

The
Don Thompson
Chorale!

3119 Beach Boulevard • Jacksonville, Florida 32207 • www.donthompsonchorale.org • choraleholics@mindspring.com

July 2015

Dear Chorale Friends,

These are exciting times for the Don Thompson Chorale!

Our May 17th concert at Riverside Presbyterian Church marked the conclusion of the DTC's 20th year and Jay Stuckey's first year as our musical director. Jay and Terry (his better half and our accompanist) bring energy, consistency and musicality that clearly define a new chapter in our growth as a community chorus. We have had a wonderful ride in the DTC thus far, but Jay knows we are capable of so much more and plans to challenge us musically at every turn.

In the upcoming 2015-16 concert year we have big plans, one of which can make the entire choral experience a little more enjoyable.... and you can help. Eighteen years ago Ron Harris and I built some sturdy (but not "purdy") wooden platforms to use as "risers." Over time the decks have been replaced; some of the larger platforms have been cut in half to make smaller, more manageable ones; hand holes have been cut in the sides; joints have been reinforced and supports have been added; we have painted, repainted and even stapled carpet to the top of a few. But alas, these platforms are reaching the end of their service life, so we've decided it's time to bite the bullet and purchase some honest-to-goodness, purpose-built choral platforms. We have found sturdy platforms built with aircraft-grade aluminum that can be linked together in many configurations, unlike traditional choral risers. What makes these platforms unique is that they are lightweight, come in a variety of sizes and have adjustable leg heights, so they are low-profile, stackable and significantly easier to transport. They can be set up on uneven surfaces (such as the steps of church pulpit and stage areas) allowing us to create flexible and effective standing arrangements. But choral risers and platforms are expensive: to have enough to accommodate a group of 50 or more adult singers, the cost is anywhere from \$5000 to \$9000 plus freight. I brought this proposal before the DTC board, with the suggestion that we borrow the money so we could purchase the platforms sooner rather than later. We were shocked and very pleasantly surprised when the proposal was met with a challenge: an anonymous donor has offered to match up to \$3000.00 of the funds we raise.

As of July 21st we have collected \$1350 (effectively \$2700 with matching funds). We have a very special concert scheduled for October 25th (more on that later) where we hope also to debut these new platforms. There is a month-long delivery schedule, so we need to place the order -- with payment -- by early September. Please consider donating to the fund for this long overdue upgrade. Checks can be made payable to the DTC and mailed to the address above. We look forward to hearing from you... and singing for you soon.

Musically yours,


John Howard
Manager
Cell: (904) 504-0924



Jay directing the Chorale at Lakewood Presbyterian
November 2014



Note some of the old black platforms behind the piano



Platforms: before & after painting, cutting and bracing



The old "heave ho" with our platforms in their current form



Choral Platforms