

PRESS RELEASE

Bread & Roses Chorus to Present Seasonal Program: Be the Light

DeKalb, IL, September 6, 2025 – Bread & Roses Chorus will present their annual holiday concert, "Be the Light," at 3 p.m. on Saturday, December 6, 2025 at Westminster Presbyterian Church, 830 N. Annie Glidden Road, DeKalb, IL. The seasonal program will feature songs of light, hope, miracles, dreams, as well as some "light" fun, seasonal holiday songs.

The program will feature treble voices singing a cappella and with piano and some percussion accompaniment. Surprising interpolations of heartfelt traditional favorites, "Night of Silence," as well as humorous new imaginings of holiday carols, "The Feminist Holiday Songbook," will be featured. Additional selections include the invigorating gospel spiritual "Go Where I Send Thee!" and the touching Indigo Girls song, "There's Still My Joy," which reminds us all to be mindful of those with hurting hearts during the holidays, along with many other stirring musical works.

Director Sherri Lasko shared her inspiration for the program: "[Composer] Lea Morris was inspired by Amanda Gorman's powerful poem, 'The Hill We Climb' to create her own anthem to 'Be the Light.' It is upon this beautiful piece that we created a program of music to inspire us all to be the light, hold on to hope, believe in miracles, and keep dreaming. We've chosen music that will touch deeply, comfort those who may be facing grief or loss during the holidays, and lift spirits with love and laughter. There will be songs of the stars and moon, of one child that can change the world, and of the true meaning of the holidays. Building bridges between all beliefs and traditions, we hope our voices will remind you that you are never alone in the dark. Please join us for an afternoon of harmony, warmth, and light."

There is no admission for this program, however, free-will donations are greatly appreciated. Donations this semester will go toward the Bread & Roses Festival Fund to help chorus members defray costs associated with attending the Sister Singers Network Festival in Chicago this coming July. These national festivals, held every four years, gather choruses to "support and enrich the women's choral movement." Chorus members will attend workshops and performances, perform themselves, and come back stronger and empowered in their mission, with fresh ideas and new music to share with their audiences!

About Bread & Roses Chorus

Bread & Roses Chorus formed in 1995 as a result of a regional women's choral festival at NIU. The name was inspired by the poem "Bread and Roses," written by James Oppenheim, set to music by Mimi Farina. The lyrics honor the women of the labor movement of the early 20th century, and its key phrase, "Hearts starve as well as bodies; give us bread, but give us roses," has become their mantra, so they sing it at every rehearsal and concert. Through the joy of music, the chorus gives audiences reason to think, laugh, and even cry. In three-decades of music-making, they have raised funds for many worthy not-for-profit causes and are proud to use music as a means to uplift and inspire all.

Check out breadandroseschorus.org for more information about the chorus and its mission.