

## *The Emmaus Chorale*

1 September 2020



Hello dear Emmaus Chorale singers!

As August has passed, I am painfully aware that, in a normal year, we'd be starting rehearsals right now for our Christmas concert. I miss you all so much! The lack of making music together has left such a huge void in my life and I'm sure the same is true for you.

We've all found ways to cope with the isolation. I have taken up indoor vegetable gardening and am enjoying fresh produce daily, which has huge benefits for my life. Otherwise I read books, make puzzles (I'm a 1000 piece puzzle fanatic and own at least 150 puzzles...enough to go through a year, puzzling every evening, without ever doing the same one twice!), take walks or tend to my outdoor bird (or should I say squirrel?!) feeders. I'm sad because I know the hummingbirds will start migrating in 2-3 weeks...I hate to see them go!

I pray you are all staying safe and discovering new ways to bear up under this new definition of reality. I can't wait to see you all again and to hear your voices lifted in joyful song. But, until we can be safe doing so, I will treasure the memories of joyful song we've been able to make so far!

Love, peace and blessings to you all,

*Janet*

Hi everyone,

Lynda asked me to write a paragraph to include with the email. I don't really have too much to say. I miss seeing all of you. I miss seeing family and friends. Grateful for, but also tired of Zoom. Rather enjoying the quieter pace of life right now. It has sort of felt like a sabbatical for me music-wise. I have started playing more with the start of the school year. One church I play for opened up in June; it is odd to not play the liturgy and to not have any singing.

I think a lot about what the history books will have to say about 2020 a hundred years from now -- how we behaved, who we became, what the rest of the story will be. Will it be a turning point, the start of end of something, or just an outlier blip?

Anyway, I hope you all are well! I look forward to being together again!

*Cindy*

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Dear Fellow Chorale Singers ~

As Janet has noted, normally, we'd be back together again...re-gathering from our vacation breaks, catching up with each other's lives, beginning to explore new music together. The French refer to this time as *Rentrée*...cooler days after the 'dog days' of summer, a time of returning to routines. September, to me, always seemed more open to new possibilities than January's new year. Well, we still are not returning to routines, but I'm hoping & praying that new possibilities are on the horizon for all of us.

Have you established new routines or acquired new skills? Are you gardening, bird watching & 'puzzling' like Janet? [I'll bet Nancy Keeler has added a bunch of new species too her bird-watching list!] I've also done a ton of reading and walking, but I've also binged on British tv mysteries. I really miss traveling! Thank goodness for FaceTime & Zoom which enable us to see our 26 month old granddaughter in Salt Lake City. But, I agree with Cindy, there are days I don't want to attend another Zoom meeting! [I hesitate to propose one for later in September for Chorale...are you on-board?] For the past month, I have been working virtually with three colleagues in Silicon Valley who have been even more confined by rolling power blackouts, smoke and wildfires. So, while severe thunderstorms have swept through our area, others are suffering even more. We still count our blessings...we are safe and we are healthy...this too shall pass!

We hope you all enjoy a rest from your labors this Labor Day weekend & maybe celebrate with that final cookout of the summer!

Stay safe & healthy...and sing out!!

*Lynda*