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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: July 28, 2008

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LOCAL DIRECTOR STARTS COMMUNITY CHILDREN'S CHOIR

Recognizing a need for more opportunities where area children can participate in the arts, Donna Brelsford has committed her considerable experience and talents to the creation of the Lake Country Children's Chorale.

"Our goal with the Lake Country Children's Chorale is to provide the highest quality musical experience to its members," said Brelsford. "The music education component of the program will be very important and will include sight reading, music theory and will emphasize vocal development."

The new children's chorus auditions are open to all area children in 2nd through 5th grades. The chorale is open to all children, and will be based at Redeemer Episcopal Academy, centrally located at 680 Old Phoenix Rd. just up from the Pyramid. There are only 25 openings, and spots will be granted through auditions only. Auditions will be scheduled by appointment on August 14 and August 19 from 1:00-5:30 p.m. by calling Brelsford at 706-474-2150 or 706-484-0822. They will be held at Redeemer Episcopal Academy. Every applicant will need to supply a letter of reference from a school or church teacher or other community leader, and audition pieces will be provided at the time of the audition.

Practices will be held one day a week, and the cost for participation will be \$25/month to cover the cost of materials.

In addition to learning music, the Lake Country Children's Chorale members will give concerts and share their music through charitable performances.

Brelsford has more than 25 years of music experience including musical theater production, original composition, elementary music education and international tour leadership. She was a featured music educator on the nationally televised program "Parenting Today," and her original works performed by her students were recognized nationally and internationally. Her students have been accepted to well-known children's choruses including The Atlanta Boys Choir and The Young Singers of Callanwolde. She has a degree in music from Houghton College and currently serves as the director of the Reynolds Chorus and the music teacher and after-school program director at Redeemer Episcopal Academy.

The idea of a community chorus of elementary-age students came about when Brelsford was contacted by other community organizations like the Episcopal Church of the Redeemer in Greensboro, the Lake Oconee Community Church and Redeemer Episcopal Academy about the need for an opportunity for community children to experience the arts. Brelsford had also been thinking about the same thing for the past several years and approached Redeemer Episcopal Academy Headmaster Trish Klein about the concept.

"We are excited about hosting a community chorus for children at Redeemer Episcopal Academy. In fact, we want our after-school program to become a cultural center for children of the area and are looking for other extra-curricular offerings for our afternoon program," said Dr. Klein. "We are fortunate to have someone of Ms. Brelsford's caliber on the Redeemer faculty."

For more information about the Lake Country Children's Chorale or to schedule an audition, please contact Brelsford at 706-474-2150 or 706-484-0822.

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