



Assabet Valley Mastersingers
Endowment Campaign

Join the Harmony — Build the Ground!

Dear Friends of the AVM,

It is with great excitement and pleasure that I announce an exciting debut for the AVM: the launch of our first Endowment Campaign. Over the last 40 years, the AVM has matured into a respected musical ensemble with a reputation for performing exceptional repertoire, whose vocalists are a cohesive ensemble of caring, supportive, and musically motivated individuals. In order to ensure that the AVM can sustain that level of excellence, the Executive Board has commenced a campaign to establish an endowment fund capable of providing a secure foundation for years to come.

Financially, AVM is solvent and with the best financial support in its history. However, as a founder-directed and guided organization, the primary focus has been on musical excellence—building the ensemble and its musical reputation--not on building a financial structure to attract a succession of artistic directors and staff. The income from this endowment would, at the appropriate time, serve to augment the AVM's normal operations budget and enable the group to attract and retain high-quality musical leadership.

I hope you will give serious consideration to supporting the AVM Endowment Campaign as fully as you can.

A complete history of the AVM is provided elsewhere, but please indulge me as I review some of the highlights of our journey to our present musical level.

In the fall of 1977 a young, naïve music teacher in his fifth year at Algonquin Regional High School decided the area needed a chorus dedicated to performing choral masterworks. After talking with various mentors and seeking guidance, he decided there were too many obstacles. In spite of this, he and a couple of vocalists from his church choir found a place to rehearse, borrowed scores of the Mozart Requiem from ARHS and announced in a local weekly newspaper that there would be a rehearsal for any interested vocalists. Beyond anyone's wildest dream over twenty vocalists, including tenors and basses, showed up to rehearse. After rehearsal one of the vocalists came forward and volunteered to be the accompanist. The AVM was born, and its first concert was presented in May 1978 at Trinity Episcopal Church, Shrewsbury.

*Dr. Robert Eaton ~ Richard Rader ~ Martha Schwarzkopf ~ Peter Mierswa ~ Barbara Klinedinst ~ Fred Philcox ~ James Baker
Thomas Ukena ~ David Bonneau ~ Ellen Church*

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After the concert the question “Do you want to continue?” was answered with a resounding “Yes!” An organizational board was established, by-laws written, and non-profit status was obtained. There were many individuals who dedicated themselves to supporting the AVM with only their passion for choral singing and lots of faith in a young inexperienced music teacher. As the years passed, his worry that no one would show up for the first rehearsal of the fall was replaced by happy anticipation, as members returned and fresh faces arrived for auditions.

Since that modest beginning, the chorus has grown to nearly eighty vocalists and presents three concerts per season (two with orchestra), plus a popular Messiah Sing. The AVM has commissioned three choral/orchestral works, presented unique concerts such as “Voices of Light” (performed to the silent film *Joan of Arc*), “Annelies” an oratorio based upon the Diary of Anne Frank, and Jenkins’ “Mass for Peace.” We have collaborated with other area choruses and ensembles, including ARHS choruses, Westborough HS Choruses, Worcester Children’s Choir, WPI Brass Ensemble, and Shir Joy, a choir dedicated to performing music of Jewish heritage. The AVM has performed works by over eighty different composers, including most major masterworks, concerts of opera choruses, and most recently a program of music based on significant poetry.

There are two aspects of the AVM of which I am most proud. The first of these is that our choristers enthusiastically embrace new, unique and varied repertoire choices. The AVM is well respected for its programming; the depth of our repertoire sets us far above many choruses. The second is the humanity that is at the core of all the vocalists. The AVM is an ensemble of warm, caring, musical individuals who support and help each other perform great music to the very best of their ability. Professional vocalists and instrumentalists alike look forward to performing with the AVM because they see that we care.

The AVM has a proud history and great legacy to carry into the future. Thank you for letting me be a part of it, and thank you in advance for helping us all to ensure that AVM continues long into the future.

Yours in music and life,



Bob Eaton

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