GDC had been scheduled to tour Italy and the UK this summer but has postponed the tour until 2021. IAM speaks to Kirsti Pfeiffer, Gloriæ Dei Cantores’ publicist and member of Gloriæ Dei Cantores.

IAM: WHAT IS THE ETHOS OF GDC AND HOW DOES THIS TRANSLATE TO THE MODERN DAY?

Kirsti Pfeiffer: Since its beginning, Gloriæ Dei Cantores has been dedicated to the pursuit of truth, beauty, and authenticity, in the music we undertake. We try to capture the vision of each composer and strive to preserve sacred choral works for future generations. We have found it a very humbling experience to delve into the sung prayers of so many nations and through them, to be able to connect with their rich heritages.

IAM: GDC IS PART OF A RELIGIOUS AND SPIRITUAL COMMUNITY, BUT HOW DO YOU GO ABOUT REACHING PEOPLE OF ALL FAITHS AND BACKGROUND?

KP: Arvo Pärt's music does indeed cross all boundaries to affect all who listen to it. Whether you’re searching for refreshment, finding yourself in an impossible situation, or aching in a deep place beyond what words can express, the music of Pärt can bring you peace in these troubled times. Pärt summed it up best when he said, “Music is my friend, ever-understanding. Compassionate. Forgiving, it’s a comforter, the handkerchief for drying my tears of sadness, the source of my tears of joy. My liberation and flight. But also, a painful thorn in my flesh and soul, that makes me sober and teaches humility.”
Of course, there are also other notable achievements: the choir singing at the opening of the 900th Anniversary of St. Mark’s Basilica in Venice; taking three invitational tours to Russia – one before the fall of the iron curtain, and twice after; singing at the Rockefeller Center’s Christmas tree-lighting ceremony; and most recently, our newest album release of the music of Arvo Pärt, Stabat Mater, which is currently #5 on the Billboard charts for Traditional Classical Music!

Pärt’s new musical voice of tintinnabuli draws on the western musical origins of Gregorian chant – something we as a community sing four times a day in our offices of the Liturgy of the Hours. This gives us a unique platform from which to work. Through Arvo Pärt’s new expression, we have gained much life and education through studying his works – a win, win!

We are praying for all who are directly helping those in need and who are working to keep us all safe, as well as for those suffering from our current situation. We hope you can enjoy our free downloads by joining our mailing list on our websites or following us on our Facebook page.