

THE Voice



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2026 CONFERENCE ISSUE

Expanding the Choral Music Archive: The Demetrius Project and Boulanger Initiative



The Demetrius Project

Created in 1998 by the Washington Men's Camerata (*pictured*) with support from the National Endowment for the Arts, the Demetrius Project began with a simple but ambitious idea: preserve repertoire written for tenor and bass voices and make it available to ensembles everywhere. The library, which holds more than 3,300 titles and roughly 200,000 individual scores, recently received an upgrade and has evolved from only a physical archive to a now fully searchable, digital archive. Choral leaders can browse by composer, title, voicing, or language, and submit borrowing requests.

The collection includes materials from universities such as Yale University, Harvard University, Princeton University, Dartmouth College, and Georgetown University, alongside contributions from performance organizations like the U.S. Army Chorus and the Gay Men's Chorus of Washington DC. It includes arrangements by composers such as Charles Ives and Darius Milhaud, alongside figures like Marshall Bartholomew and Fenno Heath, whose contributions helped shape collegiate and community choral traditions in the United States.

The library focuses on accessibility to the choral community. The collection is available to tenor/bass choruses across the country at no cost, with only postage requested from those able to cover it. The Washington Men's Camerata continues to curate and expand the archive and has goals to eventually fully digitize the collection so that scores can be accessed online and with portable sheet music tablets.

Boulanger Initiative

At the heart of Boulanger Initiative's work is a simple, urgent premise: The canon is not fixed. Through performance, education, and commissioning, the organization champions music by women and gender-marginalized composers, ensuring that what gets preserved, programmed, and performed reflects a broader spectrum of voices. Boulanger Initiative has a database of its own that allows users to explore gender-marginalized composers and their works.

That philosophy came to life during its annual WoCo Fest 2026: Transcend, a two-day festival at the Mansion at Strathmore in Maryland that took place on April 24 and 25. Featuring concerts, workshops, and conversations, the festival gathered artists who span centuries and styles, from Hildegard von Bingen to Rhiannon Giddens. Performers included Claire Chase, Maeve Gilchrist, and the Argus Quartet, animating a repertoire that refuses to sit quietly at the margins.

Both Boulanger Initiative and the Demetrius Project are helping the choral world get closer to a fuller, more inclusive archive.



BACH CHOIR OF BETHLEHEM COLLABORATES WITH MINOR LEAGUE BASEBALL TEAM TO CELEBRATE AMERICA'S 250TH BIRTHDAY



On May 27, Coca Cola Park in Allentown, Pennsylvania heard thousands of human voices all joining in song. The stadium is home to the Lehigh Valley IronPigs, the region's Minor League Baseball team, who collaborated with the Bach Choir of Bethlehem to put on a concert titled *Let Freedom Sing*. This unlikely pairing of two very different organizations resulted in a civic-scale chorus, gathering more than 5,000 singers from across Pennsylvania's Lehigh Valley and beyond, in celebration of the 250th anniversary of the United States.

The evening built toward a mass sing-along finale that brought every participant into a single, surging ensemble, finishing with a fireworks display overhead.

Tickets were open to everyone—including those who may not have any history with singing. For those who did want to follow each note exactly, there was an option to include sheet music with a ticket purchase. Every attendee left with a commemorative cap that said "Let Freedom Sing."

Appointments and Retirements

Vernon Huff (*pictured*) has been named as music director of the **Buffalo Philharmonic Chorus**.

He will begin his position in July. He currently serves as director of choral activities and associate professor of music at SUNY Fredonia.



Mary Finch (*pictured*) began the position of executive director of the **San Francisco Girls Chorus** in March. She brings experience in performance, operations, and philanthropy, and has served in some of the Bay Area's most well-known cultural institutions. ►

