

# *Comfort and Joy*

Durango Choral Society  
October 2020  
Newsletter



The Durango Choral Society has been making lemonade out of lemons this fall.

Since we cannot safely sing together in person, we have been exploring other ways to keep our voices and our music alive. We have zoomed together just to keep in touch, worked a masked and gloved garage sale together, recorded our virtual music, and done vocal warmups and individual coaching, all online.

So, when is it YOUR turn to share in our music making? That time is now upon us! Our fall season, *Comfort and Joy*, has been designed to keep your spirits alive with the sound of our children and adults in song.

Beginning on Friday, October 9, we will release our first ever virtual concert entitled ***Comfort: Songs of Home, Hope, and Happiness***. The program will be available online and will feature highlights of our most popular past performances ranging from 2012

to 2020, including the adult and youth choirs, soloists including Gemma Kavanagh, Curtis Storm, Drea Pressley, Andreas Tischhauser and more, and a brand-new piece entitled *I Choose Love*.

For the past several weeks, choir members have been individually recording their voices on this beautiful work that was composed in response to the tragic events that occurred in Charlottesville.

*In the midst of pain, I choose love.  
In the midst of war, I choose peace.  
When the world falls down, I will rise.*

Our own Gordon Thomas has been serving as our videographer and producer, and he and I have been very busy selecting the music, editing audio and video, and preparing this special event for public release.

I will offer a pre-concert talk that will focus on the music itself, and some insights about how we put this project together.

I hope that ***Comfort*** will offer you just that: comfort, peace, and a sigh of longing for the return of live music.

You may just shed a tear as you listen to our in-the-round finale performance of *Shenandoah*, but I

hope that it will touch your hearts in a beautiful and meaningful way. You may laugh out loud hearing Curtis Storm singing *You'll Be Back* from *Hamilton*. I guarantee that you will smile with beautiful memories hearing Gemma Kavanagh sing *Over the Rainbow*. And, finally, you will be filled with hope for our upcoming generations as you listen to our Durango Children's Chorale and Durango Youth Chorus with their pure, sweet voices.

Thank you for hanging in there with us as we navigate our new, and hopefully temporary, world. Log on to our website, [durangochoralsociety.org](http://durangochoralsociety.org) to register for ***Comfort***. You will be invited to make a ticket price donation at any level that is possible for you and your family.

We love you all, appreciate your support and encouragement, and cannot wait to be with you in person.

Cheers, hope, and ***Comfort*** to all,

*Linda*



## Retiring President C. Jeanne Bandy Named DCS President Emerita

"When Jeanne first auditioned for the Choral Society, she was surprised to be admitted as a singer! But, she deserved it wholeheartedly. Then, she volunteered to help out with things, and before long, I asked her if she might be interested in going on the Board. She, being humble as always, did not think she would have anything to offer! Well, it did not take long before she was so well respected and admired that the Board enthusiastically appointed her as President. She took the reins and found herself learning and loving the job. She was creative, hardworking, and an extremely energetic

leader, and it was a perfect fit for the time."—*Linda Mack Berven*

C. Jeanne Bandy first joined the DCS Board in 2007. She was elected and served as Board President from 2008–2013. She was reelected and served as Board President from 2015–2020. She currently has one year remaining as a Board member at-large, and will continue to consult and help us to shape the future.

Join us in celebrating her years of dedicated, loving service and the many wonderful things that she accomplished as President. Her talent, drive, and strong leadership have been invaluable to DCS. With

love and gratitude, we celebrate you, Jeanne! Thank you for all of the hard work, energetic leadership, fruitful visions, and unwavering dedication to the mission, music, and the members of DCS.

Jeanne has been named President Emerita, and will always be a beloved perennial in the DCS garden.



## Keep on Singing

Because we know you want to help us Keep Singing, we are excited to announce a way that you can **double your donation dollars!**

Thanks to the generosity of two supporters, your donation, regardless of the amount, to the Durango Choral Society between 10/1–11/15 will be matched dollar for dollar up to a total of \$4,000! That's right—you can help us reach (or surpass!) our goal of raising \$8,000 to continue our operations during this challenging time. Your generous gift always means so much to us and this time it will mean twice as much!

You must donate between 10/1–11/15 for your contribution to be matched. Donate by visiting <https://durangochoralsociety.org> or send a check to the Durango Choral Society, P.O. Box 1043, Durango CO, 81302.

# Kid's Corner

Amy and Robin miss connecting with the kids and miss the kids' sweet faces and voices.

Amy worked hard to try to find a way to do rehearsals in some way, in some form, in smaller groups perhaps, but it just wasn't feasible, due to restrictions still in place from San Juan Basin Health. In addition, Amy has been looking into various possibilities for a rehearsal venue, and is coming up empty on that as well.

So as of right now, the DCC and DYC will definitely NOT be rehearsing for at least the first quarter. Amy, Robin, and the Board of Directors will re-evaluate around mid-October and see where we are at that point.

So...their advice to you parents: get the your kids in the van, crank up the radio, and everybody sing along so their voices still get some practice time and they can feel the joy of singing!

Amy and Robin miss you and Ms. Christi is antsy to get back to the piano!! But for now, we all need to do our parts and toe the line. But don't give up hope for music yet this year. We sure haven't!!



Kids rule!

**Did you know?** Children who sing in choruses have *higher academic success and possess valuable life skills of self-confidence, self-discipline and improved memory. Young singers also have higher grades and graduation rates.*

The DCC and DYC provide not only an artistic outlet for children, but also increase each child's music education level, group social experience, and ability to concentrate on complex tasks, while promoting self-confidence and stage presence. Positive responses to the excellent and increasingly ambitious programs presented by the DCC/DYC choruses indicate a lasting, growing appreciation for music and quality musicianship in and around Durango and a continued need for the education provided by the DCC.

## Spotlight on Molli

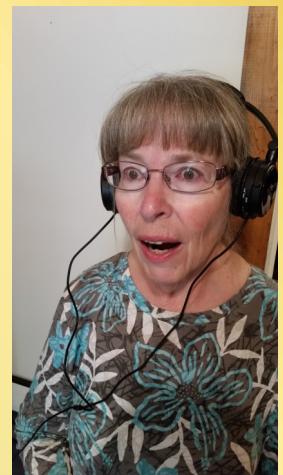


Molli Gurr has been singing with the Durango Children's Choral and Durango Youth Choir for almost eight years! Singing has been an important part of her life. Some of her favorite things about choir are the amazing opportunities to visit other places like New York City! Singing inside the Statue of Liberty is something she will never forget. Molli also really enjoys the song selections Mrs. Amy teaches. When people from the community join in with their different instruments, it brings another element of fun and joy to the choir. Outside of choir, Molli has been playing soccer since she was in kindergarten. She also really loves living in Durango because it's right in the mountains. Spending time at her family's cabin is very important to her. Molli is grateful for the friends she has made in choir, and for the skills she has learned.

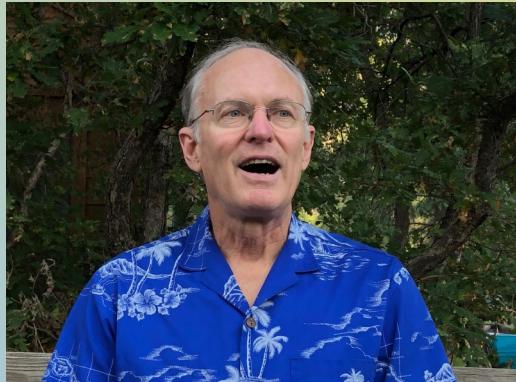


Dress rehearsal at the Concert Hall 2019

Durango Choral Society members record the beautiful song *I Choose Love* that you can hear on our website starting October 9th.



Don't forget...starting Friday, October 9, our first ever virtual concert, entitled *Comfort: Songs of Home, Hope, and Happiness*, will be available on our website, [durangochoralsociety.org](http://durangochoralsociety.org).



Gordon Thomas and Linda Mack mix the recordings they received from chorus members.

# DCS Annual Garage Sale

DCS held their annual garage sale on 9/11 and 9/12. It was a huge success but would not have been possible without the help of people contributing items to the sale, volunteers who set up and priced items, volunteers who worked the sale, and those that helped clean up! And of course, everybody who bought something!

We especially want to thank Julia Dodd, who provided the “groj” and Linda Mack who was chief cashier and cheerleader and who was there the entire time!



Not our sign.

**THIS is our sign.**



Setting up.



The store is open!



Julia and Linda.



Jan bedazzles!