

MUSIC

Music City Community Chorus makes its debut

Formed last summer, the Music City Community Chorus is the realization of a long-held dream for founder and Nashville vocal coach Renee Grant-Williams. In a city already so rich with musical culture, Grant-Williams realized that a community chorus could be a vital presence, serving to educate and include citizens who had the desire to sing, but not the professional experience.

On Tuesday, the 65-member nonprofit group, funded in part through a foundation grant, will perform its debut concert at Christ Church Cathedral, a local church dedicated to fostering community participation in the arts. On the program are two pieces designed to show off the power of voices raised together in song: Antonio Vivaldi's "Gloria" and Beethoven's Mass in C Major, Op. 86.

Dating from 1807, the Beethoven work is notable in that it represented an artistic shift for the composer, whose score broke from the standard conventions of the time. Performers, audience members and Beethoven's patron, Prince Esterhazy II, all responded with distaste when the mass was premiered, though today it bears out the composer's tremendous artistic legacy.

Along with the membership of the Music City Community Chorus, the concert will feature the 32-member Excelsior Chamber Orchestra and four soloists: soprano Julie Cox, mezzo-soprano Olivia Ward, tenor Thomas Studebaker and bass-baritone Keith Moore. Together, all four vocalists have considerable professional experience singing locally, nationally and internationally, and Moore is the head of the vocal studies program at Belmont University.

In the community-minded spirit that



Renee Grant-Williams is the founder and director of the Music City Community Chorus, which performs its debut concert Tuesday at Christ Church Cathedral.

IF YOU GO

What: Music City Community Chorus performs Beethoven and Vivaldi

Where: Christ Church Cathedral, 900 Broadway

When: 7:30 p.m. Tuesday

Tickets: Free

Contact: 244-3280 or www.MusicCity-CommunityChorus.org

led to the chorus's founding, Tuesday's concert will be free to the public. Singers interested in auditioning for the ensemble's spring season can find more information at www.musiccitycommunitychorus.org.

— JONATHAN MARX, STAFF WRITER