

# County choral society and sinfonietta accepting members

## Set to perform Handel's 'Messiah' in November

By Ashley Gallagher  
News Star Reporter

The Garvin County Choral Society and Sinfonietta is searching for members.

The intergenerational, independent performing arts ensemble is open to regional high school-aged students and above. Auditions are not required to join the choir; however, auditions will be required for solo parts.

"We're inviting anyone and everyone who wants to sing. If you feel like you can sing in the shower then you can sing in our choir," said Steve Freeman, general manager for the choral society.

The Garvin County Choral Society and Sinfonietta is

directed by First Presbyterian Church Director of Music Jack Bowman, a native of Pauls Valley.

"Jack has a history of creating these organizations in the communities he's been to. He's a professional educator and he knows music very well," Freeman said.

Bowman has conducted professional and volunteer choirs and orchestras across the United States and in 11 European countries. He conducted the world-famous Zoltan Kodaly Choir in Hungary and the great story-book ballets of Tchaikovsky in Russia. He is a regular guest conductor of the Sinfonietta de Paris.

Bowman said he hopes the

Garvin County Choral Society and Sinfonietta will enrich the cultural life of Garvin County residents with great choral music, oratorios, light operas and children's musicals.

"[I want] to enhance the level of music performance by bringing to the area the highest quality professional orchestral and vocal musicians for local performances," Bowman said. "[And] to provide area singers of all ages an opportunity to sing the great secular and sacred choral repertoire of the past and present."

The ensemble is set to perform Handel's "Messiah" November 14 at the First Presbyterian Church. Other upcoming concerts being

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considered are Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart's "Requiem & Charpentier: Te Deum" (Spring 2022) and Clark Gesner's "You're A Good Man, Charlie Brown" (Summer 2022).

Participants are asked to pay a \$50 participation fee per season. Bowman said there are options for those experiencing financial difficulties. Music will be provided free of charge.

During concerts, members will be asked to follow a dress code: black dresses or slacks for ladies and a white shirt/black bow tie and black/dark suit or black coat and black slacks for men.

Anyone interested in joining the Choral Society and Sinfonietta is welcome to attend rehearsals at the First Presbyterian Church in Pauls Valley Sundays at 1:30 p.m., beginning Sept. 12. The church is located at 320 N. Walnut Street.

Bowman said it is difficult to predict how many people will show up to the first rehearsal.

"I have had about 25 people so far who have said they are planning to sing," he said.

"I think we may have 40 or 50 to start with. In the spring, we have two choirs joining us: one from Paris with 70 members and one Oklahoma University choir with 40."

Aside from participants, the Garvin County Choral Society and Sinfonietta is also searching for individuals to join their Board of Directors.

Current board officers include Dan Barney (Chairman), Renee Myler (Secretary), Vicki Renni (Treasurer); Elected Directors Kathleen Carlton, Allison Dunham, Peggy Patton and Ex-Officio Members Bowman and Freeman.

"The Board of Directors is constituted to help ensure successful financial operations," Bowman said. "Membership on the board will include major donors, corporate sponsors and church representatives. In order to obtain financial support from individual donors, corporations and foundations, the board will incorporate and obtain a 501(c)(3) federal tax status."

For more information about joining the ensemble, serving on the Board of Directors or making a donation, contact Jack Bowman at 612-226-7944 or Steve Freeman at 918-257-0770.