



SUMMER 2018

NEWSLETTER

WHAT WE'VE BEEN DOING

What a wonderful year we've had! As the fifth season for Atlanta Homeward Choir (AHC) comes to a close, we are thrilled to share some significant milestones and new developments. Our mission, to empower the homeless through music and to inspire the housed to action, continues to grow and expand its reach.

WOMEN'S CHOIR

The launch of our women's choir has been the manifestation of a long-held dream and vision of our choir founder, Dónal Noonan. Musical director Matt Wauchope came on board and swiftly began the season on October 7th with nine singers in a space provided by PCCI, Project Community Connections, Inc. Anna Marie Rosse organized a group of weekly volunteers who provided babysitting services so that the singers could enjoy rehearsals and know their children were taken care of. Saturday practices ended with beautiful lunches prepared by volunteers.

Performances:

After two months of practice, the women made their premier at the Woodruff Park concert with the Georgia State University Choral Union on December 4th. That was followed by another performance at the 5th annual Christmas on the Hill Concert on December 10th and a concert at City of Refuge on December 16th.

MEN'S CHOIR

The men celebrated another successful season with a half dozen performances, including a spotlight concert at an Atlanta Hawks game. We have been blessed that our message continues to find new avenues and audiences.

Performances:

Musical director Dónal and assistant director Justin Han from GSU kicked off the season on November 7th with 17 men. Less than a month later, on December 4th, the choir had its first performance at Woodruff Park with the Georgia State University Choral Union. Just one week later, we celebrated our 5th annual Christmas On the Hill Concert. On December 16th, the choir sang with the Trey Clegg Singers at Morehouse College and then performed on January 12th at AmericasMart. After the holidays, a major highlight was the guys singing as part of the half time show at the Atlanta Hawks game on January 15th as part of their MLK Celebration. It was amazing! Click [here](#) to watch. The group ended the season with the Women's Choir and the GSU Choral Union for a fantastic collaborative concert entitled "The Road Home" on March 23 held at [The Shrine](#).

PERSONAL UPDATES

We are happy to share that four more men and one woman from this season are now housed. They are getting back to work with the help of mentors and our incredibly passionate group of alumni. Our partnership with PCCI continues to help our men and women secure jobs and permanent housing.

FUNDRAISERS

In addition to our Christmas concert, we had several other successful fundraisers last year. We ended the summer with a beautiful rooftop garden party at Newell Brands in September, and we celebrated being Home for the Holidays at Jaye Watson's home in November. Thanks to one-of-a-kind donated items from board member Chris Rosse's store at AmericasMart, our silent auctions, together with donations and tickets, helped us raise close to \$9000 at our events.

IN THE NEWS

Our first concert of the season, held at Woodruff Park, was covered by 11Alive News. The choir did a wonderful job showcasing our women and men. You can watch the story [here](#).

We say goodbye and thank you to Michael Fahrner, our graduate student volunteer from Georgia State University. Michael got engaged this year and has moved to Pennsylvania to be with his future wife. We are extremely grateful that Michael shared his talents with us to update the website and handle social media. Thanks to Michael, we are able to tell the story of who we are on a daily basis to over 1,200 followers on Facebook. If you haven't followed us yet, check out our Facebook page at: www.facebook.com/atlantahomewardchoir and give us a thumbs up!

Justin, our assistant from GSU, is moving onto his new assignment, but we are delighted to welcome Sam Potts to the AHC leadership team.

Dónal has been invited to meet and speak with organizations around the country that are looking for him to share his guidance and vision with other communities inspired to create a street choir. In five short years, his simple idea to give homeless people sitting outside The Shrine something worth waiting for has become a national model of compassion and transformative action.

LOOKING AHEAD TO 2018-2019

We are so happy to announce that we have accepted an invitation to sing with Harmony Hope and Healing in Chicago, Illinois, this coming December. We will sing for a homeless memorial at the famous Old St. Pats Catholic Church in downtown Chicago on December 18th.

Our Second Annual Rooftop Garden Fundraiser is set for Thursday, September 27th, at 6pm. Get your tickets [here](#).

Our 6th Christmas On the Hill Concert will be on Sunday, December 9th, at 5pm at The Catholic Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in downtown Atlanta.

www.atlantahomewardchoir.org



THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

It cannot be said enough. Without you, we would not be able to do what we do. Music may be the catalyst for change in our singers' lives, but it is your devotion and generosity that truly helps us lead them homeward. We are humbled and blessed to be on this journey, and we thank you for taking it with us. God bless, and we'll see you in a few months for the launch for the 2018-19 season!

Please consider becoming a sustaining supporter. You can make your tax deductible donation in one of two ways:

MAIL:

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ONLINE:

www.atlantahomewardchoir.org



The Atlanta Homeward Choir, a 501(c)3 organization, 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.