

# Wakefield Choral Society



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*FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:*

Wakefield Choral Society Celebrates 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary with Spring Pops Concert

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The Wakefield Choral Society invites you to celebrate their 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary at their Spring Pops concert at the Americal Civic Center in Wakefield on Saturday, May 10th at 8:00 p.m. The concert features the Wakefield Choral Society under the direction of Stoneham resident Nancy McGhee, and the Middlesex Concert Band conducted by James O'Dell of Melrose.

“Many community choruses falter after a few years” says Wakefield Choral Society President Judi Grogan of Melrose, “but we’re proud that we’ve been singing clear and strong for twenty consecutive years.” Nancy McGhee, who has been the Choral Director since 2006 says, “The longevity of the Choral Society is a real tribute to the singers in the region who have put their hearts and souls into this group year after year.” A few Choral Society members including Sylvia Burnett of Peabody, Sonia Fuller and Lynn Hawes both of Wakefield, have been with the group from the very beginning.

The concert begins with the Wakefield Choral Society accompanied by pianist Joe Beninati of Reading. In honor of twenty years of singing, the set includes three pieces which celebrate music: *Your Voices Tune* by George Frideric Handel, *If Music Be the Food of Love* by Andy Beck, with soloist Patti Hanks of Wakefield and *You Can't Stop The Beat* from Hairspray by Marc Shaiman and Scott Wittman, with soloist Nicole Egidio of Wakefield. The next selections focus on the British Isles with the men of the Choral Society singing *Annie Laurie*, arranged by Victor Johnson, then the women singing *I Know Where I'm Going*, arranged by David Stocker, with soloists Christine Lahey of North Andover and Wendy Ebeling of Wakefield and then *Brigadoon Medley*, arranged by Erik Leidzen. The last pieces in this set all debuted twenty years ago in 1988. They are *On The Steps of the Palace*, by Stephen Sondheim and James Levine, a vocal solo by Melissa Bisso of Wakefield, *The Phantom of the Opera Medley*, arranged by Ed Lojeski, with soloist Merrith Sabo-Jones of Woburn and *One Moment in Time*, arranged by John Higgins.

After a short intermission, The Middlesex Concert Band will perform a program that features popular hits from American composers. The set will highlight music from George and Ira Gershwin, Stephen Foster, Benny Goodman, Glenn Miller and Leroy Anderson. Selections include *Strike up the Band*, *Tribute to Stephen Foster*, and Boston Pops favorite Arthur Fiedler's composition *Buglers Holiday*. The Band will

also play the swing selections *In the Mood*, *Stompin' at the Savoy*, *Let's Dance*, *Moonglow*, and *Sing, Sing, Sing*.

For the finale, the chorus and band will join together to perform *Somewhere over the Rainbow* and *Why we Sing*. Former Choral Society members in the audience will be invited to the stage to join in a performance of *Let Freedom Ring*.

The Wakefield Choral Society is comprised of more than 60 amateur voices from Wakefield and nearby towns. The chorus and the Middlesex Concert Band present a winter pops and a spring pops concert annually. The chorus also participates in Wakefield's Veterans' Day ceremonies. Membership is open to anyone who enjoys singing and can carry a tune; the group happily combines all levels of singing ability. Rehearsals are held weekly on Monday evenings at 7:30 pm in the Music Room of Wakefield High School. The first four rehearsals of each season are considered "open rehearsals". They offer an opportunity for newcomers to decide if they want to join before paying the membership fee for the season. Rehearsals for the Holiday Pops concert will begin on September 8th. For more information see [www.wakefieldchoralsociety.org](http://www.wakefieldchoralsociety.org) or contact WCS president Judi Grogan at [judi.alto1@comcast.net](mailto:judi.alto1@comcast.net).

With over 60 performers, the Middlesex Concert Band of Wakefield, Massachusetts has a rich symphonic sound. The repertoire includes traditional and contemporary wind ensemble music, marches, big band sounds, folk tunes and music from Broadway and Hollywood. From September to May, the Middlesex Concert Band presents a series of pops and holiday concerts. During the summer months, the band can be heard playing traditional outdoor concerts in town parks and commons throughout the region. Visit [www.mcbconcertband.org](http://www.mcbconcertband.org) for more information.

Concertgoers may purchase reserved tables ahead of time by calling chorus manager Tom Merchant at 781-246-6444, or may purchase unreserved tickets at the door. Reserved tables for eight are \$120. Reserved tables for ten are \$150. Unreserved tickets are \$10 for adults and \$5 for senior citizens and children. Refreshments will be sold before the concert, and during the intermission. The Americal Civic Center is located at 467 Main Street, Wakefield, MA (Next to the Galvin Middle School). The center is handicapped accessible.

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