

To the San Diego Master Chorale,

I do not know how to begin to express my profound appreciation for your performances on the premiere of *The Fiery Furnace*. You did an absolutely wonderful job! Bravo, bravo, bravo!!!

There is no doubt that it is an extremely difficult challenge to premiere a new work. I am sure that the early stages of rehearsal were trying and perhaps even frustrating. In the end, you captured more than I imagined possible from the choral part. It was strong, tender, longing, terrifying, etc. Everyone I talked to commented on how spectacular the choral parts sounded.

Thank you, thank you, thank you!!

I am also deeply appreciative of your encouragement. You are a joy to work with. I felt I had over a hundred personal cheerleaders that wanted to see this piece succeed. It was a pleasure to catch you all back stage. If I didn't get to personally thank you, please accept this as my personal thanks.

I also want to offer a huge thanks to Gary and Brian. Beyond the wonderful job Brian did rehearsing the chorale, he did a spectacular job with the tempo rehearsals with Maestro Ling and the vocal soloists. Clearly Brian was an essential part of the preparation.

Gary McKercher is a dream for a composer. He is a master musician and an accomplished conductor. This project never phased him and he knew exactly how to best rehearse the chorale to get them in the best shape possible for the first orchestral rehearsal. He had a great understanding of the work and is largely responsible for the strength of the chorale in the actual performances. You are really lucky to work with Gary.

To make sure that Gary read the last paragraph, I will check with my personal contacts within the chorale.

This is the biggest piece I have ever written. I am blessed that the premiere received so much dedication from all involved. You have made my year and then some. I am young and hope to spend the next several decades writing music. If you all keep performing, I am sure we will work together again before long. I look forward to that occasion.

Sincerely,

Daniel Kellogg