

GOOD MEMORIES

ENCORE CHOIRS ILLINOIS

Good Memories: Debut Concert

*A community of joy and compassion for
people with early-stage memory loss and
their care partners, singing together*

Jonathan Miller, Artistic Director

Amy Wurtz, Pianist

Tuesday, December 11, 2018, 12:00 noon

Fourth Presbyterian Church, Buchanan Chapel

126 E. Chestnut Street, Chicago

Free and open to the community

This program is supported in part by grants from The Retirement Research Foundation; the Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Chicago; the Jewish Community Foundation of Milwaukee; the generosity of more than 200 individual donors (see pages 5-6); and the staff of Fourth Presbyterian Church, without all of whose open hearts this program would not be possible.

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FROM THE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR & PROGRAM DIRECTOR

We have been preparing for this day for two and a half years. In June 2016, our friend Brian Newhouse from Minnesota Public Radio told us about the choir whose board he had just joined—the Giving Voice Chorus, the pioneer in choirs for people with memory loss—and said, “You have to come to the Twin Cities to see this. I have never been so moved by a community of singers.” That was all it took.

We had just launched our choirs for older adults here, based on the model from Encore Creativity in our nation’s capital. Over the next several months, we learned more about this second remarkable model, geared for people with memory loss. We hopped on a plane in late November 2016 and spent the next day seeing how this kind of choir works. We fought back tears all day as we witnessed the power of choral music, and the dedication and courage, of everyone involved. On the plane on the way home, we resolved to create the choir in Chicago that we now call Good Memories.

In this choir, as you’ll see and hear, people with early-stage memory loss, their care partners, and a phenomenal group of dedicated volunteer singers all come together for weekly rehearsals. In this community, as they say, “Everyone knows why we’re here. You don’t have to explain yourself.” We share not only our voices but also our hearts, love, compassion, experience, and resources with our new friends from these past many months. We help each other to sing well, to stay focused, to sing all the notes on the page; we learn what is happening in one another’s lives, both good news and bad news; and we continue to create joy amid the changes and challenges that come to everyone who is affected by Alzheimer’s and related forms of memory loss.

Marge Ostroushko, one of the co-founders of Giving Voice, told us this one day: “When someone receives a dementia diagnosis, four things happen to them. People stop looking them in the eye; people stop calling them by name; people stop touching them; and people stop expecting anything of them. We are here to do it differently. We make sure that everyone at every rehearsal receives a friendly touch on the shoulder, is called by name, gets a loving look in the eye, and knows that we’re all here to bring our best efforts to singing. That will change lives for the better right there.” Right on, Marge. May we live up to that promise, and more, every week when we sing together.

In gratitude,

Jonathan Miller Sandy Siegel Miller
Artistic Director Program Director

FROM THE BOARD PRESIDENT

On behalf of the Board of Directors of Encore Illinois and all of our wonderful singers, we thank you for joining us today for the debut concert of Good Memories. We greatly appreciate your continued support. Happy Holidays and Shalom!

Alice E. Dolan, Esq.
President, Encore Illinois Board of Directors

PROGRAM

The concert will be performed without intermission.
Your enthusiastic applause after each song is appreciated.

Blue Skies.....	Irving Berlin, arr. Roger Emerson
When I Fall In Love.....	Heyman/Young, arr. Russell Robinson
Que Sera, Sera.....	Livingston/Evans, arr. Paul Ayres
“The Sound of Music” Medley.....	Rodgers/Hammerstein, arr. John Leavitt
Over the Rainbow	Harburg/Arlen, arr. Mark Hayes
This Little Light of Mine.....	spiritual, arr. Mark Hayes
What A Wonderful World	Weiss/Thiele, arr. Russell Robinson

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About Good Memories

The **Good Memories Choir** is a welcoming and uplifting weekly choir for people living with early-stage memory loss, and their care partners, singing together. Good Memories serves people living in the community, outside of care facilities. Good Memories is a member of the Giving Voice Initiative (GVI), an international movement of choirs that foster joy, well-being, purpose and community understanding as they celebrate the potential of people living with dementia. Our choirs bring renewed purpose, learning, friendships, and happiness to people who participate in and those who experience its work. It changes the attitudes of care partners, family members, friends, and community members, bringing people with memory loss out of the shadows through shared music making. Learn more about this remarkable community at www.goodmemorieschoir.org.

About Encore Illinois

Now in its third year, **Encore Illinois, NFP** is the Chicago area’s leading choral-music organization for older adults. Encore Illinois serves the community with non-auditioned choirs that provide a fun, challenging musical environment under the leadership of professional artists. Rehearsals are generally held on weekdays in the daytime and feature well-crafted 3- and 4-part arrangements with piano. Founded by Jonathan and Sandy Miller in early 2016, Encore Illinois has grown quickly to include seven choirs that rehearse weekly in the spring and fall, along with summer *Rocks!* choirs and enrichment classes. Encore provides free community concerts, such as this one, at the end of each session. The group has also performed at the American Society on Aging’s national convention and as part of Crowd Out Chicago in Millennium Park during October 2017. Learn more about singing with us—and sign up yourself—at www.encoreillinois.org.

THANK YOU TO ENCORE ILLINOIS'S DONOR CHAMPIONS

Without your support, Encore Illinois would not be able to fulfill its mission. Your generous financial support allows Encore Illinois to thrive and bring joy to hundreds of older adults and their families. **Great thanks to you** who have made contributions to Encore Illinois between January 1, 2017 and October 16, 2018:

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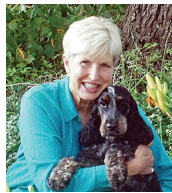
Jonathan Miller
(Artistic Director and CEO) founded Encore Illinois with his wife Sandy in early 2016. He leads five Encore daytime

choirs for older adults as well as the Good Memories choir. Working with older adults is his second major new choral-arts venture; he is completing his tenure as founding Artistic Director of Chicago a cappella, the virtuoso professional vocal ensemble now in its 25th season. He has done original program research in Mexico and Poland and was a festival clinician in Kaili, China in 2017. He grew up in Chicago's Hyde Park neighborhood and spent ten years with the Chicago Children's Choir. After earning a doctorate in historical musicology at UNC-Chapel Hill, he turned to conducting and composing to complement his professional singing. He has written over 100 works since 1998 and done freelance choral arranging for Musicnotes.com; his works have been sung around the world and at major American venues including St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York City, the Lincoln Memorial, and the Pentagon. A leader in Jewish choral music, Jonathan manages the Max Janowski catalogue, serves as high-holiday cantor at Congregation Rodfei Zedek in Hyde Park, and is part of the worship team at West Suburban Temple Har Zion in River Forest. A former board member of Chorus America, Jonathan is also a leader of the PADS ministry at Holy Nativity (Episcopal) in Clarendon Hills and is a regular auctioneer for charity events.



Amy Wurtz (Pianist) is the original accompanist for the Encore Illinois musical team, having participated in the very first rehearsals in April

2016. Amy composes, teaches and performs throughout Chicago and the Midwest. Her compositions have been commissioned and performed by Zeitgeist, Access Contemporary Music, the Chicago Composers Orchestra and others, and her first two string quartets were recorded and released on CD by the Chicago Q Ensemble in 2012. She is a board member of New Music Chicago and the Music Director at Hemenway United Methodist Church in Evanston.



Sandy Siegel Miller
(Program Director, Good Memories) co-founded Encore Illinois with her husband Jonathan in 2016. Her role as

program director for Good Memories includes recruiting singers and volunteers, creating the warm social environment that Good Memories fosters, and developing and maintaining relationships with local and national experts in arts interventions for dementia. An active clinical psychologist, she has devoted more than 30 years to her private practice with children and adolescents. In the mid-1980s, Sandy co-founded the eating-disorders program at Rush; she also volunteered with a group of adolescent-medicine staff to form the Consortium on Youth with AIDS (COYA), funded by the NIH to focus on AIDS prevention in adolescents. A longtime leader of the PADS team and other ministries at Church of the Holy Nativity in Clarendon Hills, Sandy is in discernment to be a deacon in the Episcopal Diocese of Chicago.

COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Our community partners include organizations and people who help Good Memories sing. These include the venues that give us a rehearsal home every week, along with the remarkable individuals that support each location and the overall mission of Encore Illinois.

We would like to thank Good Memories' 2018 Community Partners:

Fourth Presbyterian Church (Chris Norton and Susan Quaintance)

The Village Chicago (Dianne Campbell)

Giving Voice Chorus and Giving Voice Initiative (Minneapolis/St. Paul: Jeanie Brindley-Barnett, Steve Barnett, Mary Lenard, and Marge Ostroushko)

We would also like to thank these generous individuals and organizations for their in-kind donations of goods, services, and volunteer time:

All Trust Home Care, especially Dan Kuhn for volunteer training

Linda and Bob Mendelson

Rosie Rees and Gene Servillo; Judy Solomon; Marianne Coplan Schapiro

Maximum Printing & Graphics, Downers Grove

Beata and Associates, CPAs; Helen Ajder CPA

Food for Thought, Evanston

Jane Sanchez

Hospitality Volunteers: Iris Rudnick, Gail Swift, Krys Lordahl, Carol Rosofsky, Jan Harnish

Jenna Eisenberg for "Move & Groove" coaching

Fern Harper and Marcia Hamilton for lyric sheets

Jane Youngs, Jane Moore, and Gretchen Baron for creating music folders

The Encore Illinois Board of Directors are individuals whose leadership, financial, and strategic support are key to leading Encore into the future. Current board members are Alice Dolan (President), Birnie Harper (Treasurer), Nancy Vincent (Secretary), Deanine McGill, and Martrice Caldwell.

Thank you all for your service. Three cheers!

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