



MEDIA RELEASE

November 2020

Even without live performances this season, local audiences won't have to miss out on the sounds of the holidays, thanks to the new *Georgia's Home for the Holidays'* virtual music video series, which premieres Nov. 27, 2020, on YouTube and Facebook.

Led by the Georgia Symphony Orchestra and Chorus, Atlanta Master Chorale and The Michael O'Neal Singers, the series features hundreds of the metro area's leading choral and instrumental musicians from 32 ensembles. Participating groups are members of the Choral Music of Metro Atlanta collaborative, and are based as far north as Gainesville and as far south as Peachtree City, Ga.

Daily *Georgia's Home for the Holidays'* videos will feature a single participating choral or orchestral ensemble sharing artistic content related to expressions of the winter holiday season. Beginning the morning after Thanksgiving, episodes will premiere daily, then be revisited at any point thereafter. Episodes are available at holidays.georgiasymphony.org. Viewers may also register there to have the videos delivered to them directly via email. The daily videos will also be available on the Georgia Symphony Orchestra's Facebook and YouTube pages.

Timothy Verville, music director and conductor of the Georgia Symphony Orchestra, is the creative force behind the project's extensive audio and video editing. Marietta-based businessman Ira Jackson, Jr. lends his bass voice to introduce each day's video.

A full list of participating organizations is available at Georgia Home for the Holidays.

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About the Georgia Symphony Orchestra:

Founded in 1951 in the music room of Arthur F. Moor's home in Marietta, the Georgia Symphony Orchestra is celebrating its 70th season of steady growth, enriching the metro Atlanta community with accessible, critically acclaimed performances and providing educational experiences that instill a lifelong appreciation for the arts. With a large, immensely talented group of both professional and volunteer musicians led by visionary music director and conductor Timothy Verville, the GSO offers imaginative programming that includes internationally recognized guest artists and collaborative performances.

Bringing stellar orchestral, jazz and choral music to diverse audiences, the organization is comprised of the Georgia Symphony Orchestra, the GSO Jazz!, the Georgia Symphony Orchestra Chorus, the Georgia Youth Symphony Orchestra, and Chorus. Reaching over 127 schools from 17 counties in Georgia, our Georgia Youth Symphony Orchestra is the largest youth orchestra program in the Southeast and is one of the top 10 largest such programs in the United States.

About Atlanta Master Chorale

Atlanta Master Chorale has crafted one of America's finest choral sounds, bringing singers and audiences to the place where music touches spirit. Started in 1985 as the Gwinnett Festival Singers, the group gained momentum well beyond its initial

suburban reach, drawing singers and audiences from throughout metropolitan Atlanta. Artistic Director Eric Nelson has led Atlanta Master Chorale since 1999. Throughout its nearly four decades of development, Atlanta Master Chorale has consistently celebrated material drawn from a broad spectrum of choral music. Atlanta Master Chorale audiences enjoy nearly 100 different pieces over four concerts each season, featuring music from nearly every period and genre, including historic and newly commissioned a cappella songs as well as major and minor accompanied works. The ensemble's choral series, published by MorningStar/E.C. Schirmer, captures new repertoire premiered by Atlanta Master Chorale, helping to add vibrant new music to the choral field. For more information, please visit: <http://www.atlantamasterchorale.org/>.

About The Michael O'Neal Singers

Since its inception in 1989, The Michael O'Neal Singers (MOS) organization has established itself as one of the premier symphonic choruses in the Southeastern United States. Composed of a chorus of over 140 auditioned voices and Kaleidoscope, a chamber ensemble of 36 voices, MOS offers choral presentations of notable artistic merit and programmatic variety. The full chorus has 20 recordings to its credit and has performed in some of the most renowned venues in the world, receiving accolades for artistic excellence. Founder and Artistic Director Dr. Michael O'Neal is recognized as a leader in choral music, with an established reputation as a conductor, tenor soloist, educator, and church musician. He has guided MOS with his vision for attaining the highest standards of choral excellence through a range of programming that includes classical masterworks, sacred and secular choral music, jazz standards, rock-and-roll, opera and musical theatre. The Michael O'Neal Singers offers a spectrum of music appealing to participants of all ages and musical tastes. During the COVID-19 pandemic, MOS has been a leader in the development and implementation of online choral experiences that have included participants from 25 states and six countries. For more information about The Michael O'Neal Singers, please visit mosingers.com.

About Choral Music of Metro Atlanta

Choral Music of Metro Atlanta (CMMA) is an informal choral roundtable for leaders, both staff and volunteer, of Atlanta-area volunteer choral music organizations. Stemming from work by the Audience Building Roundtable (an initiative of The Arthur M. Blank Family Foundation), administrative leaders of Atlanta Master Chorale, Georgia Symphony Orchestra and Chorus, and The Michael O'Neal Singers reached out to local choruses and began meeting in late 2017. CMMA exists to foster support and collaboration among our Atlanta choral community and raise collective awareness of the diverse vocal music organizations available in our area of northern Georgia. During the COVID-19 situation, CMMA has been meeting via Zoom to exchange information on critical topics such as scenario planning, participant and audience engagement, scientific resources on safe singing, and options for virtual choral programming. Choral Music of Metro Atlanta now includes over 30 organizations from as far south as Peachtree City and as far north as Gainesville (Georgia). For more information, visit the CMMA Facebook page at Facebook.com/AtlantaChoralMusic