

UPDATE: Coronavirus/COVID-19 Issue

May 2, 2020

PLEASE READ IN FULL

After observing further uncertainties related to the Covid-19 issue, the (Pennsylvania) Governor's address yesterday, and with further consideration, the board has decided to suspend the 2020 season in full (no May concert, and no postponement to August, 2020). We thank you for your forbearance as we have waded through this trying time, and trust you will be understanding of this modification of plans.

Please return all music. It can be returned:

- In person to Yuriy or Galen
- Mail to: Galen Reed 400 W. Main St., Suite #4 Ephrata, PA 17522

Though planning for 2021 has not started, much of this year's repertoire will likely reappear. The links will be left online, both for your edification, and so that you can continue listening to them to further strengthen next year's program!

Until then, may you each be kept safe in the Lord's good hands. While the world around is in turmoil and confusion, may you abundantly know His peace, direction and provision! May you -

With joy draw water from the wells of salvation. And say in that day:

"Give thanks to the Lord,

And call upon his name;

And make known his deeds among the nations,

And proclaim that his name is exalted.

May you "sing praises to the Lord, for he has done excellently;

This is known in all the earth.

Shout, and sing for joy, O inhabitant of Zion,

For great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel"! (Isa. 12: 3-6 RSV/KJV, adapted)

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UPDATE: Coronavirus/COVID-19 Issue

Mar. 26, 2020

PLEASE READ IN FULL

The rest of the 2020 season is postponed as posted [HERE](#), as per Lyrica Sacra board action on March 24. Schedules for satellite sites will be announced by their respective leaders.

Should the coronavirus calamity still be in motion in early May, by May Sunday 10 at the very latest the board will have reassessed the feasibility of the May schedule, and may defer to the August 29 & 30 concert dates if needed. If any further delay (beyond Aug. 29 & 30), the season will be postponed to the regular winter/spring 2021 season.

Further:

- Again, if you are not comfortable attending rehearsals in light of the COVID-19 issue, you are free to stay home – just let us know that is why you are not coming (thanks!).
- We realize these are not the date options we presented to you, but with deliberation seemed the best to pursue.

Please be in touch with either Yuriy or Galen with questions or concerns, or to let us know of any expected absences. Thanks, and may all be safe as this has come much closer home!

Surely, the theme of this year's program – "God's Mercies – New Every Morning" – takes on expanded meaning in light of the current calamity! In words already so well said -

*Although the fig tree shall not blossom, neither shall fruit be in the vines;
the labor of the olive shall fail, and the fields shall yield no meat;
the flock shall be cut off from the fold, and there shall be no herd in the stalls:
yet I will rejoice in the LORD, I will joy in the God of my salvation. Hab. 3:17-18*

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UPDATE: Coronavirus/COVID-19 Issue

Mar. 16, 2020, 5:00pm

There will be an Ephrata rehearsal tonight. We are aware of President Trump's address this afternoon, and will address related concerns at rehearsal.

Again, if you are not comfortable coming, you are free to stay home – just let us know that you are not coming because of the COVID-19 issue.

We anticipate some longer term decisions, including possible postponement until mid to late summer, and will keep you posted as they are finalized.

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UPDATE: Coronavirus/COVID-19 Issue

Mar. 15, 2020, 3:00pm

There will be rehearsals this week, as originally scheduled, and at all locations (Ephrata as well as satellite locations).

Again, we encourage all to be circumspect as to your own health and circumstances, that if you feel attending will compromise your or other's health, you are free not to come. We ask though that you inform us at your earliest convenience that you will not be in attendance, and that the COVID-19 issue is why you will not be coming.

Rationale: though there is concern that COVID-19 can be devastating or fatal, this concern has been tempered by:

- People have the option to not attend if they feel at risk or compromised.
- We are well under the Governor's 100 person max threshold.
- The numerous responses Lyrica Sacra people have provided to the web statement below have not been negative, save to be circumspect or exercise caution. (Most feel the concern is quite "hyped up," and pales against deaths due to flu, etc., about which nothing unusual is done, and it seems fatalities seem to come in situations with previously compromised health, etc.)
- The Lyrica Sacra population tends to be: 1) generally quite hardy/resistant (from physical labor), 2) most are young(er) adults, and 3) most do not travel as much as the general population; all factors that tend to lessen susceptibility when compared to the general population.

We welcome your input and prayers as the alarm concerning coronavirus doesn't seem to be abating. A contingency plan outlining several scenarios has been drafted, and we will review our stance on at least a weekly basis, with special concern that we have sufficient rehearsal time for the upcoming programs.

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Initial post: Mar. 14, 2020, 1:00pm

Response to the Coronavirus/COVID-19 issue

We are certainly aware of this situation, and I (Galen) have been following it since it first started in Wuhan, China. We are also aware of both President Trump and Governor Wolf's statements on Thursday evening and Friday afternoon (respectively).

While not wanting to be alarmist or otherwise facilitate what seems to be some "hype" that is surrounding this, we also do not want to be in denial or irresponsible. To those ends, we will make a statement on this webpage and via the Lyrica Sacra chat by 9:00 pm Sunday evening concerning Monday's rehearsal, and later next week concerning any longer term impact.

Regardless, anyone who would feel personally compromised by attending a rehearsal is free to stay home. We would ask though that you inform us at your earliest convenience that you will not be in attendance, and that the COVID-19 issue is why you will not be coming.

Satellite groups: we will be/are in touch with each leader to discuss implementation for each group.

Thank you for your understanding and patience. Though we will likely get very varied counsel, we invite your concerns and thoughts, as well as your prayers for any longer term impact to this year's Lyrica Sacra program.

Galen Reed, for the Lyrica Sacra Board