

# Choral Festival at Brookhaven

Our Twenty-second Year!

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## News from Area Choruses

Long Island is home to a number of choral groups who add so much to our cultural life. Here is some current information on several more of them as they gear up for their Fall 2016 seasons:

- ❖ Summer Sing Two. If you can't get enough of the Mozart *Requiem*, the Huntington Choral Society is hosting a Summer Sing featuring that work on Sunday, August 14<sup>th</sup>. The event takes place at St. Anthony's High School Chapel, 275 Wolf Hill Road, South Huntington. Admission is \$10 – you already have the score! Auditions for the fall season begin on 8/29; rehearsals start 9/12. Contact [auditions@LICS.org](mailto:auditions@LICS.org) for more information.
- ❖ The Huntington Choral Society will perform Handel's *Judas Maccabeus* this fall. Rehearsals begin the first Monday after Labor Day, 8pm, Huntington High School. More information at [www.huntingtonchoralsociety.org](http://www.huntingtonchoralsociety.org).
- ❖ The Long Island Gay Men's Chorus holds audition for the fall season on August 31<sup>st</sup> at 6:30pm, H. Lee Dennison Office Building, Veterans Highway, Hauppauge. Contact [ArtisticDirector@LIGMC.org](mailto:ArtisticDirector@LIGMC.org).
- ❖ The East End Women's Choir rehearses at the Center Moriches Presbyterian Church from 7 to 9:30 on Thursday nights. Contact [www.eastendwomenschoir.com](http://www.eastendwomenschoir.com) for more information.

## Schedule

### Festival Chorus

Monday through Friday nights – 6:30 to 9:30p, Christ Episcopal Church, South Country Road, Bellport. (Keep Friday night free for our Conductors' reception after rehearsal)

Saturday 1 to 4pm at Christ Church

Sunday Dress Rehearsal 2 - 5p at the Gateway Playhouse, South Country Road, Bellport

Dinner at Gateway at 5p

Choral Festival Performance 7pm, Gateway Playhouse

Reception to follow at the Playhouse

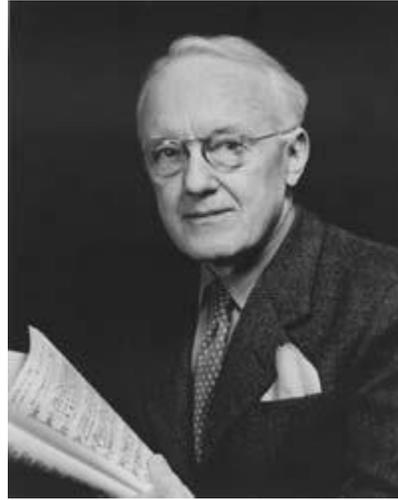
## Composer's Corner – Randall Thompson

Randall Thompson was an American composer who believed that, "A composer's first responsibility is, and always will be, to write music that will reach and move the hearts of listeners in his own day." Author Melvin Berger points out that although he did compose several symphonies, "it is (his) choral works that have proved to have the greatest staying power."

Thompson was born in New York City in 1899. He studied at Harvard University and the Eastman School of Music as well as under Ernest Bloch. He spent 18 years on the faculty at Harvard.

Among his most famous works are *The Peaceable Kingdom* and *Americana*. Many of us have performed Thompson's haunting *Alleluia*, commissioned for the 1940 opening of the Berkshire Music Center in western Massachusetts. That part of the state also produced an enduring friendship with another son of the Bay State, Robert Frost.

In 1959, Thompson was commissioned by the town of Amherst, Massachusetts to compose something for the town's two-hundredth anniversary. Since Frost is closely associated with Amherst, the town fathers requested Thompson to set one of his poems to music, perhaps "The Gift Outright". Thompson instead asked to pick the pieces himself, and created *Frostiana*, a seven-movement choral piece based on the text of several different poems. The result: "The Road Not Taken", "The Pasture", "Come In", "The Telephone", "A Girl's Garden", "Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening" and "Choose Something Like a Star."



Thompson died in 1984. He leaves an enduring legacy as one of the 20<sup>th</sup> century's choral icons.

### Some reminders:

Concert Dress: white blouses, long black skirts or black slacks for women; white shirts, black slacks for men.

Friday night is Ice Cream Night! Please stay and mingle as we enjoy some refreshing (!) treats.

Tee shirts and golf shirts are on sale – make sure you add to your collection! Tee shirts are \$15, golf shirts are \$20.

Please turn in raffle money at the registration desk.