

April 28, 2025

Dear Naperville Chorus –

What sensitive singing you gave to our audience on Saturday. There were so many truly beautiful moments! When Brahms challenged you to create an intimate mood, you did. I've never heard you sing with better tone or awareness of one another. It was a celebration of musical development!!!

I expect you've already read the kind letter that Elisabeth forwarded from Naperville resident, Mr. Portnoy. In addition, Phil Spencer, conductor of NaperVoice, told me yesterday. "Peter, the Chorus sounded great, and their German diction was crisp and clear!" Congratulations, folks!

Just a few of the "moments" I will remember include:

- Mvt. 1 Your first "Selig sind" Intimate and solemn, it drew-in the listeners.
- Mvt. 2: An ominous beginning, "Aber, dess Herrn Wort," & "Ewige Freude" powerful!
- Mvt. 3: "Ich hoffe auf dich" seemed to be the best yet!
- Mvt. 4: Lovely shaping, and when "Wie lieblich" returned "*piano*" – chills!
- Mvt. 5 Your sensitivity to the solo writing was exception, and each "Wie eine seine Mutter" was stunning. The delicate S/A or T/B duets were lovely!
- Mvt. 6 "Der Tod ist verschlugen," "Tod, wo ist dein Schtachel!" and Herr, du bist würdig.
- Mvt. 7: You must have felt refreshed! The opening melody *soared*!

Jill and Andrew Rye were exceptional, and the Naperville Festival Orchestra were both sensitive and powerful creating whichever mood was called for. I've written to them and Mara Gallagher to express our gratitude independently.

My deep gratitude to Jon for his talent, tireless investment and commitment to the Chorus. We could not have been successful without his dedicated contribution. He's a gem!

Thank you also to the Board for their leadership -- with special gratitude to Elisabeth, Nancy, Chuck and Keith for our frequent interactions, their patience and dedication to you Singers and to the community. It takes a village, and your village is full of good people!

Finally, congratulations to each of you, and thank you for all you invested. May Brahms' great masterwork enrich your lives for years to come!

Good phrases to you!

Peter Jarjisian
peter.jarjisian@peopleofgrace.org