



## ***Hallelujah!* it's Handel time**

Dear Sarasota Choral Society Members,

The summer is fast drawing to an end (hopefully the menacing hurricane season as well!) and it is time to think about your fall and winter schedule. It goes without saying that "schedule" for so many of us, means singing and, of course Händel's magnificent "*Messiah*."

For over a half century of those seasons now, the Sarasota Choral Society and "*Messiah*" have been an integral part of my life. I first walked into a Tuesday evening fall rehearsal, like so many, with trepidation. Will a lowly baritone be able to master all the high notes in the *Hallelujah Chorus*? Will I be able to keep up with the runs of sixteenth notes Händel and Baroque composers were so intent on seasoning their masterpieces with? Will I sing in tune or be the typical dilettante some well-meaning veteran Choral Society basso decides to take under his wings and teach me a thing or two?

This did not happen. I walked away from the first rehearsal under longtime director Julie Rohr, who was to become a close personal friend, ecstatic! Five weeks and six rehearsals later I sang "*Messiah*" for the first time at First Baptist Church in Downtown Sarasota. Since then I only missed two performances and have lived to see the Sarasota Choral Society, under Artistic Director Rev. Geneviève Beauchamp, maintain its reputation as the premier all-volunteer choral organization in Florida, if not the nation.

It is with great joy that I write to inform you that our **77th performance** of "*Messiah*" will take place Saturday, Dec 9 at 4:00 P.M at Church of the Palms, 3224 Bee Ridge Road in Sarasota. Our first rehearsal will, as usual, also be in the main sanctuary of Church of the Palms at 7:00 P.M., Monday, October 30. Rehearsals will continue on successive Monday evenings through Dec. 4 with dress rehearsal that same evening. Plan now to attend the first rehearsal. And why not ask a friend to join you?

Membership dues are \$25.00. Advance registration and dues payment may be done on our website, [www.SarasotaChoralSociety.org](http://www.SarasotaChoralSociety.org) or at the first rehearsal. Tickets may also be purchased on our website via PayPal or Eventbrite. at rehearsals, or at the Church of the Palms Office. The cost of tickets is \$25.

We are excited to announce that those favorite Sarasota Choral Society "Händel Bar Mustache" t-shirts will also be available at rehearsals at a cost of \$25.

Your Choral Society Board of Directors is indeed excited about planning another performance of "*Messiah*." We look forward to seeing you at our first rehearsal!

Sincerely,

Paul Weber, for the Board of Directors  
The Sarasota Choral Society



**Print Dimensions:**

Size of print may not exceed 14.75in in any direction. Images are not to scale. For accurate sizing, please rely on dimensions below, rather than the image, as art may appear different on different sized garments.

Hello *Messiah* Supporters:

We are gearing up for our **\$25 T-shirt fundraiser** to help support this year's performance, which has undergone several cost increases. We are mindful of expenses and hope these T-shirts can do double duty: have fun, fundraising; and show our support for this very special **77th** performance!

It's always nice to wear these T-Shirts at rehearsals, especially the dress rehearsal - not mandatory, but a nice show of solidarity.

To get the size(s) you want, we are taking **pre-paid orders**. There are 2 cuts available - Men's and Ladies. We are looking at 50/50 blend for maximum comfort.

If we get at least **24** orders during the summer, we will have the T-Shirts for you to wear at the 1st rehearsal. **50+** would make it an even better fundraiser!

During the rehearsal schedule, we'll have time to take another round of pre-paid orders....you'll just receive them closer to the dress rehearsal.

Christmas is right around the corner...these make great stocking stuffers!

Please send your order and check made out to:  
The Sarasota Choral Society

Mail to:  
The Sarasota Choral Society  
5317 Fruitville Road #147  
Sarasota, FL 34232

Thank you,

*Debye Bernard*  
Acting-President

