



It's been just a year since the Ferndale Community Choir was invited to sing Handel's Messiah at Carnegie Hall. Sunday was our last of many rehearsals in Ferndale since we started in May.

By Thanksgiving, 55 singers and more than 30 friends and family will be in New York City to begin three days of intense rehearsal with 400 other singers from around the world, culminating in a concert under the direction of Dr. Jonathan Griffith, complete with symphony orchestra and professional soloists.

The experience of learning challenging music, and growing individually and as a group would have been great all by itself. But what has made the past year absolutely extraordinary has been the support of our community. Your generous contributions and donations made the cost for singers reasonable enough that all who were able to attend will be there.

We really can't express our thanks enough. Some of those who donated asked to remain anonymous, and there are so many individual donations that to list them all would look like the Ferndale telephone book. But there are some who have provided help publicly and we want to thank them in the same way.

First and foremost – our thanks to Caroline Titus and the Ferndale Enterprise, who kept the choir and our fundraising efforts both fun, and front and center these many months. Not to sound too corny, but . . . we sing your praises!

Thanks to Karen Pingitore, a great sounding board and grand promoter. Our thanks to the Ferndale Rotary Club for their invitation to speak, and their generous donation. Thank you to the remarkable organizations that provided grants. We have more gratitude than we can convey for the anonymous benefactor who matched \$25,000 in donations. Many thanks to Paul Beatie and The Old Steeple for hosting our variety show fundraiser – a ton of fun in a marvelous musical space. And thank you, thank you, thank you to all those who organized and helped at fundraisers, encouraged us, and you, who contributed so very generously.

We're humbled and inspired by your support, and eager to represent our community in New York City. Thank you for making it possible. With gratitude, members of the Ferndale Community Choir.