

Please Join Us to Celebrate the Legacy of Cory Groves in Finishing His Final Cantata “Heaven and Earth Rejoice.”

In 2020 and 2021, OUMC music director Cory Groves attempted to direct his final cantata with the OUMC Choir; singers from the First Lutheran Church, Journey Lutheran, St. Pat's Catholic, the CRGC, and others around the area from many different backgrounds and churches; as well an orchestra made up of some of the best talent in the area. Covid had another idea and these performances were canceled; the one in 2021 with a pared-back choir and orchestra being canceled weeks before the final performance. Around the same time, Cory was diagnosed with cancer. In the subsequent years, Cory fought the good fight but in early September, his family and friends, OUMC, the Onalaska School District, and the larger community within which he led and made music for so many years lost a kind, gentle, and talented man.

It is our desire that we can honor this wonderful man and talented musician by completing his last cantata, “Heaven and Earth Rejoice.” To do this, we are calling everyone and anyone in the community of musicians from within and without who know Cory, have performed with or under Cory, or who know of his legacy, or who just want to sing to join with us and this talented orchestra and put on Cory's final cantata for the last time. OUMC is producing this final cantata as remembrance of and homage to the memory of this great friend.

If you are interested in joining us, please contact director Dean Gunnarson at dealog7@gmail.com or just show up to the Onalaska United Methodist Church at 212-4th Ave N in Onalaska. I am also hoping that many of my former choir members and musician friends from CRGC or BEFC or anywhere that I have taught or made music will join us and we can get the “band” (i.e. choir) together once again for old time sake. As we are bringing this to the public's attention at such a late date, we know and hope that singers will be joining and adding to the group all along the way. I can and will share the vocal tracks through Google Drive to help anyone learn their part, as necessary, if they are joining later. Please come and join us as we perform Cory's final cantata,

Schedule

Wednesday, October 18, 6:30-7:30 p.m.

Wednesday, October 25, 6:30-7:30 p.m.

Wednesday, November 1, 6:30-7:30 p.m.

Wednesday, November 8, 6:30-7:30 p.m.

Wednesday, November 15 - NO CHOIR REHEARSAL

Wednesday, November 22 - NO CHOIR REHEARSAL or TBD

THURSDAY, November 30, 6:30-7:30 p.m.

Wednesday, December 6, 6:30-7:30 p.m.

?Monday, December 11, 2023, 6:30-7:30 p.m.

Wednesday, December 13, 6:30-7:30 p.m.

Final Dress Rehearsal & Performance

Saturday, December 16, 8:30 a.m. - ORCHESTRA DRESS REHEARSAL

Saturday, December 16, 9:15 a.m. - CHOIR DRESS REHEARSAL (w/ orch)

Sunday, December 17, 8:30 a.m. - CANTATA PERFORMANCE #1

Sunday, December 17, 11:00 a.m. - CANTATA PERFORMANCE #2