



## **Atlanta Homeward Choir**

*Empowering the Homeless Through Music, and Inspiring the Housed to Action*

### **Contact**

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### **Mission**

The Homeward Choir works to bring together people from every background and belief system who have ever battled homelessness, using music and performance art as a vessel to uplift, encourage and instill a sense of community in its participants.

### **Recent Performances**

#### *Atlanta Hawks Halftime Performance*

January 15, 2018

Atlanta, GA

The Atlanta Homeward Choir was one of three featured choirs that came together to perform a special halftime show in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

#### *Christmas on the Hill*

December 10, 2017

The Catholic Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, Atlanta, GA

The 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Christmas on the Hill joins both the Atlanta Homeward Choir women and men's choirs and the Shrine Music Ministry along with a full orchestra for an evening of Christmas classics.

#### *Caroling in the Park*

December 4, 2017

Woodruff Park, Atlanta, GA

The first concert of the 2017-2018 season featuring both the Atlanta Homeward Choir women's and men's choirs along with the Georgia State University Choral Union will take place at Woodruff Park on December 4.

### **About the Homeward Choir**

The Atlanta Homeward Choir, a 501(c)(3) organization, operates two choirs – a men's choir and the recently launched women's choir. Participants in these choirs come from all walks of life, some with prior music training and many without. Since its launch in 2013, the Atlanta Homeward Choir has received national, and international media attention and continues to grow as it shares its mission to uplift, encourage and instill a sense of community through the music.

Each season the Choir performs numerous concerts across Atlanta including performances at Atlanta City Hall, The Atlanta Public Library, The Catholic Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, and has performed the National Anthem for the Atlanta Hawks and The Atlanta Braves. In December 2015, The Atlanta Homeward Choir traveled to Washington DC and performed at The White House and on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial. The Choir's journey was featured on the NBC Nightly News, The Washington Post, and many others news outlets.



In 2017 the Atlanta Homeward Choir formed a year long educational exchange with the Georgia State University Choral Union. Together the groups will use choral music as a tool to engage with issues of homelessness in Atlanta. The goal of this collaboration is to "call the housed to action" by allowing students to get to know the homeless in our city and to raise awareness about the nuanced layers involved in breaking the cycle of homelessness.

The women's choir season begins in October and continues through March. Many of the women who participate in the choir are residents of City of Refuge ([www.cityofrefugeatl.org](http://www.cityofrefugeatl.org)), an organization that provides temporary supportive housing and job training and placement services. The women's choir is led by artistic director, Matt Wauchope, who also serves as choral director at Oakhurst Presbyterian.

The men's choir season begins in November and continues through March. Many of the men's choir participants are guests of the Central Night Shelter ([www.cnsatlanta.org](http://www.cnsatlanta.org)), a joint effort of Central Presbyterian Church and the Catholic Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, both located on Capitol Hill in downtown Atlanta. Participation in the choir is open to all shelter guests, as well as to other members of the community who were once homeless and are now housed, and many Atlanta Homeward Choir alumni who return each season to serve as mentors. The men's choir continues to be led by founder and executive director Dónal Noonan who will be joined this year by GSU Conducting Graduate Student, Justin Han.

The Atlanta Homeward Choir uplifts the men and women who participate while changing the perception of homelessness in the community by exposing the gifts in these fellow human beings who have been so easily overlooked.

Through generous donations from supporters across the world the Atlanta Homeward Choir formed partnerships with Project Community Connections, Inc. ([www.pccihome.org](http://www.pccihome.org)), First Step ([www.firststepstaffing.com](http://www.firststepstaffing.com)), City of Refuge ([www.cityofrefugeatl.org](http://www.cityofrefugeatl.org)), and the Central Night Shelter ([www.cnsatlanta.org](http://www.cnsatlanta.org)). Since 2015 the Atlanta Homeward Choir, in collaboration with its partners, has helped 70% of participants secure jobs, placed 45% in permanent housing and 15% in temporary housing.

### **Donate**

Online: [www.atlantahomewardchoir.org](http://www.atlantahomewardchoir.org) or mail to: Atlanta Homeward Choir, 1270 Caroline Street, Suite D120-388, Atlanta, GA 30307

### **History**

The Atlanta Homeward Choir was formed in November 2013 by Dónal Noonan, Music Minister at the Catholic Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, located in downtown Atlanta. Dónal was moved by what he saw on his morning commutes through the downtown streets. He noticed the same faces each day, offering a morning greeting as they sat as if they were waiting for something. The native of Kilcock Ireland wanted to help these familiar faces and came to the realization that music was his biggest gift to share. Dónal went to the Central Night shelter, and asked for volunteers to join the choir. What began with a few grew to nearly 20 participants. The performers' confidence was lifted and self-worth improved as they felt what it is like to be part of a community again and found some stability in lives that may have otherwise felt



unstable. Four years after its inception, the Atlanta Homeward Choir formed its first women's choir to further fulfill the organization's mission of bringing people together from every background and belief system who have ever battled homelessness, using music and performance art as a vessel to uplift, encourage and instill a sense of community.