



Durango Choral Society

January 2023 Newsletter



What musical memories do you find cropping up during the holiday season? Do you find yourself humming your favorite tunes and smiling as you recall the sights and sounds of family, friends, and fun? How does one describe the flood of emotions that music elicits from the

heart and soul? Our 2022-2023 season theme, *Live, Laugh, Love*, seems to say it all.

I am lucky to have the distinct advantage of being able to observe, close up and personal, the joy and depth of feeling on the faces of our singers as they make music together. This winter we finally experienced the long-awaited pleasure of joining forces with our children's ensembles for both a formal holiday concert and a joyous performance at TBK Bank. We were so happy to see huge, appreciative crowds at both events. I know that our music filled their hearts with joy, and that makes all of the time, effort, and practice more than worth it.

As 2023 opens with bright sun and gleaming snow, I am filled with anticipation for a beautiful year. This year marks the beginning of my 25th year as Artistic Director and Conductor of our beloved Durango Choral Society. Where has the time gone?? Talk about joyous memories and a flood of emotions. While I will be taking a hiatus this winter from the podium, I will look forward to two fabulous concerts directed by the talented and vibrant Rhonda Muckerman.

Rhonda has chosen some fresh, fun, and fulfilling repertoire for our adult choirs to enjoy.

No matter how many recordings you may listen to on your various devices, there is nothing that can replace being right there in the room, immersing yourselves in the real time moments of live music. One of my favorite sayings is that "a perfect performance is never great, but a great performance is never perfect." From a dog barking during the middle of a quiet, contemplative piece to a power failure in the middle of a song, to someone blating out a loud note during a rest, I have experienced many "never perfect" performances. But they have all been great!

So, I invite you to join us for the thrills, chills, and spills of live performances. Open your hearts, allow yourselves to laugh, cry, remember, and rejoice. Dance right there in your seat. FEEL with your complete body and soul. This is why we do what we do. We do it for ourselves, and we do it for you. Come and watch one of our rehearsals sometime. There you will see and hear the real teamwork, the friendships, the joy, and the determination to bring you our best.

Thank you for being a part of our musical family. We love and appreciate you more than you know.

Live, Laugh, Love. Feel. Enjoy. Remember.

With admiration and respect,

Linda Mack Berven,

DCS Artistic Director and Conductor

Thank you to our season sponsor:

TBK  BANK

Although we are settled in during the depth of winter with snow-covered branches and star-lit nights, our dedicated singers make their way to Tuesday night rehearsals, traversing icy roads in the dark. It is our voices, joined in union, that brings a warmth which penetrates the coldest of winter nights. The joy of rehearsing together in anticipation of our spring concerts calls forth a lightness of heart and rich harmonies, punctuated by occasional laughter and shenanigans.

The joy we experience in rehearsals is surpassed only by the satisfaction of bringing music alive for you, our audience members. This season's music is filled with the sweetness of Spring and the diversity of Nature, with a multi-cultural twist. In March, we bring you "There is Sweet Music." It is, indeed, a celebration of music itself with rousing spirituals by Moses Hogan and Rollo Dilworth, paired with the contemporary choral harmonies of Morton Lauridsen and Susan LaBarr. Add in a contemporary arrangement of Celtic "lilting" as can only be sung by our Durango Women's Choir and you've got a delightful program that is sure to set the tone for the arrival of spring. We are over-the-top pleased to welcome our dear friends from the Telluride Choral Society, under the direction of Hal Adler, back into the fold again. For the first time since 2020, just before the world as we knew it changed, the Chamber Singers will grace our stage again with their own sweet voices.

For our Durango and Bayfield concerts (April 28th and 30th) we bring you "A World of Love Songs." The Durango Women's Choir will dazzle you with songs from Brazil and Serbia to Peru and Ireland, showing us that music and love are truly universal languages.

And this being the month of April with its celebration of Earth Day, I had to include Nature on my list of love song honorees. Let's revel in the rich sound of our Durango Choral Society Adult Choir, under the light of *Ballade to the Moon* by Daniel Elder, *Emerald Stream* by Seth Houston (who composed this piece at the tender age of 17) and Frank Ticheli's *Earth Song*. The sweet voices of the Durango Choral Society's Children's Chorale and Youth Chorus, under the direction of Amelia Barrett, will round out this concert as we "bless the rains" of Toto's *Africa*.

We are so fortunate in the Durango Choral Society to have a dedicated Board of Directors, talented singers of all ages, generous donors and sponsors, numerous volunteers, and supportive audience members. We thank all of you in helping us to fulfill our mission, and for the joy of being able to perform for you!

Many thanks,

Rhonda L Muckerman

Associate Conductor, Durango Choral Society



Our Christmas concert, held the first weekend in December was hugely popular and our thoughtful audience reshuffled to make as much room as possible. It was a full house at Summit Church.

All four choirs were able to sing together for the first time in two years!





In December, our season sponsor TBK Bank invited us to be part of their Holiday community event.

Santa was there (and also the Grinch!!).

TBK elves had hot chocolate and cookies for the happy crowd who were entertained with holiday music as they waited to tell Santa what they wanted for Christmas!

Amy Barrett, Artistic Director of the children's choirs had the following comments: "Wow. What a turnout. The kids had a good time. We didn't have time to memorize words and most of the kids are still emerging readers! I applaud their efforts to read and sing at the same time in front of a crowd. I have two singers whose first language is Spanish and they REALLY enjoyed singing Feliz Navidad!"

Everyone in the DCS had a blast.

Thank you TBK for inviting us.



Spotlight on DCS Board Member and Chorus Alto, Lynn Eustance



Born in upstate New York many years ago, I was raised in a family of six with two sisters and a brother, all younger than I. My father was a chemist for General Electric, my mother a stay-at-home mom busy

with four kids, her music (piano, voice), house, and home. Dad played the trumpet, well but only occasionally. Mom taught us all the basics of piano, and then we (and she) were taught by others until sister Kerry went on with it and the rest of us went our own ways. I was singing and playing guitar in hootenannies on TV and on stage while in my teens, singing in high school chorus and glee clubs, playing Rosie in "Bye Bye Birdie," and auditioning and being selected for NY State School Music Association All-State Choir. I sang in choirs during the first 2 years of college, then transferred and, for some reason, did not continue singing. For 32 YEARS!!

I loved Durango the minute I saw it, on vacation with my roommate Mollie. We camped at Hermosa Meadows Camper Park, if any of you remember that—the Kielys live approximately there now. It was wonderful. I arrived permanently in the fall of 1976, found an apartment and settled in. A year and a half later, after a softball game, the team celebrated its victory at The Solid Muldoon. I looked up at the bar from a period couch/chair seating arrangement and saw a man, looked up at him again, went to sit next to him, and that was that. I married that man, Jim Adkins, four (4!) months later, in the fall of 1978.

Since then, Jim and I worked hard and scraped by. I worked in a construction company at the time, starting out as receptionist, and climbing up to estimator/drafter/purchaser/receiver and sometimes office manager. Jim worked for various excavation companies, as well as in the oil-field. He pursued his dream of having/raising mules, and we bought property that could hold a few. We took equine AI courses at CSU, and got into it (metaphorically and actually). Many a night we were outside urging and waiting for our jack to love a mare. But we

did have wonderful times riding, packing and driving our mules, and seeing lots of country we never would have on foot.



We both tired of working "for the other guy," and each started her/his own business. I and a fellow female estimator started a business providing plans for contractors' bids, materials take-offs, payrolls and bookkeeping, all construction-related. Jim started a painting company, cleaning brushes at our outside spigot at night. His company, Mesa Color, started growing; I was doing his books and payroll in my off-hours. In the meantime, we built a house—he was hands-on; I was managing from the office. We decided that if we could build a house together, we could work together. I bowed out of my partnership and joined forces with Mesa Color.

In 2002 my dad died. I was needing an outlet. While attending a CPR class, I met a woman—and I can't remember her name!—who was wearing a red DCS sweatshirt. I kept thinking about it, and finally called Linda and auditioned. I started singing in January, 2003. I am SO happy I did. I had forgotten how much music fills my soul.

When I told my sister of the choir, she suggested I get on the Board. I thought about it, especially after Liza pleaded for donations that season, and I spoke with Bob Westerwick who invited me to a meeting at Linda's house. Of course, I spoke up when the financials were distributed. Whoops! I was in. 2004 or 2005, I think. And here I am still. And I could not be happier about it.

During all this, Jim and I shared many adventures—in Oregon, Death Valley, Costa Rica, Mayan ruins in Guatemala and Mexico, Australia, New Zealand, British Columbia, Grand Canyon, Alaska, Texas, Canyon de Chelly, Louisiana, Utah, New Mexico, Arizona, Colorado, Florida, Wyoming, Iceland, Minnesota, and this year we found our lovely little winter home in Baja, Mexico.

DCS is a huge and important part of my life. I am so grateful for both the social, emotional, artistic, and creative outlet of our choir/family, as well as the opportunity and honor to serve our Board/family all these years.



What's New?

Save the Date: *There is Sweet Music*

Friday, March 10, 2023 at 7pm and

Saturday, March 11, 2023 at 2pm

Summit Church, 2917 Aspen Drive

The Durango Choral Society, the Durango Women's Choir, and special guests sing from their hearts and souls in celebration of song. Enjoy the reverence and revelry of music ranging from old time gospel to love and nature. Associate Conductor Rhonda Muckerman will lead this beautiful and inspiring performance.

Visit our website www.durangochoralsociety.org for ticket information

Kudos to the Kiddos (and Amy!)

We have eight DCC students and one DYC student who auditioned and were chosen to sing in the Colorado Elementary and Middle School All-State Choirs. This is the first time ANY Durango students have attended Elementary All-State Choir and the first time the Durango Choral Society has been represented at the Colorado Middle School All State Choir Festival.

DO YOU MISS SINGING?

Would you like to sing with us?

We'd love to have you join our choral family.

Please visit our website for audition requirements:

www.durangochoralsociety.org



We are beyond grateful for your support on SWCOGives Day 2022! Because of you we raised over \$6,000 and almost doubled our number of donors! Thank you for keeping the music alive, providing the highest quality music education and performances, and ensuring that the DCS will remain vibrant as we plan our 54th season of singing for you! Thank you for your dedication, to us and to our fellow SWCO organizations.

Thank you to the donors who gave so generously through SWCOGives.

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Thank you to our season sponsor, TBK Bank

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