



## News Release

Contact: Robin Fennell  
Phone: (770) 476-7419

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
May 9, 2003

### **Gwinnett Choral Guild honored by the Consulate General of the Republic of Korea in Atlanta**

**Atlanta, GA** – The Gwinnett Choral Guild proudly received an award from the Consulate General of the Republic of Korea in Atlanta last month for their continued support of Korean-American culture. G. Phillip Shoultz, III, the Guild's Artistic Director, and Becky Pettis, Production Manager for the Guild, accepted the award on behalf of the 45-member non-profit community singing group from Consul General Jung-pyo Cho on April 15. The award acknowledges the Gwinnett Choral Guild's participation in several Korean-American cultural, musical events, which seek to strengthen cross-cultural bonds.

The Gwinnett Choral Guild's association with the Korean community began when Maestro Eugene Sungchul Lee, Conductor of the New Atlanta Philharmonic Orchestra (formerly called the Peach Prime Orchestra), invited the Guild to join with the Korean Festival Choir, to perform in August, 2001, at the Grand 56<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Concert celebrating the Korean Liberation Day. The event, sponsored by the Consulate General of the Republic of Korea in Atlanta, the Federation of Korean Associations S.E., the Korean Association of Georgia, the Korean Association of Atlanta, the Good Neighboring Campaign, and radio 1310 AM Korea, featured music with the theme of hope and liberation and included the national anthems of Korea and America and "Choral Fantasy" by Beethoven. Kyung Hwan Kim, President of the Korean Association of Atlanta, acknowledged the Gwinnett Choral Guild's effort to perform in the Korean language.

Following that successful event, Shoultz invited Lee's orchestra to accompany the Gwinnett Choral Guild's performance of Handel's "Messiah" at the Gwinnett Performing Arts Center in December, 2001. The full rendition of the challenging score was a first for Gwinnett County and a superb concert and huge success.

On September 12, 2002, the New Atlanta Philharmonic Orchestra and the Gwinnett Choral Guild partnered again to present a memorial concert for 911 victims called "We Shall Overcome," at the Gwinnett Performing Arts Center. The event, sponsored by the Consulate General of the Republic of Korea in Atlanta, was another huge success.

"Performing with the New Atlanta Philharmonic Orchestra has been a wonderful experience for the Gwinnett Choral Guild," says Shoultz. "It has really brought our concerts to a whole new level, and

we hope to continue to work with them throughout the coming years. Cross-culture dialogue and performance has enabled the Guild to broaden its musical and fellowship horizons.”

Consul General Jung-pyo Cho best describes the value of the cooperative effort between the two, fine Gwinnett County-based music groups. “Music is a language understood by all. If people could enhance their mutual understanding, sharing in emotions that tie us all, the world would become more peaceful and pleasant. The lesson music teaches us is one of harmonious existence, through the unity and blending of many different instruments. The many peoples of the world, each with unique identity and culture, can strive to emulate the harmony of these instruments and coexist to make the world a more desirable place to live.”

The Gwinnett Choral Guild’s next performance, again featuring the New Atlanta Philharmonic Orchestra, will be “The Spirit of Peace.” The concert will take place at the Gwinnett Performing Arts Center on Tuesday, May 20 at 8:00pm. The concert features music with a theme of peace, including “Feel the Spirit,” arranged by John Rutter. The performance will also feature a guest soloist. For more information and tickets, please call 404-233-9962 or visit the website, [www.gwinnettchoralguild.org](http://www.gwinnettchoralguild.org).

\* \* \* \* \*

**Award presentation photo identification (left to right):**



- 1) Consul Byeongsoo Bae, Consulate General of the Republic of Korea in Atlanta
- 2) Concert Master Jung Ja Kim, New Atlanta Philharmonic Orchestra
- 3) Artistic Director G. Phillip Shoultz, III, Gwinnett Choral Guild
- 4) Production Manager Becky Pettis, Gwinnett Choral Guild
- 5) Consul General Jung-pyo Cho, Consulate General of the Republic of Korea in Atlanta