



Phoenix Chorale announces Fall 2020 Programs

*Grammy-winning Phoenix Chorale
and Artistic Director Christopher Gabbitas
present "A Season of Hope"*

Free Broadcasts, interviews with Choral Luminaries, and more



Phoenix, AZ) – The **Phoenix Chorale**, under the direction of Artistic Director **Christopher Gabbitas**, has announced the first half of the 2020/21 Season, **"A Season of Hope,"** which offers free virtual programming for Fall 2020. Plans for the Phoenix Chorale's Spring 2021 programs will be announced later this season.

"During these days when our community's health and safety are paramount, gathering together to rehearse and perform choral music must necessarily take a back seat," says **Christopher Gabbitas**. "And yet all of us miss it tremendously – whether it's the

fellowship we experience as we meet to prepare programs in rehearsal or the thrill we experience as we wait backstage to perform for our fans... We've heard how much they're missing it too, so we've been working hard to create programs that offer hope and connect us all together through the healing and inspiring power of music."

Magical things happen when people gather together. Over 60 years ago, a small group of friends gathered in a living room around a piano and established what is now the Phoenix Chorale. Today, the Phoenix Chorale invites fans to gather online from their living rooms and experience the Phoenix Chorale in a new way with free virtual broadcasts of concerts, exclusive interviews, and more.

The Phoenix Chorale's Fall 2020 programs will be free to the public and hosted by Artistic Director Christopher Gabbitas, bringing the Chorale's concert experience directly into fans' homes for the first time on a national scale. The free broadcasts offer highlights from recent concert programs including **"Pathways of Devotion,"** conducted by Christopher Gabbitas in 2019, and **"A Chorale Christmas Special,"** with highlights from

the 2018 and 2019 holiday programs, conducted by **Anton Armstrong** and **André J. Thomas**.

“When we perform live, our audiences see the final product of months of planning and behind-the-scenes work. Creating broadcasts feels like producing a TV show, which is new for us, and it’s taken an incredible amount of teamwork. Our hope with these programs is to create connection through the music here in Arizona, across the country, and even around the world,” says **Jen Rogers, Phoenix Chorale President & CEO**. “That’s why we’re offering each program as a one-time event, encouraging friends and family to come together across time zones and experience the music the way we did back in the day before on-demand streaming—if you didn’t tune in when it aired, you missed out.”

New this season are “**Chris Chats**,” exclusive interviews featuring choral luminaries, composers, and leaders in the choral field in conversation together. Hosted by Artistic Director Christopher Gabbitas, the first chat features English composers **John Rutter** and **Bob Chilcott**, followed by conductors **Anton Armstrong** and **André J. Thomas**, and more throughout the season.

“There is a true joy in choral music that few other experiences can match—whether you are taking part in the performance or listening to the results. I’m constantly struck by the heart that our singers bring to each and every note,” says **Christopher Gabbitas**. “We are so grateful to have such a loyal family of supporters across the Valley and beyond and these free programs are one way we are expressing our gratitude. We continue to prepare for what promises to be a triumphant return to live music—as soon as we are able!”

FALL 2020 PROGRAMS

Broadcast 1: Pathways of Devotion

Saturday, October 24, 2020 at 7:00 pm MST (10 pm EDT / 9pm CDT / 7pm PDT)

Join the **Phoenix Chorale** and host **Artistic Director Christopher Gabbitas** for the Chorale’s free virtual broadcast, “**Pathways of Devotion**,” on Saturday, **October 24, 2020** at 7:00 pm MST (10:00 pm EDT). The “Pathways of Devotion” program revisits highlights of Gabbitas’s first project with the Chorale, from February 2019, which explored aspects of love, devotion, and the faithfulness that draws us together as families and communities—no matter what life puts in our way. Music featured on this broadcast includes Bob Chilcott’s arrangement of *Mairi’s Wedding*, *Barbara Allen* by John Rutter, *The Road Home* by Stephen Paulus, *Only in Sleep* by Ēriks Ešņvalds, and more.



Broadcast 2: A Chorale *Christmas Special*

Saturday, December 19, 2020 at 7:00 pm MST (9 pm EDT / 8 pm CDT / 6 pm PDT)

Join the **Phoenix Chorale** for the Chorale's free holiday virtual broadcast, "**A Chorale Christmas Special**," on Saturday, **December 19, 2020** at 7:00 pm MST (9:00 pm EDT). Hosted by Artistic Director Christopher Gabbitas, this special holiday broadcast brings together highlights from two memorable Christmas programs in 2018 and 2019, led by beloved guest conductors **Anton Armstrong** and **André J. Thomas**. Musical highlights include *Glory, Glory, Glory to the Newborn King* by André Thomas, Rosephanye Powell's *The Word Was God*, *Silent Night*, *The Christmas Song*, and more. Paired with sing-alongs and new music by the Phoenix Chorale, this broadcast joins us all together in a spirit of hope, peace and renewal, and the musical warmth that only this time of year can bring.



"CHRIS CHATS" WITH CHORAL LUMINARIES - Interview Series

Launching this season are "**Chris Chats**," hosted by **Artistic Director Christopher Gabbitas**, and will feature choral luminaries, composers, and leaders in the choral field in conversation together. The first of the "Chris Chats" series takes place Monday, October 19, 2020, at 6:00 pm. Featured choral masters in this chat: English composer/conductors **John Rutter** and **Bob Chilcott**, whose music is included on the October 24 broadcast.



The second in the "Chris Chats" series is on Monday, December 14, 2020, at 6:00 pm. Featured choral masters include conductor **Anton Armstrong** and composer/conductor **André J. Thomas**, whose music will be included on the December 19 broadcast.

How to Watch Free Programs: The Phoenix Chorale's Fall 2020 Season of broadcasts are free to the public with registration. To register for these free events, visit PhoenixChorale.org/Fall2020.

Support These Free Programs: To support the Phoenix Chorale's free broadcasts, visit PhoenixChorale.org/Donate, and make a gift today. To learn more about sponsoring one of these exciting online programs, please contact President & CEO Jen Rogers at 602-253-2224.



ABOUT THE PHOENIX CHORALE

ABOUT CHRISTOPHER GABBITAS: *Grammy Award-winning artist Christopher Gabbitas spent fifteen years as a member of The King's Singers, performing almost 2,000 concerts worldwide, conducting in excess of 500 masterclasses, and appearing on over thirty commercial recordings. Trained in the English choral tradition from an early age as a boy-chorister and later a choral scholar at St. John's College, Cambridge University, Christopher began to direct and train ensembles as a teenager. A UK-qualified attorney, he held the position of Managing Partner within The King's Singers for a decade, during which time he was instrumental in the creation of two charitable foundations and led successful fundraising efforts across the world, as well as acting as in-house legal counsel. In 2018, he announced his resignation from the ensemble in order to concentrate on education and choral direction, with the intention of passing on the knowledge gained from well over a decade of elite performance. In 2019, Gabbitas began a position as Artist Professor at the University of Redlands, in Redlands, CA, teaching a unique Master of Music degree course that focuses on elite choral performance alongside music Business education, with the aim of bridging the gap between college education and a career in music, by producing professional musicians who understand the commercial reality of the industry. Gabbitas drafted the degree program alongside Dr. Nicholle Andrews and Dr. Joseph Modica of the University of Redlands, bringing together the trio's extensive experience of practical and academic aspects of music and business, to create a ground-breaking program.*



ABOUT THE PHOENIX CHORALE: *The Grammy Award-winning Phoenix Chorale is regarded as one of the finest choral ensembles in North America. Founded in 1958, the Phoenix Chorale's mission is focused on building a vibrant community through song and enriching lives through choral artistry. Each season, the Phoenix Chorale reaches over 7,500 individuals through concerts and outreach events across the Phoenix metro-area. The Chorale's digital audience continues to grow with millions reached through broadcasts, performance videos, and streaming services, like Spotify, where the Chorale maintains a listenership of over 35,000 fans each month.*

Under the direction of Artistic Director Christopher Gabbitas, the 28-voice professional choir presents four thematic concert programs each season, with musical works spanning the last five hundred years. New artistic initiatives include the Phoenix Masterworks Series, which features a large-scale choral work each season, and the Phoenix Commissions Project, a commitment to commissioning and premiering a new work every year.

Through educational partnerships and programs, the Chorale reaches youth through choral festivals, masterclasses, and free student ticket programs. Outreach programs invite new audiences into casual events including Free Open Rehearsals, free broadcasts, Beer Choir PHX, and Valley Sing, a free community event where everyone is invited to sing. Seniors and military veterans are also offered free or discounted access to our concerts through special ticket programs.

The Phoenix Chorale, ensemble-in-residence at Trinity Episcopal Cathedral in downtown Phoenix, is sponsored in part through grants, funding, and support from the Phoenix Office of Arts and Culture, Arizona Commission on the Arts, and Trinity Episcopal Cathedral. Visit phoenixchorale.org to learn more information about the Chorale and upcoming performances.

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