



As we are experiencing a pause in live music, we are still conducting rehearsals online and with a small group of section leaders in person, with masks, socially distanced and following guidelines from CDC and the University of Boulder Performing Arts Aerosol Study for musicians concerning Covid-19.

In March 2020, which ironically was Music in Our Schools Month, the world of live music along with much in our world, came to an abrupt halt. Masterworks was one week away from our spring concert which was a celebration of the music of John Rutter featuring two guest soloists, a string ensemble, organ, percussion, and Rising Star Middle School Treble Choir. As we hoped against hope that we would return to “normal”, that was not to be.

The next several months were full of the realization that music and music making would be drastically different for the foreseeable future. The music community was scrambling to find a way to keep the music alive.

On September 14, Masterworks began online rehearsals which looked quite different. Because of the latency of the sound, all choir members were muted and essentially the choir members were only hearing the piano accompaniment and themselves. This is the model most choral groups are using and Masterworks continues to use until a future date when there is more safety.

I have incorporated a theory/Musicianship class, two vocal coaches, and a series of guest composers and noted choral directors who visit our rehearsals on Monday nights. The most esteemed composer being John Rutter, the international composer, himself.

Two events you may be interested in:

- Masterworks Virtual Choir will premier Elaine Hagenberg’s arrangement of You Do Not Walk Alone on November 15, 2020. during the 9am service and online at NewnanFUMC.org.
- Georgia’s Home for the Holidays is a collection of presentations of various ensembles from across the Atlanta and greater Atlanta area. There will be one presentation daily from November 27 – December 31. Masterworks will be featured on December 19. You can go to the Georgia Symphony Orchestra You Tube page at <https://georgiasymphony.org> or like the GSO page on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/GeorgiaSymphony>.

There is nothing like experiencing our music firsthand, but during this pause we hope you will join us in our virtual presentations.

We would love to add your voice to ours – you are welcome to audition for the choir, call 770-846-8278 to secure an audition and/or add you to our list of donor friends. Any donation would be greatly appreciated and may be sent to Masterworks Chorale, P.O. Box 2373, Newnan, Georgia 30264.

As we navigate through this unusual time, we hope you join us and “Don’t miss the Music...”