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Lanier Chamber Singers hits 25th anniversary this year

Choral group to audition new voices for 2016-17 season

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For Get Out

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Blending traditional music with the joy of singing and performing enjoyable pieces has been the goal of the Lanier Chamber Singers since their formation in 1991.

Now in their 25th year, the adult mixed ensemble is looking for new members to participate in its upcoming 2016-2017 season. Auditions will be at 7 p.m. Aug. 9 at First Presbyterian Church, 800 S. Enota Drive NE, in Gainesville. Those interested in scheduling an audition, visit www.lanierchambersingers.org and click on the "auditions" panel. Or interested singers may call 770-530-9248 or email info@lanierchambersingers.org.

"We are looking on this 25th anniversary as a special observance," Lanier Chamber Singers president Michael Henry said. "We would like to increase awareness of LCS, of potential new singers in our area that don't know about our group, or new singers who have moved into our area."

Potential members of the 30-voice choir are asked to bring a prepared song that showcases their abilities and a copy for the accompanist to the audition. Range exercises, sight-reading and tonal memory will be a part of the audition.

The choir is seeking members for all vocal parts, though not necessarily soloists.

Potential members will be notified the night of auditions if they are accepted into the choir.

Once they have earned a spot in the choir, practices are 7-9 p.m. every Tuesday at the First Presbyterian Church. Rehearsals and performances are usually at the church.

The Lanier Chamber Singers are open to anyone with choral experience and a passion for musical performance. Members are from all across North Georgia, ranging from Dahlonega to the northern Atlanta suburbs. And though the ensemble has many professional musicians, it is open to those of any field, even college students.

“For the most part, the chorus is adults who are involved vocationally in music, or they have a background of choral music and a love ... for singing in a choir,” Henry said.

Keith Jefcoat founded the group in 1991 in Gainesville with Lee Bratton as the founding director. Since 2012, the choir has been conducted by Jon Arnold, “a gifted, energetic young composer,” Henry said.

The upcoming season will include four performances throughout the year, with presentations of Gabriel Faure’s “Requiem,” a Christmas concert, a Greatest Hits Gala and an all-American concert, featuring the works of prominent American choral composers.

Current members have input on pieces selected for the Greatest Hits Gala in the spring.

To promote the enjoyment of choral music, Lanier Chamber Singers admit students of all ages for free to their concerts.

“When you think of the arts, it is such a wide spectrum of activity,” Henry said. “Choral music is not just the opportunity for offering enjoyable activity for singers, but also for audiences. Choral music allow exposure to beautiful things, (and) meaningful texts ... the pairing of word and music together is a powerful pairing.”

<http://www.gainesvilletimes.com/section/201/article/118226/>



The 2015-16 Lanier Chamber Singers were led by conductor Jon Arnold, third from left on front row. The accompanist was Sandra Lutters, fourth from left on front row. The group is holding open auditions for the new season.

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