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Missourian News

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Singing roles in 'Messiah' for sale on eBay

Columbia Chorale and Columbia Civic Orchestra are selling solos to drum up interest in a Dec. 10 singalong

By SYDNEY STONNER

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Hallelujah! A Columbia music director has come up with a novel way to interest people in a "Messiah" singalong.

For another week, the performance rights to eight vocal solos from Handel's "Messiah" are being auctioned on eBay. The winning bidders purchase the opportunity to perform the solos with the Columbia Chorale and Columbia Civic Orchestra at a "Messiah" singalong at Missouri United Methodist Church on Dec. 10.

The Columbia Chorale's artistic director, Alex Innecco, said the idea for the auction came out of his desire to make the informal singalong as engaging as possible.

"I'm always trying to find ways to make classical music down to earth," Innecco said.

He sees the auctioned roles as a chance for less experienced singers to

Audio

These are the eight solos from Handel's "Messiah" that the Columbia Chorale is auctioning on eBay. Winning bidders will have the opportunity to perform the solos at a "Messiah" singalong on Dec. 10.

- [Comfort ye/Ev'ry Valley](#), tenor solo
- [But who may abide](#), alto solo
- [O thou that tellest good tidings to Zion](#), alto solo
- [Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion](#), soprano solo
- [Thy rebuke/Behold and see](#), tenor solo
- [Why do the nations so furiously rage together?](#) bass solo
- [I know that my Redeemer liveth](#), soprano solo

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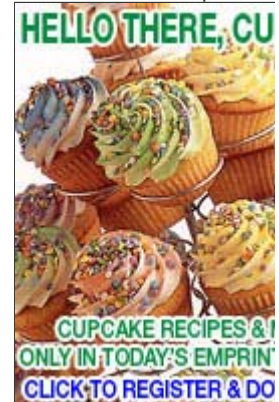
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chance for less experienced singers to get their moment in the spotlight. But

- [The trumpet shall sound](#), bass solo

Tracks courtesy of the Columbia Chorale. Soloists: Richard Morey (tenor), Andrew Hendricks (bass), Melinda Lein (soprano), Matthew Burton (alto).

he also said this slightly unconventional casting technique puts a new spin on classical music.

"A choir singing is not news," Innecco said. "But add something different and that's a hook."

It's a hook he hopes will attract a large audience, including those who are not seasoned concertgoers.

Right now, only one bid has been placed; the tenor solo "Comfort ye ... Ev'ry Valley" received a bid of \$100, the minimum bid for all solos. But Innecco has faith all of the roles will be filled. He has monitored the auctions and knows that people have asked for e-mail and cell phone updates. He figures that people may wait until closer to the end of the auctions. The last solo sale ends Nov. 25.

"I'm curious to see who will bid," Innecco said. "I have fun imagining it."

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