



DURANGO CHORAL SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

Summer, 2022

As the weather warms and the wild winds subside, I find myself reflecting on the Durango Choral Society's adventures for the past two years. We have come full circle from COVID, a cancelled trip to Florence, an entire year of virtual productions, two live concerts featuring masked singers, to the resumption of in person performances. After many months of rehearsing and performing in masks, we found ourselves in shock and awe when we were finally able to safely remove them with how much our diction and projection had improved by necessity. Whew! It has been a wild ride indeed, but we have not only survived, but we have thrived.

Our sponsors, donors, singers, and loyal audience members have stood with us since 2020 as we were forced to learn many new strategies for safely sharing our artistry. Thanks to so much kindness and generosity, we are back in full force. Perhaps you heard our Americana concert in Durango or Bayfield. The annual CABARET returned, looking very different with a new venue, fabulous food, and a sold out, appreciative house. Yes, I am proud of how far we have come due to the efforts of so many members of our choral family. The DCS Board of Directors has worked tirelessly to maintain our artistic, financial, and logistical stability. Our Executive Director has procured numerous grants to support our four choirs. And, yes, our singers have patiently complied with mask wearing, no snacks, distancing, and other safety protocols put in place to protect them.

But, have a look at us now! You will see us singing on July 4 at Rotary Park with the Southwest Civic Winds. You will hear us performing opera choruses with the Music in the Mountains Festival Orchestra in a triumphant concert on July 31. And, this fall we will be

offering a vocal workshop to tune up our voices, a major work with the San Juan Symphony, camp for our children's choirs, and a beautiful, joyful, and inspiring holiday concert on December 4.

Our annual meeting on Wednesday, July 13 promises to be a celebration of our resilience, confidence, and sheer JOY as we anticipate the return to a "normal" kind of season. Our theme for 2022-23 will be *Live, Laugh, Love*, and we intend to offer you joy, laughter, happy memories, and inspiration at every concert. Stay tuned to our website at durangochoralsociety.org for the latest updates on our performance schedule. Thank our generous sponsors. Pat your singer friends on the back for their persistence, patience, and talent.

Most importantly, I hope that you can appreciate the level of talent right here in our community. Take advantage of the opportunity to be a part of our choral outreach, whether that be through your generous donations, attendance at our performances, or just a thumbs up to your family member, friend, or neighbor who gives of their time and talent to participate in our choirs. We love our community and we can't wait to see you again!

With gratitude and love,

Linda



Thanks to our season sponsor:

TBK  BANK

SPOTLIGHT ON THE LANCASTER FAMILY



Kelsey Lancaster is a member of the Board of Directors of the Durango Choral Society. She and her husband Brandan own Performance Automotive Repair, which has been a stalwart sponsor of many DCS events. Most recently, Performance Automotive Repair sponsored the FLC ballroom for our 2022 Cabaret.

You two are awesome!

We asked Kelsey to tell us how she became involved with the DCS.

Since she was 3 years old, our daughter, Deana, has loved to sing. For several years, Brandan kept saying “we need to get her in singing lessons.”

Laurie Kloepfer was a member of DCS and the Principal at Sunnyside Elementary, where both of our kids went to school. She mentioned the Durango Children's Chorale to me and that was the beginning of our amazing relationship with DCS, DCC, and DYC.

Deana joined DCC in the fall of 2010, and so continued her love of singing.

The very first concert she sang in with DCC was a combined concert with choirs from the Durango middle schools and high school. She admired the singers in the DHS Colours Choir and emphatically stated “I want to do that when I'm in high school.”

When DYC started in Sept 2014, Deana immediately knew she wanted to move up into the new group and study more challenging musical pieces. By this time, Deana was also in the choir at Escalante Middle School. The following year, she auditioned and was invited to participate in the Colorado Middle School All-State Choir. Deana even used her love of singing to submit an original piece of music as her History Day project, for which she won 1st place in the district competition.



Deana's dream of singing in the DHS Colours Choir came to fruition during her freshman year. Deana's love of singing, along with Amy Barrett's encouragement and coaching over the years helped Deana to achieve her musical goals.

Our son, Derek, also enjoyed singing. In 2017, he decided he was tired of just watching the concerts, so he joined DCC from 2017-2019. Having both of my kids on the same stage was a proud mommy moment for me! Also in 2017, I was one of the chaperones for DCC/DYC's trip to sing at Carnegie Hall in 2017. What an experience that was!



In 2018, I was honored to be asked to join the DCS Board of Directors as the parent representative for DCC/DYC. And although my children are older and no longer sing with the youth choirs, I am pleased to continue working with Amy and the DCS Board to ensure that our children's beautiful voices are heard loud and clear.



The Lovely Lancaster Family



A CHORAL SOCIETY CABARET!
Durango Choral Society

Sunday, May 22 at 5 pm
Fort Lewis College Ballroom
Tickets \$75
www.DurangoChoralSociety.org
(limited number of covers will be sold at 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
Sponsor: TBK BANK

durangochoralsociety.org

We hope you didn't miss this fabulous event in May. We're already planning our encore. So save the date for next year's Cabaret: Sunday 5/21/23.



Melody Postoak and Taylor Smith



Drea Pressley



Nathan Van Arsdale



Jeff Solon



Dueling pianos: Kent Norgren challenged Linda Mack to a spirited rendition of the Maple Leaf Rag. Linda bet Kent she could outplay him with one arm tied behind her back.

All photographs on this page are courtesy of Judith Reynolds.

The 2022 Cabaret was made possible due to our generous sponsors. Thank you to:

TBK Bank

Star Liquors

Performance Auto Repair

and

Lynn Eustance and Jim Adkins

Bill and Carol Thurman

Abby Bowen and Rhys Schrock

Marti and Steve Kiely

Walt Dear



Rhonda Muckerman



Gemma Kavanagh



Durango Chamber Singers



Durango Women's Choir



Erin Sinberg

All photographs on this page are courtesy of Richard Pratt.

What's up next??



DCS will celebrate Independence Day with a free performance—July 4th, at 9:15 a.m. at Rotary Park with the Southwest Civic Winds. Celebrate our national holiday with beloved American music and service songs.

And while you're there, make sure you enjoy the gourmet breakfast served by the Rotary Club of Durango from 7:30-11 a.m. ([https://durangorotary.square.site/for tickets and more information](https://durangorotary.square.site/for%20tickets%20and%20more%20information)).



The public is invited to attend the Durango Choral Society Board of Directors annual meeting, Wednesday, July 13 at 6 p.m. in Roshong Recital Hall (located in Jones Hall, south of the Concert Hall, Fort Lewis Campus).

"It's the Music. It's the Musicians. It's the Experience."

The Music in the Mountains Festival invited the Durango Choral Society and the Caliente Chorus of Farmington, NM to perform great opera choruses on July 31st. Tickets to this performance and all Festival events are available at:

MusicintheMountains.com or call
970.385.6820



Remember how much fun and rewarding it is to sing? Auditions for the Durango Choral Society are in August or available by appointment. Please join us.



Who won the duel? You decide.

