



February 19, 2016

Bill Colosimo
The Alexandria Singers

Dear Bill,

I am pleased to provide this letter of support for The Alexandria Singers.

This past year, Visit Alexandria had the pleasure of partnering with The Alexandria Singers on several tourism and economic development initiatives. One was holiday programming on King Street's retail corridor. We engaged The Alexandria Singers to bring their unique brand of choral performance to King Street to enhance the Old Town holiday shopping experience during Small Business Saturday. The second project involved choral performances in the Carlyle neighborhood as part of the Carlyle Vitality Initiative to enhance the vitality of the business area located near the Patent & Trademark Office. In both instances, The Alexandria Singers brought technical, logistical and artistic ideas to the table. They executed challenging outdoor holiday pop-up performances with success and utmost professionalism. The singers' joy of performing and adeptness at engaging audiences of all ages and backgrounds is a great asset.

The Alexandria Singers are known as good collaborators. I've seen them in many different artistic and community settings, this past year especially, and admire their artistic accomplishments and community involvement. It is for these reasons that I enthusiastically offer this letter of support.

Sincerely,

Patricia Washington
President & CEO
Visit Alexandria



February 20, 2016

To Whom It May Concern:

The Alexandria Singers are lively, enthusiastic, and naturally talented group of citizen singers who promote vocal arts in the entire Washington, DC region, and especially in Alexandria. While most of its eighty members are not trained musicians, that is not an obstacle and may even be an added benefit. To attain the level of performance they always exhibit, requires each member memorize their parts flawlessly. Their voices are clear and natural, and blend in a special way that is perfect for the Broadway, jazz, patriotic and popular music they perform. Their performances are spectacular, with choreographed movements and the energy that comes from a sincere, dedicated, and excited performer. It is absolutely engaging to listen to and to watch their members sing, move and solo so effortlessly and beautifully, knowing that they are “ordinary” members of the community.

The person most responsible for making this happen is their Director Bill Colosimo. Bill is an articulate, gifted professional musician who “runs a tight ship” and sets very high standards. Since 2007, he has doubled the group’s membership, and arranged for them to sing at multiple locations and events throughout the region. An extraordinary feat considering that all his members are volunteers, and most have demanding jobs and family responsibilities.

Washington Metropolitan Philharmonic and I had the privilege of performing with Bill and the Singers in June, 2015 in a concert commemorating the beginning of the Singer’s 40th anniversary year at George Washington Masonic National Memorial in Alexandria. The Singers were exceptional, despite the constraints of a small performance area. It was a long, varied program that the audience and Philharmonic members loved. The process of collaborating was easy, exciting, and supremely successful. So much so, we will collaborate again in June of 2016.

The Alexandria Singers are truly one of Alexandria’s most successful performing groups, and additionally, are marvelous ambassadors for the City as they perform throughout the region.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ulysses S. James".

Ulysses S. James

Washington Metropolitan Philharmonic, Music Director/Conductor