



4/14/21  
Newton, Massachusetts

Dear Friends and Supporters of the Highland Glee Club,

It's springtime, the natural world is exploding with life, and yes, singing has finally returned.

At least, it has returned for the **Highland Glee Club**, and only because we have all been vaccinated! And we are erring on the side of caution - singing once a week outdoors, distanced (physically, but not socially!), and masked. At least for now.

Under the baton of our energetic **new Music Director, Sarah Telford**, we are preparing a concert of sea-themed music — everything from catchy sea shanties to romantic sea ballads — even our first pop song! Our hope is to present a late spring concert outdoors in Newton, but even if it's not permitted, stay tuned for information about a series of outdoor performances in the fall. The important thing for now is that we are able to meet and share the joy of singing together once again! It has been too long.

We have also been inspired by the jaw-dropping talent of pianist Meihui An, the winner of the **2021 Highland Glee Club Music Prize**, newly increased to \$5,000. We were delighted and humbled by this opportunity to help further the studies of a truly astonishing young artist, and we aim to introduce you all to her at the earliest possible concert opportunity. Meanwhile, Ms. An has graciously agreed for us to share her audition videos with you (two links below). We are certain you will be as impressed as we were:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G1nQ7al4frs>  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V7HX-EqWLQ4>

We are also gearing up for a major recruitment effort this fall. Amazingly, we were able to attract a wonderful new baritone a few months ago, but by and large it is nearly impossible to recruit new singers when live rehearsals and performances cannot take place. Ms. Telford has tapped into her connections in the world of choral singers to find us a small handful of “reinforcements”: guest singers who will help round out our ranks while we seek out new permanent members. We are also exploring the idea of changing our rehearsal locale to the beautifully-renovated new rooms at the **Allen Center** in West Newton.

The future of the Highland Glee Club is bright. As we continue to grow and develop our historic organization, we recognize that none of it is possible without your continued support. We send you our heartfelt thanks for everything you have done for us.

With warmest appreciation,

The Highland Glee Club