

DURANGO CHORAL SOCIETY NEWS

WINTER/SPRING 2026

♪♪♪♪♪ A NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR ♪♪♪♪♪



Dear DCS Friends and Family,

Spring is right around the corner, and with it DCS brings fresh programming to delight the ears and warm the heart!

On March 27–28 we continue our 2025–2026 season with concerts featuring the Durango Choral Society and Durango Women’s Choir performing songs of some of my favorite American contemporary composers.

I have always been captivated by the relationship between nature (specifically water) and music, hence our season theme "Stream of Song." Both music and water move in currents, bring healing, and sustain us. Most of the songs in this program have a connection to water.

Morten Lauridsen composed *Sure on this Shining Night* in his vacation home in the state of Washington near the water, so the piece moves with a constant “ebb and flow.” Seth Houston composed *Emerald Stream* at the tender age of 17 while on a canoe trip with his father. Eric Whitacre composed *The Seal Lullaby* for a potential Disney movie (Rudyard Kipling’s *The White Seal*), but Disney decided to produce *Kung Fu Panda* instead. The only piece that is not related to water is *The Sun Never Says*, but Dan Forrest, like all of the composers on the program, was raised in our “American waters”—besides, it is so beautiful, I couldn’t help myself.

These pieces are some of my all-time favorites—beautiful, magical, mysterious—drawing us into Nature’s current.

We will welcome our friends of the Telluride Choral Society, under the direction of Hal Adler, to the stage

once again on Saturday, March 28 only (note the early afternoon performance time of 1:00 p.m.).

On Sunday, April 19th at 3:00 p.m. at Christ the King Church, the Durango Children’s Chorale and Youth Chorus, under the direction of Amy Barrett, will perform their end-of-year concert “Singing Through America” in recognition of Colorado’s sesquicentennial (150th) celebration and America’s 250th year celebration. The clear and beautiful voices of the children are always a show-stopper, and special guests, the Caliente Children’s choir, as well as an opening set by the Durango Choral Society, will round out this crowd-pleasing event.

Finally, we will finish out the 2025–2026 season with “A Musical Menagerie” on Friday, May 15th 7:00 p.m. at St. Mark’s Church. This special fundraising recital will feature the heavenly voices of the Durango Women’s Choir, select soloists, and a cameo appearance by our newest ensemble of *a cappella* singers who will represent DCS in future engagements out in the community. We will present a wide variety of repertoire from classical to folk, Z. Randall Stroope to the Wailin’ Jennys, in a dazzling display of talent. A celebratory reception will follow the concert.

In closing, we in the Durango Choral Society know that none of what we do would be possible without the generous support of our donors, sponsors, and audience members. Your generosity is fundamental towards fulfilling our mission of bringing high-quality concerts and music education to our region. The opportunity to thank you, through song, is our greatest joy. We hope to see you at our concerts this spring as we continue our float downstream!

Love to all,

Rhonda L Muckerman, Artistic Director
Durango Choral Society

John Layne Randolph 1948–2025

John was the beloved husband of Robin Randolph, who sings alto and tenor with the DCS, and who also herds cats for the children’s choirs. John was also a singer, who spent almost 40 years with the Durango Narrow Gauge Barbershop Chorus and enjoyed singing in various quartets through the years.

We extend our sympathy to Robin and her family for their loss.



March 27, 2026 • 7 p.m.
March 28, 2026 • 1 p.m.
Summit Church • 2917 Aspen Dr., Durango
\$25 adults, \$5 students & children over 12
Children under 12 are free
Tickets at durangochoralsociety.org

Float down the river with the Durango Choral Society and Durango Women's Choir as we serenade you with contemporary classical pieces by Dan Forrest, Morten Lauridsen, Eric Whitacre and the Doobie Brothers! Experience the rushing rhythms and gorgeous harmonies of songs which incorporate the beauty of our American waters. With special guests the Telluride Choral Society singers (for Saturday's performance only).



CHRISTMAS CONCERT AND GALA, DECEMBER 2025



KID'S CORNER

Elementary All-State

The Colorado Elementary All-State event offers young singers the opportunity to perform high-quality choral music as part of a large unified ensemble. Under the direction of nationally recognized conductors, students can demonstrate their musical skills, meet state performance standards, and celebrate the shared joy of choral singing.

On January 31st, around 500 students performed for an audience of nearly 2,000 at the Broadmoor Hotel in Colorado Springs, a sold-out event. Thirteen of those singers were from Durango, eleven DCC singers and two students from Miller Middle School.

4th, 5th, and 6th grade students are chosen to participate by their music teacher, who must be a member of the Colorado Music Educators Association.

Middle School All-State

Colorado Middle All-State Choir (CMASC) offers 7th and 8th grade students in Colorado a chance to perform alongside the best middle school singers across the state in one of their three elite ensembles. Designed to be a transition between the elementary and high school All-State models, CMASC requires students to audition with a prepared piece and demonstrate their technical skills.

Amy had three boys from DCC accepted for CMASC: Luke Stegner, Benjamin Meecker, and Brigham Barrett. These students sang in the TTTB choir, a four-part vocal ensemble, commonly used for men's or changing-voice ensembles.

The two-day festival was held at the Colorado Convention Center in Denver, where students rehearsed and performed with 500+ similarly talented, motivated, and dedicated singers under the direction of elite clinicians from around the country. The culminating concert was held on the final evening, February 13th, in the 5,000-seat Bellco Theatre.

High School "Top of the Nation" Honor Choir Festival

The Adams State University, (in Alamosa, CO) "Top of the Nation" Honor Choir Festival features some of the finest high school choral musicians in the Southwest. The event was held over a three-day period, beginning on Thursday February 19th and concluding in a concert on Saturday afternoon. The guest conductor was Reginal Wright, a renowned composer, conductor, and educator. Amy Barrett represented the DCS as one of three guest clinicians.

Two high schoolers qualified for this choir: Tommy Silvester-Jensen and Breeanna Barrett.

Amy Barrett, Artistic Director of the Durango Children's Chorale and Durango Youth Chorus, applied for, and received a grant from the Durango Education Foundation for \$2,000 to cover music and registration costs for all three events.

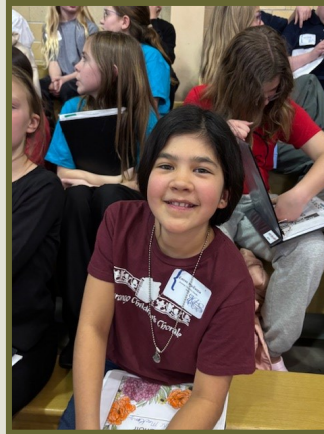
The mission of the Durango Education Foundation is "to provide relevant and innovative impact for our 9-R community through classroom grants, scholarships, and service."

The Durango Choral Society is very grateful to them for this generous gift.



Kudos to Amy Barrett, Artistic Director extraordinaire, whose musical talent, dedication, and enthusiasm encourage Durango's young people to reach their full potential.

ELEMENTARY ALL-STATE 2026



MIDDLE SCHOOL ALL-STATE 2026



HONOR CHOIR FESTIVAL 2026



Mark Your Calendar

Durango Choral Society Spring Concert: Stream of Song

Summit Church, Durango

Friday March 27, 7:00 p.m. and

Saturday March 28, 1:00 p.m., (with the Telluride Choral Society joining on Saturday)

Singing Through America

Durango Children's Choral, Durango Youth Choir, Caliente Children's Choir

Joined by the Durango Choral Society Adult Choir

Christ the King Church, Durango

Sunday, April 19, 3:00 p.m.

A Musical Menagerie with the Durango Women's Choir

Featuring solo and small group selections

St. Mark's Episcopal Church, with reception following

Friday, May 15, 7:00 p.m.

www.durangochoralsociety.org for more information and to purchase tickets. We recently revamped our website to make purchasing your ticket absolutely seamless. Try it today.

Reflections from long-time choral member, Katherine Reynolds

When I am looking for calm and peace, I view DCS music videos.

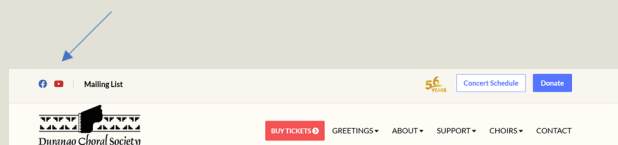
One of my favorites is the *Requiem for Eagles*, composed by Telluride's Dr. David Lingle and completed over two years by Dalen Stevens. It premiered under the direction of Director Emerita Linda Mack Berven in October of 2015, and eventually was a recipient of the prestigious Chorus America Alice Parker Award in 2016. (At that time our very own Rhonda Muckerman was Artistic Director of the Telluride Choral Society.)

In reflecting on this I realized that the experience of singing the *Requiem for Eagles* was one of the most meaningful choral experiences for me with the Durango Choral Society. It is a beautiful and original piece with unique, personal, and exquisite composition, including an Indian poem about flying into the heavens.

You're in luck because you can still listen to *Requiem for Eagles*, performed by the Durango Choral Society and the Telluride Choral Society by following this link: [Oct. 11, 2015: Requiem for Eagles](#).

Your humble editor has always loved the annual Cabaret and Christmas concerts, but thinks that whatever she is currently singing is her favorite. What's your favorite performance from our many years of singing?

You can view lots of videos of the Durango Choral Society by selecting the YouTube symbol at the top of our website at www.durangochoralsociety.org or by scrolling down to the bottom of the DCS homepage. However, there's still no substitute for live music, so please join us for our next fabulous and uplifting concert in March.



Here are the new members to the DCS Choral Family. At the next rehearsal stop by and introduce yourself.

Carolyn Cummins	Lisa Beckel
Cassie McCarty	Paul Nicks-Erickson
Genny Langworthy	Serenity Hall
Kristen Anderson	Tyler Wiseman
Laurel Waller	Whitney Parker
Laurie Dickson	

It's Time for ButterBraids

The Durango Children's Chorale and Youth Chorus are in the middle of their annual fundraiser: selling the famous and delicious ButterBraids pastries.

If you're not at chorus rehearsal to order directly from Robin, you can order online at <https://store.myfundraisingplace.com/66393090-3b70-4b25-bef1-4d59fe3997ff>.

You will see a list of the kids. If there is someone you know, you can order under their name. Or, go to the end of the list to order from Robin. Online orders require a debit or credit card.

The deadline for ordering is March 16th. The products will be delivered on or around March 24th and because they will be delivered personally, you must live locally.

COGIVES CAMPAIGN

Colorado Gives Day 2025 was Tuesday, Dec. 9th. Since 2010, Coloradans have come together on Colorado Gives Day to support the nonprofits that make a difference in their lives. Durango Choral Society is proud to be part of our state's incredible nonprofit community.

In 2010, the Colorado Gives Foundation (then known as the Community First Foundation) launched Colorado Gives Day. Their initial goal was modest: raise \$1 million. But the day exceeded all expectations, bringing in \$8 million in donations in its inaugural year.

Thousands of Colorado nonprofits use ColoradoGives.org to fundraise year-round. Visit our website at www.durangochoralsociety.org to see how easy it is to donate online to the Durango Choral Society.

The following list includes all the generous folks who donated dollars to the DCS on December 9th. Thank you one and all.

Courtney Ashmore

C. Jeanne Bandy

Laurie Barker

Amy Barrett

Abby Bowen

Heather Campbell

Susan and Wayne Caplan

Jeanie Child

Alison Dance

Cathy and Paul Duggan

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Dianne and Richard Pratt

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And many thanks to our season sponsor:

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THANK YOU TO ALL OUR CONTRIBUTORS

This list contains the names of those who donated between January, 2024 and February, 2026. We apologize for any omissions.

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Katherine Reynolds



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Nancy Mace
Rhonda Muckerman
Dianne and Richard Pratt

In memory of:

Judith Louise Fox
June Marie Hahl
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And many thanks to our season sponsor:

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