

Meet Randolph and Virginia Aires

It was through music that Randy and Ginny met in high school while attending District Orchestra (he with a violin and she with an oboe) in Lancaster, PA. It was truly love at first sight for both of them. They then went on to All-State Orchestra which was held in Sharon, PA. Randy Aires was born and raised in Lancaster County, PA and graduated from Ephrata High School. He received his A.B. degree from Dartmouth College. Ginny was born and raised in Adams County, PA and graduated from Carlisle High School. She received her B.A. degree from Skidmore College and did graduate work at Brown University. Following two years of active service in the U. S. Navy, Randy attended the University of Michigan Law School, where he received his J.D. degree. Through most of his career, Randy was a corporate attorney and Vice President for Governmental Affairs for Sears, Roebuck and Co. Before raising four children, Ginny taught school. During their 56 years of marriage, music has always served as their avocation. Until recently, Randy continued to play the violin in organizations such as the Lancaster Symphony Orchestra, the Fairfax, VA Symphony Orchestra, and various chamber music groups, and his own group, The Orchard Trio.



Once Randy retired from professional life, the Aires relocated back to Pennsylvania where they built a beautiful home overlooking the hundreds of acres of lush orchards that have been in Ginny's family for generations. Choral music has been important to both of them. Ginny sang in her church choir in high school and in her collegiate choir. Over the years both have sung in church choirs and have revered Bach in particular. Board memberships have included the Harrisburg Symphony Orchestra and the Market Square Concerts in Harrisburg. Since 1990, the Bach Festival has been an integral part of their musical lives. While they were still living in Washington, D.C., Fred Rooney suggested that they should attend the Bach Festival in Bethlehem. They followed his recommendation and were so impressed with Greg's leadership and the quality of the choral performance that they decided to become Guarantors and haven't missed a Bach Festival for the past 25 years. When asked to comment on their favorite aspects of the Festival, Ginny is quick to reflect on the uplifting spiritual renewal she experiences at each concert, while Randall speaks with great reverence about the Mass in B Minor, which he says has the same powerful effect and "feels fresh" each time he experiences it.

In addition to their musical and artistic interests and activities, the Aires have traveled extensively and enjoy their family and gardening. They are proud parents and grandparents. The Aires have generously contributed to a number of Bach Choir events and projects and were instrumental in helping arrange for The Bach Choir to perform at a special music series called Market Square Concerts in the Harrisburg area. Over the years, the Aires have developed many new friends through The Bach Choir. They often bring friends and acquaintances, including visiting dignitaries from other countries, with whom they are eager

to share their love of the music of Bach. Like many of our Guarantors, they look forward to each Festival as an opportunity to reunite with friends, renew their spirits and celebrate the music and the fellowship that are the hallmarks of The Bach Festival.