

WELCOME

to our choir

Mission Statement

Our mission is to perform, foster and advance choral music in the Reading and Berks County Community.

RCS History:

Founded in 1875, the Reading Choral Society has a long and proud tradition of presenting vocal music, particularly symphonic choir masterworks, but also exploring and interpreting other genres. Under the energetic and nurturing leadership of Dr. Bier, our twelfth Music Director, the organization seeks to continue to pursue its mission to perform, foster, and advance choral music with a balance between honoring our heritage and looking to the future.



A rousing success, with all chorus members channeling their favorite Broadway stars in a fully committed, vibrant performance.

– Susan Pena *Magic of Broadway, February 17*

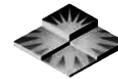


RCS Music Director:

Thank you for your interest in the 2019-2020 season of the Reading Choral Society. We are proud to be growing as an organization, bringing music to a larger audience and group of singers every year. This season we will start off December with the seasonal favorite "Messiah" and in March will present an array of Americana, including bluegrass and the shape-note music composed in the first days of the United States. In May, it is our pleasure to take part in the Reading Symphony Orchestra's season by joining them for Verdi's Requiem. This masterpiece is a favorite of RCS, and this will be our tenth performance since we first sang it in 1910. Of course, keep an eye out for our other events like Summer Sings, Gloria Singers, and our workshop and concert in celebration of the MLK holiday. Whether a singer, listener, or supporter of the arts, we hope to see you.



READING
CHORAL
SOCIETY



BERKS COUNTY
COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION



pennsylvania
COUNCIL ON THE ARTS

The RCS Concert Season is underwritten in part by grants from the Berks County Community Foundation, Pennsylvania Council on the Arts and the Reading Musical Foundation. The Reading Choral Society receives state arts funding support through a grant from the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, a state agency funded by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the National Endowment for the Arts, a federal agency.

GoggleWorks Center for the Arts
201 Washington Street, Suite 504
Reading, PA 19601
610-898-1939
www.readingchoral.org
information@readingchoral.org



2019



2020

Come and JOIN the choir

We would love to have you join us!

Are you interested in joining our singing community? Any person wishing to join RCS will be auditioned by the Music Director following a rehearsal throughout the year, with additional opportunities to audition at the Summer Sings.

We rehearse every Tuesday from late August through early May from 7-9pm at Christ Episcopal Church in Reading.

Call **610-898-1939** to arrange an audition

Awards & educational programs

RCS Awards – Scholarships

- **MVS Awards:** Students are nominated by High School Music Directors each spring. Each will receive an award from Reading Choral Society.
- **Region V Chorus Members:** Berks County students who participated in Region V Chorus (or higher) are honored for their achievements.
- **High School and College Scholarships:** Scholarships to high school seniors who will major in or participate in vocal/choral music in college and to college students who are continuing their major in music or a vocal/choral major.

Check the RCS website for more information about these awards & scholarships. All scholarships are audition based.

**Choral Society marks
100th anniversary of Armistice Day
with emotionally charged show.**
– **Susan Pena** *Celebration of Peace, November 2018*



Come and ENJOY our programs

144th Season Concerts:

1
DEC

Handel's Messiah

Muhlenberg High School Auditorium, 4pm. Joined by the Muhlenberg Camerata Choir, Reading Choral Society will be singing Messiah, accompanied by orchestra and featured soloists.

1
MAR

Roots of Americana

George Baer Chapel, Reading, 4pm. Enjoy an afternoon of Bluegrass music with Reading Choral Society and the Hillbillies of Cohesion.

2
MAY

Verdi's Requiem

Santander Performing Arts Center, 7:30pm. A presentation of Verdi's Requiem by Reading Symphony Orchestra will include Reading Choral Society as the chorus.

Community Engagement:

18
JAN

Winter Sing in honor of Martin Luther King Jr. Dr. Anthony Leach will be the Guest Director. This workshop is for singers and choral directors at Christ Episcopal Church.

14
MAR

Spring Sing: Celebration of Women 2020. Dr. Amy Voorhees, Director Of Choral Arts at Susquehanna University will lead the workshop focusing on women in music. This workshop will be held at Christ Episcopal Church

29
MAR

Gloria Singers Concert – Berks Catholic High School – 4pm . Please attend the 10th annual concert with Berks County parochial students and RCS members singing together in a finale concert.

2020 Summer Sing workshops:

More information will be posted on the RCS website listing the Guest Directors, location and title of each workshop. These workshops are open to the public. Everyone Welcome!

20
JUNE

18
JULY

15
AUG

Check our website for locations, registration and further details. for each of the singing workshops. A light lunch and beverages will be provided with registration fee. Biographies for each director will be on the RCS website. Hope you will join us at each of these events throughout the summer and help us to keep Berks county singing!



Choral Society's collaboration with 2 groups is breathtaking.

– **Susan Pena** *Faure's Requiem, April 2018*

Help us SUPPORT the society

2019-20 ticket prices:

General Admission \$15 in advance & \$20 at door; Student \$10. To order tickets, please call the RCS office at 610-898-1939 or order through the website. Tickets for the RSO Concert on May 2nd should be purchased through RSO.

How to support the Reading Choral Society?

Your support ensures that the RCS will be able to continue providing high caliber music performances in the greater Reading community.

Here are several ways to help –

- Continue attending our performances. Listeners are every bit as important as singers in supporting choral music.
- Become a volunteer. RCS is always looking for volunteers to help with their year round events.
- Support RCS fundraisers – Boscov's Friends Helping Friends (October 16, 2019); GALA (January 24, 2020), Golf Tournament (June 9, 2020), etc.
- Contribute to our Annual Giving Campaign which supports general operating expenses for our concert season. Help us to be able to continue to hire quality musicians, directors, accompanists, give awards and scholarship to high school and college students, and to provide the quality performances the community enjoys.
- Make your tax-deductible contribution payable to RCS on the RCS website or mail to:

Reading Choral Society
201 Washington Street, Suite 504
Reading, PA 19601