



News Release

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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
August 4, 2003

Gwinnett Choral Guild celebrates 20 years

Atlanta, GA – The Gwinnett Choral Guild kicks off its new season on October 12 with a special 20th Anniversary Reunion Concert, “Celebrate: Come to the Music,” at 4 p.m. at the Gwinnett Performing Arts Center. The entire Gwinnett community is invited to attend the concert to help celebrate this festive occasion. “We also extend a special invitation to the estimated 350 former members of the Guild to come and participate in the weekend festivities. This will be a wonderful opportunity to reunite for music-making and rekindle the friendships that were developed through the Guild,” shares G. Phillip Shoultz III, Artistic Director since 1999.

The Gwinnett Choral Guild, a non-profit corporation with tax-exempt status under Section 501 (c) (3), is Gwinnett County’s only remaining adult community choir for mixed voices (soprano, alto, tenor, bass). It was founded in 1983 by Randy Wilbur, who served as the director until 1993. One of Mr. Wilbur’s proudest moments was when the Guild sang with the 530th Air Force Band of the Georgia Air National Guard during a presentation by former President George Bush in Atlanta. The Guild’s performance included “Proud To Be An American” with the song’s composer himself, Lee Greenwood. “I have many wonderful memories and still enjoy enduring, valuable friendships which were made during my tenure with the Guild,” says Wilbur. While Wilbur is a long time real estate agent, his passion is music and he continues to be active in numerous music endeavors.

The Guild is proud to have been led by other fine directors who also contributed to the strong foundation and success of the Guild. All will gather to participate in the reunion concert as guest conductors. Dr. David Barnett, who served the Guild 1993-1996, will be traveling from Billings, Montana, where he currently conducts the Billings Symphony Chorale, the Rimrock Opera Chorus, the Big Sky Barbershop Chorus and the First Methodist Church Choir. Richard Moore, also served the Guild 1993-1996 as Associate Director, and is currently the Music Director for St. Edwards Episcopal Church, Lawrenceville. Peter Kukielski, who is the founder of the local musical group, “Heart Song,” and has been Director of Music at several churches in the Atlanta area, served the Guild 1996-1999.

Gwinnett Choral Guild (page 2)
August 4, 2003

The Guild's current membership, under the direction of Shoultz, will begin the concert by introducing the audience to newer compositions by Aguiar, Chilcott, Lauridsen, McKennitt and Whitacre, while also presenting the more familiar works of Mozart and Duruflè. Shoultz explains, "this music exemplifies the concert's theme of "celebration." These songs represent diversity of style, culture and language, yet they all celebrate something...faith, friendship, life, love and the wonderful planet on which we live." The second half of the concert, featuring the former directors and including current and alumni singers, will include excerpts of major works by Schubert, Vivaldi, "Old American Songs" of Aaron Copland, a Broadway medley, and various spirituals and folk songs. The concert will conclude with Shoultz returning to the podium to lead everyone in a tribute to our country, "For Spacious Skies," and the new setting of the Scottish friendship song, "Auld Lang Syne."

The Gwinnett Choral Guild has been on the forefront of arts activities in the county throughout its history. The Guild has performed at most of the major churches in Gwinnett County, the Gwinnett Performing Arts Center, and at other local venues, such as "Inviting Events" in Snellville and "Winfield Hall" in Duluth. The Guild has also performed for local sporting events with the Atlanta Braves and other activities throughout the state; at Biltmore House in Asheville, NC; Carnegie Hall in New York City; St. Petersburg, Russia; and most recently, at the St. Philip's Episcopal Church, Charleston, as part of the 2003 Piccolo Spoleto Festival.

The Guild would like to express appreciation to the many churches, schools, business organizations and individuals who have contributed facilities and/or financial support over the years. The Guild's current rehearsal site is the Lawrenceville Presbyterian Church.

"The charm of the Gwinnett Choral Guild is that we are local people of all ages, from all walks of life, coming together in a common bond – the love of music," says Joyce Parks, one of the founding members who has participated for the entire twenty years and is the Guild's current President. "The Guild has been blessed to have outstanding musicians, both professional and amateurs. We feel that we are one of Gwinnett County's best-kept secrets, but we sure would like for the word to spread. Please tell your friends and come celebrate with us!"

The Gwinnett Choral Guild is currently seeking all former members to participate in the October reunion festivities and sing in the concert on October 12. Persons interested should respond by August 15.

For more information and tickets, please call 404-223-9962 or visit their website, www.gwinnettchoralguild.org.

* * * * *



Photo Identification (left to right):

- 1) Becky Pettis, Production Manager
- 2) Joyce Parks, President
- 3) Phillip Shoultz, Artistic Director
- 4) Erin Parks, Alto Section Leader

Caption: "Gwinnett Choral Guild reviews 20 years of history for upcoming reunion concert"