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*Enriching lives through song*

**Susquehanna Chorale Announces Free Youth Choral Festival Virtual Concert**

MECHANICSBURG (November 5, 2020) – The Susquehanna Chorale will release a new virtual concert featuring the choral artistry of its educational choirs for children and youth. The concert is free to the public, and will be available via a link to the Chorale’s website beginning Nov. 22.

The virtual concert includes selections from the Chorale’s 2019 Youth Choral Festival, an inspiring intergenerational event with performances by the nearly 200 voices of the Susquehanna Children’s, Youth, and Young Women’s Chorales, and the Susquehanna Chorale. The Youth Choral Festival was performed last November at Messiah University’s High Center for the Performing Arts.

“For the safety of the public and our singers, the Susquehanna Chorale made the difficult decision to cancel all live performances in 2020,” said Linda L. Tedford, Artistic Director, Founder and Conductor. “But, our voices will still sing for the community in new ways.”

The virtual concert includes special messages from Conductor Tedford and the other youth choir conductors. The concert concludes with Mack Wilberg’s powerful *Anthem of Peace*, performed by the combined choirs and conducted by Ms. Tedford.

The virtual concert will be available simply by clicking on a link on the Chorale’s website, [www.susquehannachorale.org](http://www.susquehannachorale.org), on or after Nov. 22.

The educational choirs are an integral part of the Chorale’s mission. Students are chosen by audition. Participants learn sight-singing, vocal technique, and expressivity through a challenging repertoire representing a variety of musical eras and styles. Students representing 52 area school districts as well as home-schooled children are involved.

The Children’s Chorale, conducted by Judith Shepler, is composed of students from the fourth through the eighth grade. The Youth Chorale, conducted by George Diehl, is composed of students from the ninth grade through freshman year of college, and the Young Women’s Chorale, conducted by Dru Deitch, includes women from the same age group.

The Chorale wishes to thank the following sponsors, foundations, and donors for their support in making the virtual concert possible: Cross Keys Village in New Oxford, Anne M. and Philip H. Glatfelter III Family Foundation, Howard E. Heckler, Josiah W. and Bessie H. Kline Foundation, McCormick Family Foundation, The Presser Foundation, Renew Cumberland County Relief Block Grant Program, United Service Foundation, Inc., and University Music Service.

The Susquehanna Chorale is a recipient of Chorus America’s most prestigious award, the Margaret Hillis Achievement Award for Choral Excellence. In 2011, Conductor Tedford was honored by the American Choral Directors Association of Pennsylvania with the Elaine Brown Award for lifelong commitment to excellence and leadership in the choral art. In 2013, she received Theatre Harrisburg’s Award for Distinguished Service to the Arts in the Capital Region. The Chorale is funded in part by the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts.

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**Editor’s note: photo enclosed.**