

## "LOOKING FORWARD TO SPRING 2009"

Lee Irwin Culbreth  
Director



For this spring there is no particular theme for the music in the program but rather a very nice selection of familiar songs that will include some pop song hits plus a medley of tunes from a number of successful Broadway shows written by Charles Strouse. I will be your director and Vicki Bayer will be the accompanist. The position of Assistant Director is open and if anyone is interested please be sure to contact me to talk about it. There is also an excellent opportunity available for a small combo backup group (rhythm, guitar, bass and drums) to augment the keyboard or at the very least a trap set drummer.

To use as the weekly warm-up piece I have chosen "Angel" a powerful poetic piece with deep emotion but more importantly warm choral textures in an a cappella setting. This very expressive piece was written by Sarah McLachlan and may also be included in the program following "Heaven". The opener on the program will be a driving rock piece called "Bring The House Down" that was actually written collectively by a group called S Club 7 and is filled with infectious melodies, a driving rhythm and what has been described as a fun vocal stack.

The medley called "Applause!" turns out to be an outstanding salute

to Charles Strouse that includes songs from his most successful shows, including "Annie", "Applause!" and "Bye, Bye, Birdie". The arrangement by Mark Brymer includes six of his most popular songs: *Applause!*; *Put On a Happy Face*; *Kids!*; *It's the Hard Knock Life*; *Once Upon a Time and You're Never Fully Dressed Without a Smile*.

The rest of the program is not really a theme but a progression of songs more about various moods that we go through beginning with one that results from when we feel a little down due to ordinary events in our lives. To be followed by how we are encouraged and then uplifted. The first song in this segment about feeling a little down gained high popularity by its own rights topping the Billboard Hot 100 for over five weeks but also anyone who has ever watched at least one episode of the American Idol show will most likely recognize "Bad Day" as the exit theme for contestants of the show that were eliminated from the competition. Then for the country music lovers we have a song that became a #1 country hit performed by Rascal Flatts called "What Hurts The Most".

When we feel down nothing helps more than the encouragement that we receive from someone who we know cares. So to help our mood improve from feeling down we have the song "I'll Stand By You" the 1994 hit recorded by the Pretenders but more recently recorded by Carrie Underwood who added her own country flavor. If that did not cheer you up then surely "Everything" a song recorded by Michael Buble that reached #1 on the Billboard AC charts will.

In the event that the mood has still not changed to the positive we will bring out the heavy guns with a song

entitled "My Wish", another #1 hit by the Country Pop group Rascal Flatts. Certainly no one can continue to feel bad when a heart felt "You're Beautiful" is heard. This song debuted as a single by James Blunt and became a #1 hit in ten countries around the world.

So now we are starting to feel pretty good but just to make sure we want to state very clearly that we are in no mood to be "Lonely No More". This is a song from one of the most distinctive vocalist and accomplished contemporary songwriters and shows why Rob Thomas was rightfully named the Billboard Writer of the Year. Further we may at this point feel so sure of ourselves that we might even say something like "I Believe I Can Fly". In 1996 this song made it to #2 as a pop ballad.

Well how much higher can you go? How about "Heaven" another hit with a very positive message that went straight to the top recorded by the Los Lonely Boys. While we are on this high we will propel ourselves forward with "Unwritten". This setting of the chart-topping 2006 hit by Natasha Bedingfield is a heart-pounding and uplifting rendition that helped propel Team Lachey to victory on the NBC series Clash of the Choirs.

Now there is no place to go but "Home". So we finish with this hit that has made it to #1 on both the Adult and the AC charts and additionally achieved #5 on the Billboard Hot 100. A powerful rock anthem recorded by American Idol finalist Chris Daughtry filled with emotion that will hold the heart and not let go.



## Mark Your Calendar

### Board Meetings

after rehearsals on Feb. 16, Mar. 16, April 20 - Open to all choir members

## January 26

Rehearsals begin at Lutheran Church of the Covenant. (LCOC)

Registration: 7 PM  
Rehearsal: 7:30 to 9:45 PM

## February 23

Choir Party/Social after Rehearsal

## March 2

Line/Feature solo auditions following a shortened rehearsal

## April

### On-Site Rehearsals

April 13th, 7:30 PM  
St. Margaret's Anglican Church

April 20th, 7:30 PM  
TBD

## May Concerts

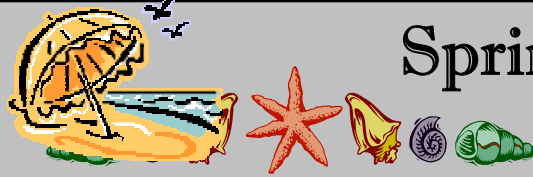
May 2nd, 8:00 PM  
TBD

May 3rd, 3:00 PM  
St. Margaret's Anglican Church

May 15-17  
Spring Tour - Rehoboth Beach

## August 31

Christmas Rehearsals Begin



# Spring Tour 2009!

May 15-17, 2009

Everybody enjoys a change of scenery! And that's exactly what the Woodbridge Community Choir (WCC) does in mid May each year. We head to Rehoboth Beach Delaware to perform our "Spring Concert Tour" so that those outside of Prince William County can also enjoy the splendor of our singing! This year we will spend the weekend of May 15-17 at Rehoboth Beach for our performance at the **Episcopal Parish of All Saints' Church** Saturday night May 16, 7PM. We will have a rehearsal on site Saturday morning and will arrange to have 20 double rooms available for interested choir members at the Oceanus Hotel for both Friday and Saturday nights.

Our primary purpose is to perform of course, but rest assured there is plenty of time to kick back and enjoy the fun activities that only Rehoboth Beach has to offer- a stroll on the Strand, shopping in numerous boutiques, yummy meals at local delicious restaurants, or just lots of sun and sand accented by fresh ocean air! For the more adventurous, there is always surfing, wake boarding and beach volleyball too!! Just don't forget to bring your wet suit and some sun block!

This trip is truly a case of- "the more the merrier" so please consider joining us for the WCC "Spring Concert Tour" at Rehoboth Beach. It is a great deal of fun and a wonderful opportunity to perform outside of Prince William County

*Lillian Koenig*  
*Special Events/Conference Chairman*

**Questions?** Contact Lillian Koenig, Special Events/Conference Chairman, at 703-680-7809 for additional information.

Episcopal Parrish of All Saints' Church  
St. George's Chapel  
18 Olive Avenue  
Rehoboth Beach, DE 19971

### Our Rehearsal Site:

**Lutheran Church of the Covenant** 15008 Cloverdale Rd.



### From Interstate 95

Take Interstate 95 to the Dale City exit. Follow the exit for Dale Boulevard. Stay straight on Dale Boulevard until you reach Cloverdale Road. Take a left at the light for Cloverdale Road. Follow Cloverdale down the hill and back up again. LCOC is located just past the 7-11 on the right side of the road.

### From the South on Minnieville Road

Take Minnieville Road North towards Dale City. Take a right onto Dale Boulevard. Follow Dale Boulevard to Cloverdale Road (4 lights). Take a right at the light for Cloverdale Road. Follow Cloverdale down the hill and back up again. LCOC is located just past the 7-11 on the right side of the road.

**From the North on Minnieville Road** Take Minnieville Road South towards Dale City. Take a left onto Dale Boulevard. Follow Dale Boulevard to Cloverdale Road (4 lights). Take a right at the light for Cloverdale Road. Follow Cloverdale down the hill and back up again. LCOC is located just past the 7-11 on the right side of the road.



## Registration Discount

During this period of economic hard times the Woodbridge Community Choir Board of Directors wants to offer a way to reduce or even eliminate your registration fee.

When you register and bring a new member for the Spring 2009 Concert Season your registration fee will be reduced by \$10 per person up to \$30. If you bring a new member after you register you can still receive a discount but it will be applied to the next concert season. A new member is anyone that has not sung for the past two concert seasons.

So, bring your friends and neighbors to join. Our 2009 Spring Concerts will be on Saturday, May 2nd at 8 PM and Sunday, May 3rd at 3 PM.

*Bill Lake*  
Chairman

## PLEASE CHECK IN EVERY WEEK!

It is very important that we know who is at rehearsal each week. It will only take a minute to stop at the table in the front lobby and let the person taking attendance know you are present. In addition, there are often handouts and important information available for you at the check-in table.



If you should arrive too late to actually check-in, please sign your name on the paper left on the table. You can then pick up any handouts available that evening. Please make a special effort every rehearsal to check in. Thanks!

## WCC NEEDS YOU!

For every concert season, a lot of work goes on behind the scenes  
We Need Your Help



- Can you play the piano? *Lee Irwin Culbreth can use your talent to help with rehearsals.*
  - Are you interested in being a Director or Assistant Director? *Talk with any member of the Board of Directors.*
  - Have you ever thought you would like to work on fundraisers, tape sales or concession sales? *Vicki Bayer needs you.*
  - Can you help with stage setup or lighting? *Terilee Hanshaw would like to talk with you!*
  - Can you contact people to take out ads in our programs? *Let Lynne Pazuros know.*
- Do you have photos we could use in our scrapbook? *Bring them to Jackie Topolski.*
- Do you have experience in designing flyers, brochures, programs? *Mark Cohen would be interested in talking with you.*

There are so many areas in a production where you can be of assistance. Please consider volunteering to help make our concerts special.

# Concert Attire for Spring 2009

## WCC Committees

### Special Events Committee

**Lillian Koenig**  
Help with planning and arrangements for our tour and other special performances.

### Nominating Committee

**Lynne Pazuros**  
Prepare slate of officers for June BOD elections, recruit new musical directors, accompanists, and Advisory Board members.

### Grant Committee

**Ria Barrows**  
Prepare and submit grant applications.

### Membership Management Committee

**Nona Duvall**  
Measure for and distribute vests and dresses. Hem dresses.

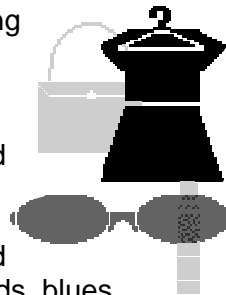
### Display Board Committee

**Jackie Topolski**  
Design and produce display board

(Continued)

Yes, we are already getting prepared for the concerts the first week in May 2009. As in the past the Spring season is more relaxed and not as formal as the Christmas season. We will NOT be wearing our long dresses, ladies, and our black vests, white tuxedo shirts and black bow ties, gentlemen.

What we will be wearing are long black slacks/trousers for both men and women and shirts with sleeves. The shirts should be solid jewel colors. That is deep colors of a variety of color. Shirts and blouses should be dark reds, blues, purples, greens—vivid colors, no pastels. If you like yellow it should be a gold tone,



if you like pink it should be a “hot” pink, no pale reds, blues, purples, greens, yellows or pinks,

Many women have blouses they wear during the holiday season that would be perfect for the concert.

As always, black comfortable shoes and opaque socks and stockings for the footwear for the Spring concert.

I will be available to explain this further to anyone who has a question. I can be reached at home from 2:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. and anytime until 9 p.m. on weekends at 703-680-0451.

*Nona Duvall*  
Membership Management Chairman

## The WCC Board of Director

WCC's By-Laws require all board members to be elected to an office for a term of one year. Elections are held at the June board meeting and are open to anyone. If you are interested and would like more information, let us know. Please feel free to call us at any time. Board meetings are held the third Monday of each month following rehearsal and are open to all choir members. Your suggestions, input and attendance is welcome. Please join us!

Name	Office	Phone number
Bill Lake	Chairman	703-792-7532
Lynne Pazuros	Vice Chairman	703-491-1820
Toni Brzyski	Secretary	703-680-0198
Bill Hadden	Treasurer	703-670-7406
Terilee Hanshaw	Production Chairman	703-680-6261
Lynne Pazuros	Marketing/Publicity Chairman	703-491-1820
Mark Cohen	Publications Chairman	703-680-0908
Vicki Bayer	Fundraising Chairman	703 670-8276
Jackie Topolski	Parliamentarian/Historian	703-680-9968
Lillian Koenig	Special Events/Conference Chairman	703-680-7809
Ria Barrows	Grants Coordinator	703-590-6659
Nona Duvall	Membership Management Chairman	703-680-0451
Lee Irwin Culbreth	Musical Director	703-590-3967

# Board Approves New Risers

With safety as an objective, soon to change will be sore backs, falling backwards and tight positioning with the planned purchase of new risers for the choir. Many have complained about the choir's risers being heavy, cramped and unsafe. The board of Directors has heard your complaints and agreed to acquire new risers for the choir.

Through the significant efforts of Allen Wheeler and the Production Committee, the Board had an excellent opportunity to review and support the acquisition of a much improved, modern set of risers. Mr. Wheeler's analysis of options covered products from many manufacturers. Some of the enhanced features over the current risers include: ~25 lb weight reduction per riser; enhanced width of step by 3 inches; and a back rail.

It is hoped that this addition to the choir will make for a more pleasant setup and enhanced choir experience. While we don't know if risers will dramatically enhance the choir's stage presence, it surely will enhance safety and provide an enhanced setting throughout the concert.



*Terilee Hanshaw  
Production Chairman*

## A FANTASTIC HOLIDAY CONCERT SERIES

With 6 concerts and two dress rehearsals the fall concerts represented the most significant challenge yet for our production team. It all worked out smoothly and efficiently due to those people who were not members of the Production Team who stepped up to assist. Specifically, the assistance from Allen Wheeler, Mark Sable, and all of the Topolski's. Allen, provided a significant level of effort to include the riser analysis (see the associated article), material transport and set-up/tear-down for all rehearsals and concerts. It is truly amazing that we had 8 major production related activities and he was an important factor in each one. Mark transported the risers which made the setup at Ferlazzo significantly reducing our transportation efforts. Furthermore, the Topoloski's were available for both concert locations from beginning to end ensuring that all the necessary activities were handled with hast and competence. With all of this assistance members of the Production team were able to participate in all warm-ups for the first time.

The Production Committee was given little more than a diverse set of seasonal selections to make a setting for the choir and visualizations for the audience. Ria Burrows, Toni Brzyski, Mark Cohen, Nona Duvall, Pamela Hanshaw, Terilee Hanshaw and new member Lillian Koenig worked with the director Irwin Culbreth to present a wonderful setting for the selections. Their continuing support through the set-up and tear-down of all the dress-rehearsals and concerts was astonishing.

Furthermore, Sean Ackerson, Ron Duquette, Larry and Debbie Unger gave of their time which resulted in a successful mix. Our sound and recording team Sean and Ron was spot on, not only working sound but assisting at the rehearsals and performances with both set-up and tear-down. They put that special touch to the concert ensuring the sound and balance was perfect. Larry and his lighting design were brilliantly implemented at both concerts. An important fact, that few many may aware of, is that Debbie provided the lighting control for the entire Ferlazzo concert, and a wonderful job indeed need. I hope for their unwavering support at our future concerts.

Although I have listed a number of folks in this note, many more are needed. Be a part of the process. We desperately need your support from planning to tear-down, your efforts will be appreciated. The choir is waiting for you.

*Terilee Hanshaw  
Production Chairman*

### WCC Committees

#### *Fund Raising Committee*

**Vicki Bayer**  
Plan and man fundraising events.

#### *Production Committee*

**Terilee Hanshaw**  
Transport & set-up  
risers, lights and  
sound equipment.  
Set up stage.

#### *Public Relations Committee*

**Lynne Pazuros**  
Prepare press releases  
and solicit  
advertising.

#### *Newsletter Committee*

**Mark Cohen**  
Write articles and  
mail newsletter.

#### *Social Committee*

**Lillian Koenig**  
Coordinate & set-up  
choir social.

If you are interested in volunteering for any of these committees - please contact the committee chair.

# Looking Back On Christmas 2008

The audience and choir alike were delighted with this past concert season. Both the music selections and the presentation were superb. It was a dual theme concert with the first half devoted to providing tribute to the birth of Jesus while the second half provided a series of songs highlighting Santa Clause.

Following a spirited opener entitled “Everywhere Christmas Tonight” the choir presented a Christmas standard “Sleep Little Jesus Boy”, with a flowing piano accompaniment. Then came “Behold That Light” a medley of songs based on three familiar old traditional spirituals but not at all in the style that the audience may have anticipated. To be sure, if the audience was fooled by the title “In Excelsis Deo” and perhaps thinking they were about to hear another dreamy Christmas song they were soon pleasantly surprised by the pure Gospel-rock grove Christmas song that it actually is. As the program progressed it soon became obvious that this was not to be just another ordinary Christmas concert as continuing with the next selection “Mary Sat a Rockin” provided a rocking medley of Southern Spirituals. Just before bringing out the hand bells the wrap up of the choral portion of the first half concluded with a jazzy-blues song called “Come on Down to Bethlehem”, which turned out to be a favorite of both the choir and audience.

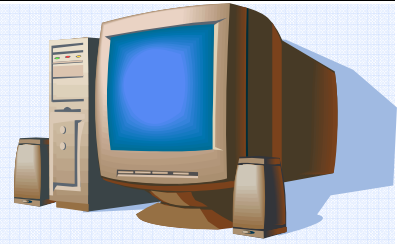
Then before the close of the first half of the concert there was a segment in which the choir was joined on stage by the St. Margaret's Anglican Church Hand Bell Choir under the direction of Ann Witty, a former director of the Woodbridge Community Choir. There were two selections for the combined voice and hand bell choirs but the feature piece was a major work entitled “Christmas Bells are Ringing” which included several traditional Christmas songs about bells arranged by Mark Hayes but with bell parts custom arranged by Ann Witty.



The second half began with a unique arrangement of a very traditional Christmas song called “Antiphonal Deck the Hall”. After that the most challenging selection on the program for the choir was a sparkling song called “Spirit of the Season” from the movie “The Polar Express”. Then another piece that became a choir favorite “Always Believe”, a gentle pop-style ballad that absolutely touched everyone's heart. Following that was what you might say is traditional in that it is an old song written by one of the Beatles, Paul McCartney called “Wonderful Christmas Time”.

At that point in the program began a series of traditional songs about Santa beginning with the song “It's the Holiday Season”, the up-tempo “Beach Boys” Christmas hit “Little Saint Nick”, the really good big girls Christmas list song “Santa Baby” and a medley including “Jolly Old St. Nicholas”, “Santa Claus is Comin' to Town” and “Up on the Housetop” done in a ‘60s rock style that included a speech-choir/rap section. The next selection was a medley of pop holiday favorites with the title “A Bit of Holiday Cheer” during which the audience was invited to sing-a-long. The final selection on the program the “Perfect Christmas Night” was a shoo-bie-doo-wah fun filled favorite from the movie “How the Grinch Stole Christmas”. The audience insisted on more so they were given a “Thirty Second Fa La La” which actually took about 49 seconds but the audience did not seem to mind at all.

# New Website Design



FYI- The link is not live. I just made it up for the purposes of the article. I thought it would be good to receive feedback from choir members- some of the younger members may have ideas more relevant to a broader audience. My son has suggested that we add multimedia components- live video clips- perhaps of rehearsals, or production activities.

The Woodbridge Community Choir (WCC) has developed a website with a whole new LOOK! We want everyone to know what a terrific organization the WCC is and to encourage them to learn more about us. The newly designed website provides easy to read information about all aspects of the WCC presented in a simple format and clean new lines. It has multiple links that are user friendly and logical to navigate. There are 13 different topics covering details about the WCC from its origin 42 years ago through the next concert season. Regardless of whether a user is interested in joining as a choir member, becoming a donor/sponsor, or wanting to assist with production activity, everything they need to know is at their fingertips! Our hope is that the newly designed website will entice those who want to sing in a choir, to participate in performances for the community or to give back to the community in some other way in 2009 to find the WCC the place to be!

We would like your feedback before we go live. Please take a moment to check out what we have developed and provide us any suggestions or recommendations you may have to make our website even better! Just log onto [www.woodbridgecommunitychoir.org/newsite](http://www.woodbridgecommunitychoir.org/newsite) and let us know what you think! The website team: Mark Cohen, Terilee Hanshaw, Lillian Koenig

*Lillian Koenig*  
*Special Events/Conference Chairman*

## Fundraising

A big shout-out to all of you who participated in our See's Candies holiday fundraiser! Thank you to all who participated in our two fundraisers last season. The profits from the games and from See's Candies fundraisers brought in much-needed funds for WCC. Thanks to all who contributed baked goods which were sold at our holiday concerts.

And, how can I express enough thanks to Pam Hanshaw for providing extensive behind-the-scenes support? Pam manned the sales tables before and after both concerts, with Matthew at her side, being his usual adorable self!

Thank you, Lois Cohen, for helping with sales on Saturday. And many thanks to Jenna Topolski and Allie Castro, who provided usher assistance at both concerts, handing out programs and collecting donations.



We will have another See's Candies fundraiser in the spring to raise funds for our upcoming concerts. Let's make 2009 a great year for WCC! I'm looking forward to seeing everybody in a couple of weeks.

*Vicki Bayer*  
*Fundraising Chairman*

Notetations

# Thank You

We wish to thank the many individuals and businesses whose generosity has enabled us to continue providing free concerts to the Prince William County community.

**OUR CONTRIBUTORS - CHRISTMAS 2008**

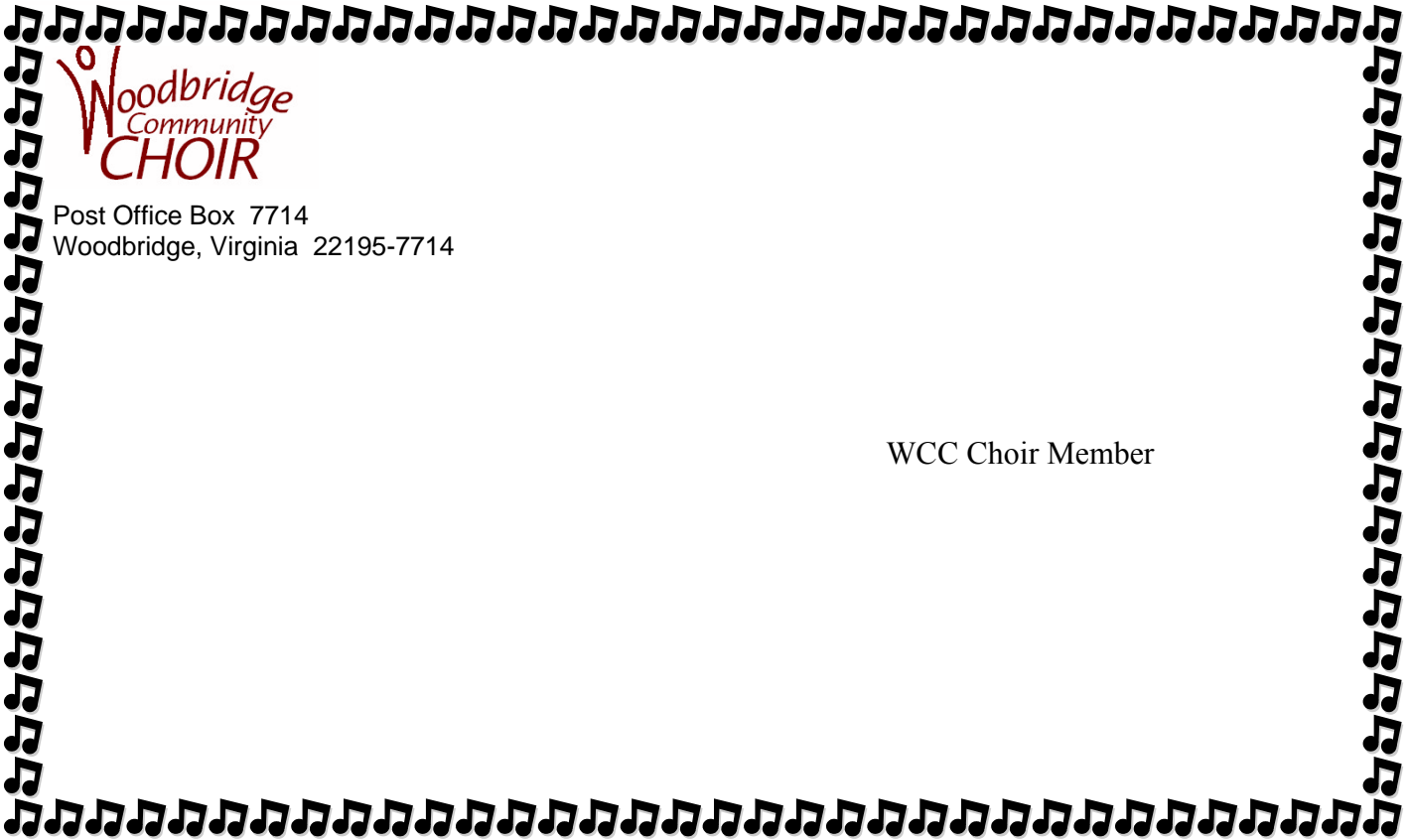
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