



♪♪♪♪♪ NOTES FROM THE DIRECTOR ♪♪♪♪♪



Welcome,
welcome,
welcome
BACK to our
JOYFUL
REUNION!

Thank you for your generous support and encouragement as we have navigated our way through this past year. We hope that you enjoyed our virtual performances, but we missed seeing you in person.

traditional carols, beautiful lullabies, and joyful expressions of holiday glee.

On March 10, 2020, the Durango Choral Society held its first rehearsal of the Vivaldi Gloria in celebration of our 50th season. Two days later we were shut down, along with the rest of the country, and have waited ever since to bring live music back to your ears, hearts, and souls.

Our JOYFUL REUNION will bring us together celebrating everyone and everything beginning with the great Italian master *Viva Vivaldi* on October 23.

What about the second half of our season? 2022 promises a winter and spring of pure delight, ranging from *How Can I Keep from Singing* in March to *An American Journey* and our annual *Cabaret*.

The past 19 months have given us a new appreciation of what music means to us, both as performers and as listeners. We are more than thrilled to finally resume our 50th season celebration and welcome you back to joy, inspiration, and beautiful memories. Our singers, ranging in age from 8 to 85, cannot wait to see you, greet you, and perform for you.

What else will we bring you this season? Join us on November 7 for *Shining Stars* to hear our talented adult and youth performers offer you a beautiful afternoon of stellar solos, small ensembles, and more surprises.

Yes, it will be a JOYFUL REUNION indeed. Stay tuned to our website, Durangochoralsociety.org and watch our videos on YouTube.

We will celebrate the holiday season on Sunday, December 5 at 3 pm. This year, we will be moving from the Concert Hall to the Summit Church for a more intimate but equally delightful Christmas gift to our community. You will hear

Most importantly, come to the concerts and fill your hearts with love, hope, happy memories, and inspiration. You deserve our best, and we promise to deliver our highest level of artistry. We can't wait to see you!

Love to all, Linda

Many thanks to our
season sponsor.



The DCS is blessed to have Dianne and Richard Pratt as major donors. We are grateful for their continued support.



Dianne and Richard on the Hooker Valley hike, New Zealand

We caught up with a very busy Dianne and asked her why she is so enthusiastic about the Durango Choral Society:

“Music has always been a part of my life. Both of my grandmothers played the piano. My maternal grandmother played by ear. My paternal grandmother was classically trained. The family was never shy about singing when we got together. I sang my first solo in first grade.

I sang throughout school. Our Albion College Choir was a touring choir. We had the privilege of singing with Duke Ellington and his orchestra. We also recorded the demonstration audio for a new edition of The Methodist Hymnal. I joined a small group of my fellow choristers to form a folk group that performed at coffee houses in the cities the choir was visiting.

Richard and I met at Albion. He didn’t sing, but he played the piano well and has a love for music. His first gifts to me were LP records.

After we married, I sang in numerous church choirs and with the Piedmont University Chorale. But none of that prepared me for Dr. Linda Mack Berven. Singing with the Durango Choral Society has been an amazing experience. We have traveled and performed gorgeous music in some of the most beautiful venues in the world. Linda’s caring eagerness to coax the best out of her singers is contagious. It also has blended us into a family.”



Bill Thurman, DCS Board Vice President

Bill sings in the Bass section of the Chorus. His wife, Carol Thurman sings with both the large Chorus and the Durango Women's Choir. Bill tells us "I have retired into increasing my faith, spending more time with my family, making music, and recreating."

Who's On Board?

**Meet your DCS Board Members
(in alphabetical order)**

- Abby Bowen, President**
- Ellie Cline, Librarian/Historian**
- Lynn Eustance, Treasurer**
- Gay Grossman, Corresponding Secretary**
- Charles Hakes, Member at Large**
- Don Hassemer, Member at Large**
- Wendy Hassemer, Member at Large**
- Kelsey Lancaster, Member at Large**
- Jan Patton, Recording Secretary**
- Dianne Pratt, Assistant Treasurer**
- Doty Shepard, Member at Large**
- Bill Thurman, Vice President**
- Connie Waterman, Member at Large**



Abby Bowen, DCS Board President Elect

Abby sings in the Alto section of the Chorus. Her husband, Rhys Schrock sings in the Tenor section. Abby says that taking on the DCS Board President role during the 2020-2021 season was really weird. Thank goodness President Emerita, Jeanne Bandy was able to advise her! Abby is so happy to be singing with her friends again.



**What a Board meeting looked like last year.
It's a joyful reunion to be back together again.**

You'll be meeting more of the Board members in future issues of the newsletter.



Meet our new Assistant Artistic Director

The Durango Choral Society is pleased to introduce our new Assistant Artistic Director, **Rhonda Muckerman**. Rhonda is an accomplished musician, teacher, and conductor. She holds a Bachelor of Music degree in Music Education from Michigan State University and a Master of Music degree from the College-Conservatory of Music/University of Cincinnati in Conducting. For over thirty-five years, Rhonda has taught instrumental and choral music to musicians of all ages, programming diverse repertoire designed to uplift the human spirit. She has served as the Artistic Director for the Telluride Choral Society for eleven years, and is currently the Artistic Director for the Southwest Civic Winds. Her book *Of Song and Water* will be published by Morgan James Publishing in April, 2022.



We are proud to welcome Rhonda to the DCS family. You will see her on stage as both a singer and conductor, and behind the scenes as well.

Spotlight on Melody Postoak

Thanks to generous donors like yourself, and in keeping with our mission of providing educational opportunities, the DCS was able to award a music scholarship this semester to Fort Lewis music student Melody Postoak.



Melody is a Music Education major with a focus in vocal music at Fort Lewis College in Durango, Colorado. She has held internships with Stillwater Music, assisting with adolescent ensembles, and the Montezuma-Cortez School District, teaching online K-5 music enrichment classes. Melody was the Chapter President for FLC NAFME (National Association for Music Educators) for two years and currently serves as the General Music Council Collegiate Representative for CMEA (Colorado Music Educators Association), intern for the Durango Choral Society, and music intern for the First Presbyterian Church of Durango. She will be singing with both the large Chorus and the Durango Women's Choir. She has a passion for providing equitable learning opportunities and safe spaces for all students, while highlighting diverse perspectives through quality music education and performance. In her free time Melody enjoys traveling, creating art, and getting out into nature as much as possible.





Vivaldi's Gloria Did you know that Antonio Vivaldi was a red-haired priest? And that he ran an orphanage for young girls???

I think that this is how Vivaldi would have felt about COVID-19.

Viva Vivaldi!

Antonio Vivaldi, the red-haired priest of Venice, is the focus of this exciting concert.

The Durango Choral Society will resume the celebration of our 50th season in style, with a nod to one of the greatest composers of the Baroque period.

Vivaldi's exuberant and beloved Gloria will be performed with chamber orchestra.

**Vivaldi's Gloria:
Saturday, October 23, 7PM**

**Roshong Recital Hall at
Fort Lewis College**

Tickets \$20/\$5

www.durangochoralsociety.org

Masks are required for those attending the concert. Singers will be wearing a "singer's mask" to provide as safe an environment as possible.

www.DurangoChoralSociety.org

And be sure to mark your calendar for our
**Shining Stars Concert,
Sunday, November 7 at 3p.**

We will present your favorite soloists, youth singers, and instrumentalists in a lovely afternoon recital.