Let’s Find Solutions
By Amanda Quist, Director of Choral Activities, Frost School of Music, University of Miami & ACDA National R&R Coordinator for Collegiate Choirs

There are many conversations out there about the challenges we are facing. It makes sense to mourn what is happening. I want to encourage us to remember that the arts are always under great scrutiny. You’ve heard the comments: "What shall we cut? Well they don't test musical skill on the SAT, so that can go."

Let's find solutions. We don’t want to compromise safety; we need to raise up the parts of our art that we still can. It's hard enough to remind people of the importance of music in normal times, even though I don't know anyone who doesn't listen to music every day.

So please, let's work together to protect this art, and community music-making. Distill it down: What is singing together about? Making music reflects that which makes us human. No one can change that whether we're together or apart. We're still human, and we need connection.

Let's find solutions to keep the choral boat afloat until we can be together again and celebrate what we love. Otherwise, I'm afraid it will be too easy to trivialize something that for many people is a necessary part of what makes us feel alive.