



THE GRAND RAPIDS CHOIR OF MEN & BOYS

Dear GRCMB Family,

As I drive through Holland, Michigan, with my wife, Jennie, and our 18-month-old daughter, Josie, I've begun to notice the first signs of autumn. The trees are just starting to blush with color, our evening walks now call for a light jacket, and there's a crispness in the morning air.

Just last week, I was looking through photos from the summer and was struck by how much my daughter has changed in just a few short months. It's the kind of change we often miss day to day, but suddenly see when we pause and look back. Perhaps that's one of the gifts of the changing of seasons: they remind us to pause, reflect, give thanks for what has been, and welcome what is to come. This is especially true this year for the Grand Rapids Choir of Men and Boys, as we step into a season of change of our own.

This past May we celebrated the retirement of Scott and Jane Bosscher, giving thanks for their remarkable leadership, their years of dedication, and the countless lives they have touched through this organization. In these first couple of months as Artistic Director, I've had the privilege of meeting several men who sang as boys in this very choir. Nearly every one of them has told me, completely unprompted, how formative their experience was. It shaped them not only as musicians, but as people. I cannot help but reflect on the mission statement of the choir, which states that GRCMB exists to "encourage and support the spiritual and musical education of boys, and to serve the worship and arts communities of West Michigan." I see this mission lived out so faithfully in the lives of the boys and their families for generations. This ensemble does far more than teach boys to sing; it helps shape who they become and invites them into something larger than themselves.



To me, this is what music is all about: bringing people together, giving us glimpses of transcendence, and pointing us heavenward. I am deeply grateful and blessed to be leading an ensemble with such a rich history and such a meaningful future. And, I am especially grateful to you for helping make that future possible.

We began preparing for our 37th season this summer with the GRCMB Summer Camp, where over 30 boys participated! Our roster of boys now stands at 21 choristers—15 returning voices and 6 new singers, including two preparatory choristers. This past week, we held our first full-choir rehearsals of the season, bringing together the boys with our 23 gentlemen. Watching these boys join forces in song with the gentlemen has already become one of the best parts of my week!



We've also settled into a new rehearsal at St. Mark's Episcopal Church. After twenty-five years at Grand Rapids Community College, schedule changes called for a change of venue, and we are grateful to have found such a warm new partner. We are grateful to both Rev. Jed and Music Director Dr. Gary Gordon who have welcomed us with open arms.

This season, we will present four programs — Evensong (October 24th & 25th), Lessons & Carols (December 12th, 13th and 14th), Lenten & Easter Meditations (March 13th & 14th), and our May Program (May 22nd & 23rd). *All of our programs will once again be held at the Basilica of St. Adalbert and offered free to the community, as always.*

None of this happens on our own. The Lord has faithfully provided for this choir — and so often that provision comes through generous friends like you. Every gift, whatever size, becomes something real: from music and vestments, to scholarships for boys to participate. **As we begin this new season, I hope you'll consider a gift to help support the Grand Rapids Choir of Men and Boys.**

I am filled with gratitude — for Scott and Jane; for our Board of Directors; for the members of the choir, whose warmth and generosity have welcomed me so fully into this transition; and for you. Your support is an act of faith in what God is doing through GRCMB, and it makes it possible for this extraordinary ministry to continue its work in our community. Thank you for your partnership and support — I look forward to meeting you after a concert this season! And thank you, most of all, for welcoming me into the GRCMB family.

With gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Eric D. Reyes".

Dr. Eric D. Reyes, *Artistic Director*

The Grand Rapids Choir of Men & Boys is a registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Tax-exempt ID# 38-2919772.

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