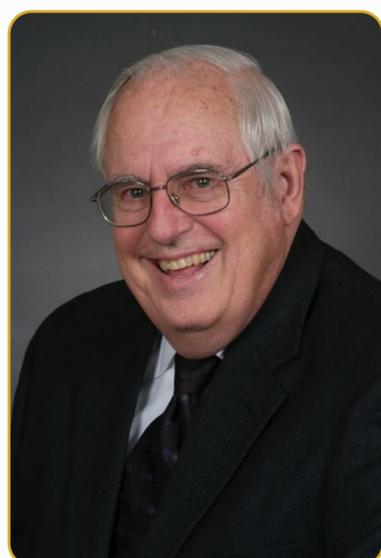
Orpheus is sad to report the recent passing of one of our long-time members, George Berg. George joined Orpheus as a member of the bass section in 1997. He stepped away from singing a few years ago but continued to stay active with Orpheus, serving as a volunteer at many of our concerts.

George was born in 1935 in Bellingham, Washington. He married his soul mate Janet in 1959 and celebrated more than 62 years of love. George served in the US Army, taught in many schools, was an ordained Presbyterian Minister, and received his Doctorate in Education from Arizona State University.

Singing and photography were a major part of his life. He spent many years singing with the Orpheus Male Chorus of Phoenix and the Philharmonic Choir at Crosswinds Presbyterian Church. He would join friends in singing at a moment's notice or would just hum for enjoyment. His love of photography included; but was not limited to, documenting the construction of Crosswinds Church and capturing the beauty of nature wherever he was.

George was survived by his wife, two sons, a daughter, granddaughter and his brother.

His family has requested that donations in memory of George be made to the Orpheus Male Chorus of Phoenix.



DONATE TO ORPHEUS

Orpheus is predominantly funded through ticket sales and generous donations from committed patrons like you. While we are temporarily prohibited from bringing you live performances, we are still working on programming and continue to have expenses that cannot be eliminated. We hope you will consider donating because WE WILL BE BACK. We are so grateful for your generous support of the Orpheus Male Chorus of Phoenix. Please consider donating to Orpheus.

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ABOUT ORPHEUS

The Orpheus Male Chorus of Phoenix made its debut on Christmas morning 1929 on KTAR-AM and has delighted audiences in venues large and small throughout Arizona and beyond with a diverse mix of classical and popular music. Orpheus is Arizona's longest-standing, continuously performing choral arts organization. Throughout its rich 92-year history, the chorus has toured in the U.S. and internationally, been featured in radio and TV broadcasts, and has sung the National Anthem at professional sporting events and for dignitaries, including President John F. Kennedy. Orpheus was honored to be selected by the Western Conference of the American Choral Directors Association (WCACDA) to perform at their biennial meeting in March 2020 in Salt Lake City.

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