

## Winter Choral Concert at Trinity Episcopal Church

On Friday, December 14<sup>th</sup>, the West Hartford Women's Chorale gave a seasonal concert at Trinity Episcopal Church in Asylum Hill. The church provides a spacious venue for the sound of voices to unify, then expand to fill every niche of the Sanctuary and beyond. We are fortunate in Asylum Hill to have many churches built at a time when design was large and elegant, and materials were more affordable. The result inspires awe as we enter these spaces today.

The recent December 14<sup>th</sup>, 2018 program, entitled *Celestial Voices*, referenced angels in almost every piece. Musical styles included Renaissance, Classical and Romantic period "classical" music, as well as pieces by contemporary female composers, popular pieces by Billy Joel and Enya, African-American spirituals, a Hanukkah piece, Christmas carol sing-alongs, and a four-hand piano and choir



rendition of "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing". A song collection entitled *Snow Angel*, composed by living female composer Sarah Quartel, featured singing and speaking parts outlining the story of an angel visiting Earth, who has been tasked with gathering light for the planet, even though she is not always recognized for who she is. This story is based on a true experience of the composer, and was palpable in its effect on participants and audience alike. One felt as though majestic angels were present to hear the story themselves.

The West Hartford Women's Chorale (WHWC) is a non-audition group that has been rehearsing and performing since 2003. Every year, a Winter Concert is performed in December, often in Asylum Hill, and a Spring Concert is performed in late May or early June, in the City of Hartford or at a nearby venue. On March 30<sup>th</sup>, 2019, at 4:30pm, the WHWC will host an annual Festival of Women's Voices featuring guest composer Sarah Quartel, at Conard High School in West Hartford. Several area women's choirs gather to perform music by the composer and others, in this free concert. Following that is a performance by WHWC on May 31<sup>st</sup>, 2019, at 7:30pm, at Trinity Episcopal Church, 120 Sigourney St in Hartford.

Is anyone interested in creating a non-audition choir in Asylum Hill, for both music readers and non-readers? A music director is available and willing to start such a choir should there be enough interest. Music would include spirituals, traditional songs, sea shanties, Appalachian music, world music, and popular selections. Contact [staffadmin@asylumhill.org](mailto:staffadmin@asylumhill.org). For more photos go to: <http://tinyurl.com/yicslhmgd>