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## Lanier Chamber Singers celebrate Lent with song

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Choral music is lilting and light or dark and brooding. Subjects range from true loves to loves lost and the range of emotions in between.

But above all, don't let it intimidate you if you've never been to a concert featuring works of composers like Henry Purcell or Joseph Haydn.

At least, that's the message Lanier Chamber Singers' conductor Michelle Roueché has for anyone interested in getting to know the music better. Just take a listen at this weekend's concerts, featuring the works of Purcell, Haydn and G.F. Handel. The concert, "My Song in the Night," is honoring the season of Lent as well as the anniversaries of these three great composers.

"They are the most important major composers of all music history, and we're also observing Lent," said Roueché, who is also director of choral activities at Brenau University. One of the selections is "My Song in the Night," and that helped inspire the evening's theme, she said.

"That was sort of my inspiration then for all of the music we're doing by Purcell, Handel and Haydn," she said. "All of it deals with songs or music, and so if you look at the titles ... all of the pieces that celebrate the composers deal with music. So, 'My Song in the Night.'"

The 30-member chorus has had just 10 rehearsals to learn the music, which is almost entirely new to them. And many travel from as far away as Athens or Atlanta to be a part of the show, simply for the experience and love of singing.

"I love to sing with this group," said Celeste Jefcoats, a member of the group since 2002 who commutes from Atlanta to take part in the experience.

Because they have just 10 rehearsals, it speaks for the experience of the musicians, Roueché said.

And if you're a new or a lifelong fan of choral music, the solos and arrangements will

be intriguing, Roueché said.

"For anybody that is interested in growing fond of choral music and wanting to learn more about choir music, this is a good one to come to."

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