SOLARIUM
VOCAL ENSEMBLE
ILLUMINATED ARTISTRY, RADIATING LIGHT

August 2026

Dear friends,

On behalf of my Solarium co-founders Hannah Miller and Andrea McGaugh, I wish to express my sincerest gratitude to everyone who attended July's launch party for **Solarium Vocal Ensemble.** We were deeply moved and encouraged by the presence of so many friends, family members, and colleagues, both old and new. Your support and enthusiasm has buoyed us as we embark on this new endeavor, and we are incredibly grateful to have such a wonderful community behind us.

For those who were unable to join our launch event last month, we are eager to share more about this new organization. What began as a conversation and a shared desire to perform Handel's *Messiah* has since evolved into a new professional vocal ensemble rooted in Rochester and the greater Western New York community.

- *Solarium:* Light, with its life-giving and rejuvenating connotations, is a guiding image, theme, and enduring source of inspiration for this ensemble. Merriam-Webster's dictionary defines a solarium as both a "a glass-enclosed porch or room" and "a room used especially for sunbathing or therapeutic exposure to light".
- *Illuminated artistry:* Solarium is committed to showcasing the remarkable depth of musical talent around Western New York and performing at the highest standard. By connecting the extraordinary musicians in our own backyard, we strive to contribute to Rochester's vibrant choral tradition and strengthen its presence as a center for exceptional choral music.
- *Radiating light:* Beyond the concert hall, we hope to emanate light through performances and lectures in partnership with local hospitals, libraries, and other community spaces.

We hope you will consider attending performances in our upcoming inaugural season, which will feature Handel's *Messiah* and Morten Lauridsen's *Lux Aeterna*. Both works are situated around renewal and rebirth in the face of despair, and inspire hope through everlasting, persistent light.

Save the date for Handel's *Messiah* on Friday, December 18, 2026! Please visit our website www.solariumvocalensemble.org to purchase tickets and learn more about our organization.

Thank you for your support of Solarium Vocal Ensemble, and for joining us at the beginning of this journey. May we all be inspired to be beacons of light in our communities!

With gratitude,

Jonathan Thomas Madden
Artistic Director, Solarium Vocal Ensemble