



DURANGO CHORAL SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

Spring, 2022

Where were you on March 12, 2020 when the world shut down? We were basking in the glow of a beautiful concert that had been performed three days earlier. Little did we know that nearly two years later, we would still be battling the virus and continuing to explore new and uncharted musical territory. What to do when science tells us not to sing?

We have been held together through this crisis by the healing and uplifting power of music, invincible in its capacity to transform our lives for the better. We never stopped singing, whether it meant we had to do so from the private sanctity of our own homes or coming together safely and learning to breathe and articulate through masks. Our children's choirs have carried on as Amy Barrett never stopped carefully and safely educating and affirming our precious young singers. The Choral Society's generous and loyal donors stepped up to assist us as cancellations forced us to revert to virtual offerings. We learned more technology than we ever dreamed necessary. Our Board of Directors and artistic staff worked non-stop to provide our gifts of musical joy and inspiration to you, no matter what the format.

So, here we are in spring 2022, convinced more than ever of the need for expressive beauty in our lives. Our first concert without masks took place in March, and it was amazing for all of us after two years of learning to breathe and articulate with our mouths covered. The choirs have never sounded better! The talented and dedicated members of the Durango Choral Society have leaped forward with hopeful hearts to celebrate and share the power and spirit of song. We continued that celebration with our most recent concert, *An American Journey: Songs of Our Land*, which we performed both in Durango and at the marvelous Bayfield Performing Arts Center.

The season will continue with our major fund raiser for the year. *Get Happy*, our annual Cabaret, will be presented on Sunday, May 22, and this year we will offer our beloved audience a full dinner, silent auction, and show in the ballroom at Fort Lewis College. This promises to be a gala celebration with elegant cuisine and talent ranging from Broadway to Opera.

Check our website, durangochoralsociety.org for information and tickets.

Finally, watch for us this summer, when we will triumphantly perform your favorite opera choruses at the grand finale concert with the Music in the Mountains Festival.

So, loyal friends, we hope to see you at our performances and share our artistry with you. We appreciate your love and care more than you know.

The music lives on in our hearts and souls and we cannot wait to bring you joy, hope, and inspiration.

Enjoy!

Linda Mack Berven

Artistic Director, Durango Choral Society



Thanks to our season sponsor:

TBK  BANK

We love our supporters!

Julia Dodd is a long-standing friend of the DCS, having served on the Board, as a singer, a cheerleader, garage sale goddess, tireless volunteer, and donor.

Colorado Creative Industries supports the DCS with grants. Here's more about both of them.



Julia and Gracie

Q: How did you end up living in Durango? Was there a choral society then?

JD: I was born and raised in Atlanta, Georgia, and never lived anywhere else till we moved here. My husband and I had always dreamed of living in the Colorado mountains. It was literally a dart board decision to pick Durango, and after we visited, we knew this was the place. We moved here and I never looked back. I believe the Choral Society was here then, in 1998, and Linda Mack may have just taken the helm but I didn't audition till a few years later. I had always sung in church choirs and done solo work, but never in a full chorus. I feel my real music education began when singing under Dr. Mack.

Q: Why did you join the Choral Society, as a singer and also as a Board Member?

JD: It had been a few years since I used my voice, and I wanted to sing again so I called Linda. The audition did not go well... she said I had a pretty voice under all the rust, and would invite me in if I agreed to take voice lessons, which I did. After about a year I learned the Choral Society was hiring! Apparently, nobody on the Board wanted to take minutes, so they advertised for a paid administrator. I got the job and faithfully attended and recorded all the board meetings for the next three years. I decided I would like a vote, so invited myself to join the board. Turns out I did the exact same job, just wasn't getting paid for it. I served two terms, mostly as secretary, and my last year as president.

Q: What's one of your favorite pieces of music that you have sung? And where did you sing it?

JD: I love all the masses and requiems we have sung. My favorites have been the Mozart Requiem which we performed at Carnegie Hall in 2009 under the baton of John Rutter, a famous composer of sacred music. We have sung this piece many times since. My other favorite was the Poulenc Gloria, which we sang in Durango and Farmington with the San Juan Symphony Orchestra. This was the first major work I had ever sung.

Q: Have you gone on any of the DCS overseas trips?

JD: I have gone on all but one of the DCS overseas trips. The one I missed was Greece because I already had two transatlantic trips planned that year within six months and just couldn't squeeze in a third.

Q: Who is your favorite recording artist? Band?

JD: I have always been a classical music nerd. But modern music—e.g., 70s, 80s—I love Queen, The Eagles, ABBA. Oh, and the guy who wrote Classical Gas in about 1970, Mason Williams. Not to mention the folk singers of that era, Joan Baez, Judy Collins, and Joannie Mitchell.

Q: Do you play an instrument?

JD: I failed miserably at becoming accomplished at any instruments, even though I was playing piano by ear at age 4. I probably started too early with lessons, did not have a good teacher, and got sick and tired of practicing. I taught myself how to play guitar in college, picked up things from friends and jam sessions, and sang in bars and coffee shops. Then as an older adult I took up cello. Didn't much like practicing that either, so gave that up, especially when my favorite teacher moved away.

More about Julia on the next page!

Julia....continued

Q: Best concert you've ever been to? Last concert you went to?

JD: Two really memorable: Yanni in concert in Atlanta decades ago; and Yo-Yo Ma in concert with the Albuquerque Symphony Orchestra before they folded. But guess what! Their fabulous conductor (who never uses a score) was hired in Durango as Director for Music in the Mountains.

Q: What is one quality you like most about yourself? What is one thing you would change in yourself if you could?

JD: Most: loyalty. Least, and wish I could change: procrastination.

Q: Other interests and hobbies?

JD: I try to stay involved in the community. I love to travel any chance I get, even if it's just few days in Santa Fe or a shopping trip in ABQ. My last trip before the pandemic was to India and Dubai. Wow! Otherwise, I'm pretty much a homebody and try to stay in shape by biking, boxing, and walking.

Q: Why do you support the DCS so generously?

JD: DCS has meant the world to me. Not only the beautiful music and a broad music education, but also the family atmosphere. Linda emphasizes that we get to know our choral mates, and I have made some lifelong friends in DCS. With all this given to me, I feel the least I can do is to give back where I can.

THANK YOU JULIA FOR ALL YOU DO FOR THE DURANGO CHORAL SOCIETY. WE LOVE YOU.

Thank you to Colorado Creative Industries



Colorado Creative Industries (CCI) recently awarded a grant to the Durango Choral Society. CCI believes in the power of creativity to inspire human connections, create social change, and support economic vibrancy throughout Colorado. They focus on strengthening the vitality of visual, performing, and literary arts through promotion, resources, and funding opportunities. Their mission is to promote, support and expand the creative industries to drive Colorado's economy, grow jobs and enhance our quality of life.

Colorado Creative Industries sees a future where Colorado is a premiere creative economy.

They strive to:

- create a strong brand identity
- be in the top 10 states for our creative industry
- provide significant and sustained investment in the creative sector
- help Colorado grow its own creative workforce

The Durango Choral Society is very grateful for the grant and the recognition from CCI and would like to thank CCI for their support and encouragement.



Get Your Kicks on Route 66!

The Durango Children's Chorale wrapped up the Spring 2022 season on Tuesday April 26, with a delightful concert for parents and community members. The selections for this concert were primarily American pieces, including lyrics by Robert Frost; a fun 2-part song about a day at the races; and a based-on-a-true-story song about the Rock Island Line, a "northbound train on a southbound track... he might leave but he won't be back." The fun rhythm, 2-part harmony and lyrics actually belie the tragic tale, and the song was a true audience pleaser!

The 2021-2022 season was our first time singing together since March 2020, and numerous adaptations had to be made regarding rehearsal venue, working with ever changing mandates, etc. Both our Fall and Spring seasons were abbreviated by more than a month, yet for each season the kids learned an impressive repertoire, new musical and vocal skills, and had a lot of fun, thanks to the creative ingenuity of artistic director Amy Barrett.

We consider this past year a great success as we eased back in to rehearsal and performance. We had singers ranging in age from 5 to 17. As always, we give a HUGE shout-out to the parents of our singers for their incredible support and their flexibility with scheduling. Thanks for all they do to help this choir run so beautifully!



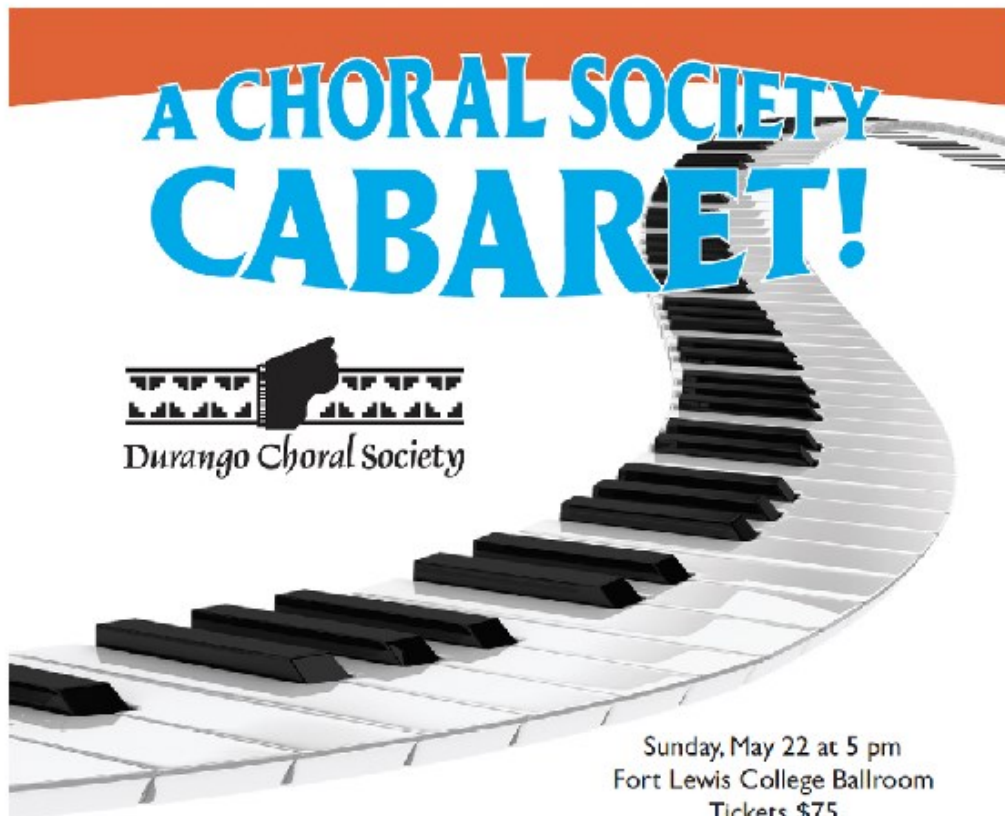
This is one event you do not want to miss. Our annual Cabaret (back after two years!) will be held for the first time in the Fort Lewis Student Union Ballroom on Sunday May 22.

What can you expect? Delectable food, great wine, and wonderful music.

Seating is limited, so buy your tickets right now to ensure you don't miss this extraordinary evening with the Durango Choral Society. In fact, invite your friends, and buy a table for 6,

at a discount!

durangochoralsociety.org



Sunday, May 22 at 5 pm
Fort Lewis College Ballroom
Tickets \$75

www.DurangoChoralSociety.org

Limited number of tickets will be sold to this highly anticipated event. Don't wait to get yours!

The Durango Choral Society continues our romp through the season with great music, elegant cuisine, a silent auction, and the company of your friends and neighbors! Our talented singers will perform favorites ranging from Broadway to Opera while you enjoy an elegant buffet dinner with wine.

*Special thanks to our
Season Sponsor!* **TBK + BANK**

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