

SacSings!

The Sacramento Choral Festival

April 23 - 24, 2016
THE SACRAMENTO CHORAL FESTIVAL

Performing Arts Center at Sacramento City College

**THE BIGGEST
CHORAL EVENT
THIS YEAR IN THE
SACRAMENTO
REGION!**

**20 Choruses
900 Singers
4 Concerts
2 Days**

Pop Barbershop *Jazz* Folk
Spirituals *Classical* **NOVELTY**
Broadway *Sacred* Americana

Sponsored by the Sacramento Valley Choral Coalition,
a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation

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Your Future Begins Here!



VOCAL & CHORAL MUSIC

The Vocal & Choral Music program at Sacramento City College (SCC) has a rich history in education and performance that started in 1968. It is designed to meet the needs of both major and non-majors alike and students are welcomed at every level of vocal development. The Vocal & Choral Music Program at Sacramento City College is under the direction of Professor Daniel Paulson.

Vocal & Choral Music Students at SCC, will participate in weekly vocal and repertoire courses, will study outside of the classroom with award winning vocal coaches and accompanists, and will perform in one of the two choral performance ensembles. Students will be held to the highest standard in practice and in performance, and will gain the needed skills to transfer to a four-year institution in Vocal or Choral Music.

Our Program Includes:

- Weekly Vocal Coachings
- Vocal & Choral Instruction
- Choral & Solo Performances
- Technique & Musicianship Courses
- Repertoire & Performance Practice Courses



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WELCOME

What is *SacSings*? Fundamentally, it's a celebration of choral singing. Even more fundamentally, though, it's a celebration of harmony. You will hear a lot of harmony in the music of these very different choruses. But there's another kind of harmony going on here: it's the harmony of organizations and individuals working together for a common purpose. So what's the common purpose? To raise public awareness of choral music and the work being done by all these organizations.

Choruses are traditionally go-it-alone organizations, working to build a following and perhaps feeling a spirit of competition with other groups, competing for your limited entertainment dollar – not only competing with other choruses, but with arts organizations of all kinds. *SacSings!* introduces a new spirit. These 20 choruses have joined together to share the same stage and show you the rich variety in choral music. And at the close of each *SacSings!* concert, the choruses will assemble on stage to sing the same song, a new arrangement of an old song, a song about peace.

That's one of the virtues of choral music – people have to do it together. They have to bridge differences of politics, religion, race, age, social status, personality, all the things that divide us – in order to make music. They commit to working together, to perfecting the harmony of their voices and sharing it with their audience. They are little islands of peace. *SacSings!* connects those islands.

You are about to benefit from all those connections. For months, each chorus has been working feverishly, refining their art to offer you 20 minutes of their best music. And you will hear a wide variety of music styles. That's by design. Each of these choruses is truly unique, and that's part of what we're celebrating in each concert over this weekend. We hope you'll get a sense for the amazingly wide range of choral music, and that you will hear something unexpected: performances that will delight you and make you want to experience more of what these music organizations have to offer.

Thank you for joining us on this journey. You are about to experience something very special. Can you feel the excitement?



Dick Frantzreb
Executive Director



The Sacramento Valley Choral Coalition (SVCC) was established in October, 2013 for the purpose of promoting choral music throughout the Sacramento Valley, and it is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation. Initially SVCC was focused on launching the first *SacSings!*, which took place in June 2014. Subsequently, the Coalition sponsored a workshop called *Performing Music in Public – Legally*, organized co-op advertising of choral concerts, collaborated with Sacramento City College in putting on a mass singing event called *Messiah 2.0*, held a singalong of Vivaldi's *Gloria*, and initiated a monthly newsletter called *The Sacramento Choral News*. Of course many other projects are on the drawing board.

One fundamental purpose is to facilitate cooperation among choruses. Despite the great diversity among choral organizations, they have similar objectives: building membership, building audiences, improving management, finding funding, and enhancing the quality of their performances. And there are numerous challenges along the way to pursuing these objectives: finding venues, discovering new publicity channels, sourcing professional help, locating suppliers – the list goes on and on. We don't contemplate responding to all these objectives and challenges for every chorus in a short period of time, but we do believe that collaborative effort and sharing of information can yield significant benefits.

SacSings! is a showcase for adult choruses, but there are many other choral organizations: college/university choruses, high school choirs, children's choruses, church choirs, ethnic choruses, etc. Many of these choruses have affiliations with larger organizations – local, regional and national – from which they benefit. But we believe that they have unmet needs, and we hope to discover them and help where we can.

Finally, there is the larger picture of the public's perception of choral music. Those of us who participate in choral singing know the joy of the many expressions of this art form. But we also know that there are many who have yet to discover the wonders of vocal harmony. And we – our member choruses, donors, and partners – believe that making this discovery can change and enrich lives, especially the lives of children, of the underprivileged, and of the disadvantaged. So we see the Sacramento Valley Choral Coalition as having a mission to promote choral music throughout our community, to get more people singing and singing together, and to expose more people to the many dimensions of this art form. You, too, can be part of this community-focused initiative. It's all about harmony, and isn't that one of society's great needs? SVCC is up and running to help where we can.

Sacramento Valley Choral Coalition Board Members:

Dick Frantzreb, President
Sacramento Choral Calendar

Diana Babcock, CPA, Treasurer
Van Erp, Petersen & Babcock, LLP

Clark Abrahamson
Sacramento Capitolaire

Cynthia Cates
Valley Choral Society

David Loofbourrow
Grass Valley Male Voice Choir

Mariia Pechenova
Cantare Chorale

David Williams, Ph.D.
Folsom Lake College



Let There Be Peace on Earth How the Song Came to Be

“Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me” are words which, set to music, have inspired generations of people around the world. As so often happens, the comfort and hope in this thought was preceded by pain and despair. And a song that achieved spectacular success had a modest beginning.

Jill Jackson, born in Missouri in 1913, had a troubled young life, starting with the death of her mother when she was just three. Unhappy family relations and instability in her early years led her to leave for Hollywood in her early 20s. She landed bit parts in movies, and eventually had starring roles in seven westerns. Happiness was elusive, however, and after a divorce, she attempted suicide. When it failed, her outlook on life took a dramatic turn, and she felt that her life had been spared for a purpose. Then her marriage to songwriter Sy Miller brought love back to her life, and she found herself entertaining the idea that there are spiritual solutions to the troubles of the world.

As a songwriting couple, Jackson and Miller experienced moderate success until 1955 when they were inspired with the idea that peace has to be in the hearts and practices of the individual. They saw the possibility of a song and started writing, working on it off and on for 3 weeks. At one point they said to each other, “Wonder if anybody will like this. This is really a strange song.”



About this time they connected with a man planning an interfaith, interracial workshop for 180 teenagers in California, who was taken by *Let There Be Peace on Earth*. The young people embraced this new song from the moment they heard it. They shared it in their churches, schools and clubs, and the popularity of the song exploded. Jackson said that it took her and her husband 30 hours a week for 10 years just to answer the mail that came in.

In the 70 years since it was composed, the popularity of *Let There Be Peace on Earth* has not waned. It has won awards. It has been performed countless times around the world. Scores of recording artists have performed it. It is the unofficial anthem of the United Nations. It was French novelist Victor Hugo who said, “Nothing is so powerful as an idea whose time has come.” Today, we bear witness to the enduring power of the idea embodied in this song.

About the New Arrangement

There are many choral arrangements of *Let There Be Peace on Earth*, but the *SacSings!* organizers felt that we needed something fresh. We approached the copyright owner of the song, the daughter of Sy Miller and Jill Jackson, for permission to create a new arrangement. She gave us that permission – enthusiastically – perhaps because she is a fellow Northern Californian who lives near Grass Valley.

Andrew Hudson was a student at the University of California, Davis when he created the new arrangement of *Let There Be Peace on Earth* that was premiered at *SacSings!* 2015. He is an all-around musician: besides arranging and conducting, he plays the piano and violin and has studied organ on a fellowship from the American Guild of Organists. Currently, he is pursuing a master’s degree in choral conducting at Southern Illinois University.



At the end of each *SacSings!* concert, chorus members will return to the stage to perform our new choral arrangement of *Let There Be Peace on Earth*. After it is performed, we will sing a simplified, familiar version, and we invite everyone to sing with us.

Let there be peace on earth
And let it begin with me;
Let there be peace on earth,
The peace that was meant to be.
With God our Creator
We are family,
Let us walk with each other
In perfect harmony.
Let peace begin with me,
Let this be the moment now;
With every step I take,
Let this be my solemn vow:
To take each moment and live each moment
In peace eternally.
Let there be peace on earth
And let it begin with me.

*Copyrighted alternate lyrics

Sierra Master Chorale

Director: Ken Hardin

Accompanist: Nancy McCray

Selections from *The Armed Man: A Mass for Peace*
Karl Jenkins

The Armed Man

based on L'Homme Armé (1400's, anon.)

Kyrie - Ordinary of the Mass

Sanctus - Ordinary of the Mass

Hymn Before Action - Rudyard Kipling

Torches - The Mahàbhàrata

Agnus Dei - Ordinary of the Mass

Folsom Lake College Choral Ensembles

Director: Dr. David A. Newnham

Accompanist: Shelley Rink

Sorida (A Zimbabwe Greeting)

Rosephyanye Powell

Vocal Greeters: Karl Moorman, Rachel Ashlin, Katherin Tullos

Percussion: William Daniel, Jessica Villa, Shelly Rink

The Rhythm of Life (from Sweet Charity)

Cy Coleman; arr. Richard Barnes

The Last Words of David

Randall Thompson

The Road Not Taken (from Frostiana: Seven Country Songs)

Randall Thompson, Robert Frost

Home on the Range

arr. Mark Hayes; *Harmonica: Robby Hastings*

Elijah Rock

arr. Moses Hogan

Now We Thank You One and All

English Round

Grass Valley Male Voice Choir

Director: Eleanor Kenitzer

Accompanist: Karen Driscoll

Salvation is Created

Paul Tschesnokoff; arr. Donald Moore

This Little Light of Mine

African American spiritual; arr. John Leavitt

Soloist: John Darlington

Morte Christe

Emrys Jones

What Would I Do Without My Music

Harry Middlebrooks, Bruce Belland

Davis Chamber Choir

Director: Nathan Halbur

Rytmus

Ivan Hrusovsky

O Magnum Mysterium

Francis Poulenc

A Nightingale Sang in Berkeley Square

Manning Sherwin, Eric Maschwitz; arr. Gene Puerling

Water Night

Eric Whitacre

Honeybee

Isabella Benett; arr. Nathan Halbur

Sacramento Women's Chorus

Director: Robin Richie

Accompanist: Kamilyn Davis

Why We Sing

Greg Gilpin

Jet Set

Marc Shaiman, Scott Wittman; arr. Eric Van Cleave

The Wayfaring Stranger

arr. Greg Gilpin

A Woman's Voice

Marvin Hamlisch, Alan and Marilyn Bergman

arr. Robin Richie

Here's Where I Stand

Michael Gore, Lynn Ahrens; arr. Greg Gilpin

Finale

Director: Mariia Pechenova

Accompanist: Cynthia Cates

Let There Be Peace on Earth

Jill Jackson, Sy Miller; arr. Andrew Hudson

The Choruses on this afternoon's program will join together to sing our new four-part arrangement. The audience is invited to sing along on the second verse.

---- Intermission ----

Woodland Chamber Singers

Director: Lenore Turner-Heinson

Accompanist: Lori Jarvey

A Prayer Before Singing

arr. Dan Forrest

Festival Gloria

Craig Courtney

Good Night, Dear Heart

Dan Forrest

You Are the Music

Dan Forrest

Soloist: Grace Hegy

A Dream Is a Wish Your Heart Makes

Mack David, Al Hoffman, Jerry Livingston; arr. Audrey Snyder

Soloist: Melissa Mannell

Mountain Melody Women's Chorus

Director: Julia Shelby

Accompanist: Marge Biagi-Castro

Narrator: Hank Fletcher

Mouth Music

Dolores Keane, John Faulkner

For Good

Stephen Schwartz; arr. Mac Huff

The Seal Lullaby

Eric Whitacre, Rudyard Kipling

Sit Down, You're Rockin' the Boat

Frank Loesser; arr. Mark Brymer

Evening Prayer

Englebert Humperdinck; arr. Audrey Snyder

Java Jive

Milton Drake, Ben Oakland; arr. Ed Lojeski

Reconciliation Singers Voices of Peace

Director: Jennifer Reason

Autumn

Kevin A. Memley, Thomas Hood

Soloist: Sheri Peifer

Nobody Knows the Trouble I've Seen

Spiritual; arr. Norman Luboff

Il Pleut Sur La Ville

Gilbert Dojat

Don't You Worry 'Bout a Thing

Stevie Wonder; arr. Kerry Marsh

Soloists: Keir MacMillan, Jodi Serrano, Karen Percy

Vocal Percussion: Tim Stephenson

Flight Song

Kim André Arnesen, Euan Tait

---- Intermission ----

Valley Choral Society

Director: Paul Allen

Accompanists: Cynthia Cates, Kathy Blanco

Rejoice, the Lord is King

Malcom Archer, Charles Wesley

Libera Me (from Messe de Requiem, Op. 48)

Gabriel Faure

Soloist: James Gentry

Amazing Grace

John Newton; arr. Mack Wilberg

Down to the River to Pray

Traditional; arr. Mack Wilberg

When the Saints Go Marching In

arr. Paul Allen

Sacramento Gay Men's Chorus

Director: Steven Johnson

Accompanist: Kay Hight

O Fortuna (from Carmina Burana)

Carl Orff

Homeward Bound

Marta Keen; arr. Jay Althouse

Ubi Caritas

Ola Gjeilo

Circle of Life

Elton John, Tim Rice; arr. David Maddux

Soloists: Don ReGester, Sean Savidge

Byron Jackson, Joe Engle

Garbage

Eric Lane Barnes

Performed by Boy Howdy

Soloists: Joe Engle, Jason Pettit

Don't Stop Believin'

Jonathan Cain, Steve Perry, Neal Schon; arr. Charles Beale

Finale

Director: Mariia Pechenova

Accompanist: Cynthia Cates

Let There Be Peace on Earth

Jill Jackson, Sy Miller; arr. Andrew Hudson

The Choruses on tonight's program will join together to sing our new four-part arrangement. The audience is invited to sing along on the second verse.

Davis Chorale

Director: Alison Skinner

Accompanist: Ellen Deffner

O Gladsome Light

Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky

Excerpts from Nocturnes: Sa Nuit d'Été, Soneto de la Noche

Morten Lauridsen

Bright Morning Stars are Rising

Traditional; arr. Paul Siskind

My Lord, What A Mornin'

Spiritual; arr. H. T. Burleigh

Sacramento Valley Concert Choir

Director: Jim R. Parr, Jr.

Accompanist: Jason Sia

This Joint is Jumpin' (from *Ain't Misbehavin'*)

Andy Razaf, J.C. Johnson, Fats Waller; arr. Mark A. Brymer

Soloists: John Driver, Teresa Jacobs, Anita Jump, David Shaffer

The Music Man

Meredith Wilson; arr. Clay Warnick

Zip-A-Dee-Doo-Dah

Ray Gilbert, Allie Wrubel; arr. Harry Simone

Stars I Shall Find

Victor C. Johnson, Sara Teasdale

Vocal Art Ensemble

Director: Tracia Barbieri

Presenting a "Cutting" from

ROOTED -- How Culture Shapes the Choral Art

Faith: *Dublin Bells*

David Mooney

Duty: *Svatba*

Hristo Todorov

Love: *Black is the Color*

arr. René Clausen (Kathryn Canan, Flute)

Lust: *Si Ch'io Vorrei Morrire*

Claudio Monteverdi

Serenity: *Diu Diu Deng*

arr. Chen Yi

Death: *Loch Lomond*

arr. Jonathan Quick

Liberty: *The Battle of Jericho*

arr. Moses Hogan

Colla Voce Chamber Singers

Director: Janine Dexter

Accompanist: Angela Roland

Cloudsong

Bill Whelan

Soloist: Aimee Bellanca

Stars

Eriks Esenvalds, Sara Teasdale

Prayer

Morten Lauridsen, Dana Gioia

Come Sweet Death

J.S. Bach; arr. Rhonda Sandberg

Brainstorm

David L. Brunner, Scott Lounsbury

Getting Married

Stephen Sondheim

Soloists: Emily Smith, Randy Németh, Bethanee Hunnicutt

Voices of California

Director: Gabe Caretto

Great Day

Vincent Youmans; arr. David Harrington

Hallelujah

Leonard Cohen; arr. Adam Scott

That's Life

Dean Kay; arr. Kevin Keller

If Ever I Would Leave You

Frederick Loewe; arr. Clay Hine

When It's Night Time in Dixieland

Irving Berlin; arr. David Wright

Finale

Director: Mariia Pechenova

Accompanist: Diana Babcock

Let There Be Peace on Earth

Jill Jackson, Sy Miller; arr. Andrew Hudson

The Choruses on this afternoon's program will join together to sing our new four-part arrangement. The audience is invited to sing along on the second verse.

---- **Intermission** ----

Chanteuses

Director: Dr. Chris Alford

Overture to the Magic Flute

W.A. Mozart; vocal arr. Arkadi Serper, edited by Henry H. Leck

There is Sweet Music

Daniel E. Gawthrop

Ubi Caritas

Ola Gjeilo

Et in Terra Pax

Joan Szymko

Ave Maria

Franz Biebl

Soloists: Laurel Jensen, Chris Keightley,
Jerri Meier, Lisa van Stuijvenberg

Heaven Bound Train

Spiritual, arr. Stephen Hatfield

Soloist: Mary Howard

Lullabye

Billy Joel, arr. B.J. Lazar

VOCALe

Director: Daniel Paulson

Accompanist: Richard Clinger

from *6 Quartets, Op. 112* by Johannes Brahms

No. 4: *Rote Rosenknospen kunden*

No. 5: *Brennessel steht*

No. 6: *Liebe Schwalbe Kleine*

All Flesh is Grass

Chris Massa

Shenandoah

James Erb

from *Eight New Nursery Rhymes, Op. 23*

H. Walford Davies

No. 3: *A Tragedy*

No. 6: *Bless You*

No. 5: *The Fly and the Humble Bee*

Cantare Chorale of the Sierra Foothills

Director: Mariia Pechenova

Accompanist: Wendy Payton

Dark Night of the Soul

Ola Gjeilo, St. John of the Cross

Guest Soloist: Nicole Canon

Millington Strings Quartet

Chimes (Ti-Ri-Ri)

Valery Gavrilin

Soloist: Carrie Penalosa

Tell My Ma

Traditional Irish Children's Street Song; arr. Jon Washburn

Guest Soloist: Nicole Canon

---- Intermission ----

Doreen Irwin Singers

Director: Doreen Irwin

Accompanist: Dan Pool

Magnificat Anima Mea (from *Magnificat*)

John Rutter

Et Misericordia (from *Magnificat*)

John Rutter

Soloist: Stephanie Blackwell

Russian Picnic

Based on Russia Folk Tunes, by Harvey Enders

Soloist: Carol Dirksen

Music Down in My Soul

Gospel Praise Song inspired by *Over My Head*
arr. Moses Hogan

Sacramento Master Singers

Director: Dr. Ralph Hughes

Accompanist: Heidi Regenmorte

i thank You God for this most amazing day

e.e. cummings, Eric Whitacre

Ritmo

Dan Davison

Ain't Got Time to Die

Tradition Spiritual; arr. Stacey V. Gibbs

El Vito

Traditional Spanish Folksong; arr. Joni Jensen

My Soul's Been Anchored in the Lord

Traditional Spiritual; arr. Carol Barnett

Finale

Director: Mariia Pechenova

Accompanist: Diana Babcock

Let There Be Peace on Earth

Jill Jackson, Sy Miller; arr. Andrew Hudson

The Choruses on tonight's program will join together to sing our new four-part arrangement. The audience is invited to sing along on the second verse.

Cantare Chorale

Cantare Chorale of the Sierra Foothills has been called “a small group with a big sound”. Cantare’s primary purpose is to share the joy of choral music with the residents of El Dorado County and beyond. Cantare understands that music has the power to bring people of all ages and cultures together, as evidenced by the diversity of its audiences and its members. Since 1992, volunteer members of all ages, from all walks of life and with disparate levels of musical experience have joined together to sing for their own enjoyment and for their love of the art. By performing



quality choral music in a wide variety of musical styles, they lift hearts and bring smiles to the faces of those who listen. Cantare Chorale will travel to Carnegie Hall in November where they will be a part of the “Distinguished Concerts Singers International” to perform the *Messiah* with full orchestra under the direction of Dr. Jonathan Griffith.



Director: Mariia Pechenova

www.cantarechorale.com
530-677-6964

Mariia Pechenova joined Cantare as Artistic Director in 2014. She is a Music Professor at Folsom Lake College and Sierra Community College. She is also the pianist and organist for traditional and youth services at St. Stephen’s Lutheran Church in El Dorado Hills, and Director of the El Dorado Hills Children’s Community Choir. Mariia’s background includes a Master of Arts in Conducting at St. Petersburg State University in St. Petersburg, Russia. She has worked with the finest St. Petersburg professional choirs such as the St. Petersburg Women’s Choir, the Youth Chamber Choir of St. Petersburg, and the St. Petersburg Chamber Choir “Petersburg-Concert.” For over 15 years she has performed solo recitals and toured with St. Petersburg’s Music Theater as soprano soloist in concert halls and theaters in Russia and Europe. She is a member of the Board of Directors of the Sacramento Valley Choral Coalition and an active member of the American Choral Directors Association.

Chanteuses

The ladies of Chanteuses have been entertaining Sacramento with their distinct sound and superb blend of wonderful treble harmonies for twenty years. The group was formed in 1996, has been led by four conductors since its founding, and is currently under the direction of Dr. Chris Alford. One of the group’s trademarks is exploring a surprisingly diverse collection of choral literature for treble voices, including a wide variety of both sacred and secular music of all kinds, with a focus on a *cappella* pieces. The group has a strong tradition of performing in area churches of various faiths, but has also performed at many diverse local and regional venues. Chanteuses recently produced its first-ever fully professional CD recording and currently rehearses and regularly performs at St. John’s Lutheran Church in Sacramento.



Director: Dr. Chris Alford

www.chanteuses.org
916.234.0289

New to Chanteuses in 2010, Music Director and Conductor Chris Alford began conducting and playing professionally in high school. He earned a bachelor’s degree in music history jointly from the University of Tennessee and the Victoria University of Manchester, England; received the master’s degree in musicology from Northwestern University, and a doctoral degree in worship theology and practice from the Institute for Worship Studies. Chris spent the first eight years of his professional musical life as the Artistic Administrator of the Knoxville Symphony Orchestra. Alford left the symphony world in 1992, when he became a music minister in the Knoxville area, a post he held until the family’s move to California in 2005. “I count it a privilege to lead the remarkable ladies of Chanteuses,” says Chris. “That they are so talented makes the job musically satisfying— that they are also friends makes it a joy.”

Colla Voce Chamber Singers

Colla Voce Chamber Singers is committed to the creation of engaging, collaborative and participatory concert experiences that enrich and transform the lives of the Sierra Foothill community. Their multi-faceted concerts center on many genres of choral music and have included a variety of supporting instrumental music, visual art, storytelling, dance, pottery, multi-media, video and photography. In one review, Dick Frantzreb of the Sacramento Choral Calendar described a Colla Voce concert as a “work of art.” Founded in 2005, the Chamber Singers are one of five groups under the Auburn-based, umbrella non-profit: Colla Voce of the Sierra, Inc., “Creating Life-Changing Opportunities for Engagement in the Arts.” Income from concerts helps to support a Children’s Chorus, a non-auditioned Family Choir—ages 6-106, Crescendo—Music Therapy groups for adults with neurological impairment, and a Music Docent program currently implemented in nine Auburn-area schools.



Director: Janine Dexter

www.collavoce.org
email: info@collavoce.org

Janine Dexter holds a Bachelor of Music in Music Education from the UOP Conservatory of Music, and a Masters of Music in Choral Conducting from CSULA. She has an eclectic resumé that includes 10 years as a pit-orchestra conductor in the SF Bay Area, writer and music-reviewer, teacher at a variety of schools from pre-school through college and past Repertoire and Standards Chair for Community Choirs, California ACDA. Currently she is an adjudicator for Music Teachers Association, maintains a private piano studio, is Music Director at Faith Lutheran Church in Meadow Vista, is a writer for the California ACDA Cantate and serves as Colla Voce’s Founding Artistic Director. On a personal note, Janine and her husband built their own home in the Sierra. Dexter is well acquainted with the back end of a hammer and did the tile work, sanding, staining and the plumbing—for which she passed on the first inspection. She is a quilter, dessert chef, writer, avid traveler and believes in creating necessary trouble.

Davis Chamber Choir

Davis Chamber Choir is a small student-run vocal ensemble that operates as a club at the University of California, Davis. They strive to creatively present challenging and diverse repertoire, and to advance their abilities as singers and musicians. They specialize in a cappella choral music from the Middle Ages to the present, but often venture into genres such as pop and jazz, and sometimes collaborate with instrumentalists. The group hosts a concert at the end of every academic quarter, and performs throughout the community as well.



Director: Nathan Halbur

<http://davischamberchoir.weebly.com>
email: davischamberchoir@gmail.com

Nathan Halbur, an undergraduate in his final year studying Physics and Mathematics at the University of California, Davis, has served as Musical Director of Davis Chamber Choir since September 2014. An aspiring professional choral conductor and singer, he served as Assistant Conductor of the UC Davis Early Music Ensemble in Fall 2015, has studied voice privately with Robin Fisher and Zoila Muñoz, and has sung with numerous ensembles, often as a soloist, including: Davis Chamber Choir, the Sacramento Opera Chorus, Schola Cantorum, and the UC Davis Early Music Ensemble and University Chorus.

Davis Chorale

The Davis Chorale is an auditioned choral ensemble of 60 singers from Davis and the surrounding areas. The Chorale was founded in 1978 as a community chorus to provide an opportunity for adults to sing oratorio, sacred, and secular works. Since then, the Chorale has performed in numerous special events, along with its regular performances in the fall, winter and spring under the direction of Founding Director Rachel Kessler and its assistant conductors. Artistic Director Alison Skinner assumed the baton in 2010. The Chorale has performed with other instrumental



Director: Alison Skinner

www.davischorale.org
[email: info@davischorale.org](mailto:info@davischorale.org)

Alison Skinner, Artistic Director, has been directing the Davis Chorale since 2010. Before returning to her hometown of Davis, Skinner lived in Philadelphia, where she was the Artistic Director of the Rainbow Chorale of Delaware for the 2007-2008 season. In addition, she taught high school music at Germantown Friends School. In the 2006-2007 season, she was the assistant conductor of Philadelphia's Choral Arts Society, directed by Matt Glandorf. Skinner graduated with honors from University of California Santa Cruz, with an emphasis in vocal performance. She holds the Master of Music degree in Choral Conducting from Temple University, where she was a student of Alan Harler. Along with conducting the Davis Chorale, Skinner maintains a private vocal studio.

Doreen Irwin Singers

The Doreen Irwin Singers was founded in the fall of 2014. The group, comprised of past Sacramento City College singers and new members, has been very busy. They performed at Harris Center with the Folsom Symphony in 2014. In 2015, they also appeared with the Premiere Sacramento Youth Symphony and performed *Carmina Burana* with additional singers, for the Sacramento Ballet Company at the Community Center. In May of 2015, the choir was the Prelude Choir to John Rutter's final Concert at Carnegie Hall. In November, 2016 they will perform John Rutter's *Magnificat* with the Sacramento Youth Symphony. After that, they will share a Christmas Concert on



December 3 at Harris Center with Voices of California. In the spring of 2017, Doreen will direct Mozart's *Coronation Mass* in preparation for directing this piece at Carnegie Hall as a guest conductor in May of 2017. Doreen is interested in auditioning new singers for all of the future concerts.



Director: Doreen Irwin

www.facebook.com/DoreenIrwinSingers
[email: doreenirwin@comcast.net](mailto:doreenirwin@comcast.net)

Doreen Irwin earned bachelors and masters degrees from the University of Portland. She is a member of the American Choral Directors Association, the National Association for Music Education, and the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers (ASCAP). As a member of the latter, she has 43 published choral compositions. In May, 2013, after 37 years of teaching piano, voice and choir, she retired from the faculty of Sacramento City College. During her tenure, her choirs performed in 17 countries and gave an invited performance, under her direction, at New York City's Carnegie Hall in May, 2012. Doreen teaches voice and piano at her home studio.

Folsom Lake College Choral Ensembles

The Folsom Lake College Choral Ensembles are a combination of the FLC Concert Choir and College Chorus. Both are non-auditioned ensembles comprised of students from a wide variety of academic disciplines. The ensembles, under the direction of their new conductor, Dr. David Newnham and assisted by Shelley Rink, have rehearsed since the beginning of the spring semester and are looking forward to their concert on May 3 which will feature All-American Music. Last fall, the ensembles presented four different *Hallelujah Chorus* compositions and a full performance of Benjamin Britten's *Ceremony of Carols* with concert harp. They also recently performed with other Los Rios Community College District choirs in Collegiate Sing. Future plans include an auditioned Chamber Ensemble, more performance opportunities, partnering with the FLC Youth Orchestra, and joint concerts with local community singers and high school choral ensembles.



Director: Dr. David Newnham

**www.flc.losrios.edu
email: newnhad@flc.losrios.edu**

Dr. David A. Newnham received his Ph.D., in Music Education at the College of Music at Florida State University, where he was a Clayton Krehbiel fellow and was inducted into the Pi Kappa Lambda Honor Society. He studied with such noted international conductors and Music Educators as Rodney Eichenberger, Andre Thomas, and Clifford Madsen. Dr. Newnham has over 30 years of teaching, conducting, and musical performance experience. Presently, Dr. Newnham conducts the choral ensembles and teaches voice and Music Appreciation at Folsom Lake College (FLC). Prior to teaching at FLC, Dr. Newnham was an executive administrator in the Los Rios District. For those who can remember back that far, David was the founder and first conductor of the Sacramento Men's Chorus, which today is the Sacramento Gay Men's Chorus.

Grass Valley Male Voice Choir

The Grass Valley Male Voice Choir is a group of singers in the Sierra foothills who gather to make music in the spirit of the Cornish men who came to Grass Valley in the Gold Rush days to work in the deep-rock mines. They are the direct descendants of the Cornish miners choirs that flourished from the Gold Rush era well into the twentieth century, whose love of singing led to an all-male voice choir that sang in Grass Valley for over 90 years. The group was revived in 1997 by founder Eleanor Kenitzer and the rich, deep sound of the Male Voice Choir has been an active and beloved part of the Nevada County musical scene from that time. The modern choir sings a wide variety of popular music, from Broadway, Americana, and folk music to traditional Cornish and holiday favorites. They share their concert receipts with area churches and nonprofits as a way of strengthening their bonds with the community.



They regularly participate in annual Cornish reunions in America, and next spring the group will travel to England to sing in the Cornwall International Male Choral Festival.



Director: Eleanor Kenitzer

**www.GVMaleVoiceChoir.org
email: GVMVChoir@gmail.com**

Choir founder and director Eleanor Kenitzer got the directing bug at 16 when she first got to direct a church choir, and was hired for her first choir directing job at 21. Forty-some years and many choirs later, her enthusiasm hasn't diminished. Eleanor began the Male Voice Choir in 1997 after having reformed a Cornish Carol Choir (SATB) in 1990. She says, "I fell in love with the male voice choir sound on my first trip to Cornwall, and it still gives me goosebumps." Assistant Director Darrell Crawford has had a career as a music teacher, conductor, and composer, and was Music Supervisor for Modesto City Schools for 20 years. He has composed and arranged numerous pieces for the Male Voice Choir.

Mountain Melody Women's Chorus

Director Julia Shelby is the guiding hand behind Mountain Melody. She formed the chorus in 2005, with a small group of friends who enjoyed singing together. The chorus has grown in size, and with the addition of Marge Biagi-Castro on piano, the music has become more sophisticated. All the individual voices work together to produce the richly resonant and harmonic tones, highlighting the versatility of the ensemble. With their diverse musical backgrounds, each singer adds a special flavor to the music, which spans many genres, including popular songs, Broadway melodies, classical, jazz, international, and folk songs. In September of 2015 as the chorus celebrated its 10th anniversary, Calaveras County was devastated by the Butte Fire. All of in the area were affected, and four of Mountain Melody's members lost their homes. Music can lift the spirits of listeners and singers alike, and has helped our singers persevere through this tragedy, music becoming a healing balm for them as well. The twofold joys of music and community have sustained us through this difficult time, and will continue to do so.



Director: Julia Shelby

www.mountainmelody.org
209-754-4783

Prior to moving to the foothills of Calaveras County in 2001, Ms. Shelby had the pleasure and privilege of singing with Peninsula Women's Chorus, an internationally known chorus based in Palo Alto, CA under the direction of Martin Benvenuto and Patricia Hennings. Under her direction, Mountain Melody Women's Chorus has participated in the Foothill Choral Festival and was recent headliner at the Ovations 2016 Performing Arts Series. Ms. Shelby is a member of the American Choral Director's Association. Ms. Shelby has spent her professional career as a nurse practitioner, and has a Master of Science in Nursing from University of California at San Francisco.

Reconciliation Singers Voices of Peace (RSVP)

Founded in 2000, RSVP's mission is bringing people together through the arts and giving back to the community. RSVP nurtures the community with its highly-praised, dynamic concerts while providing concrete, financial contributions that go on making a difference long after the applause. All members of RSVP donate their time so that 100% of the proceeds from concerts can go to local organizations in need. RSVP is a 16-voice group of versatile, skilled singers, performing everything from classical choral literature and madrigals to contemporary music, freedom songs, folk tunes, and jazz. Each creative and artistic concert is tailor-made to suit the audience and the organization being supported.



Director: Jennifer Reason

www.rsvpchoir.org
email: rsvp@rsvpchoir.org

Jennifer Reason, Artistic Director of RSVP and a long-time singer with the group, has extensive experience in the choral field and recently made her international conducting debut in St. Peter's Basilica in the Vatican. She served on the artistic staff of Sacramento Children's Chorus and was a founding member of the Sacramento-based vocal jazz ensemble C-Sus, which in 2006 was awarded the Downbeat Award for Best Collegiate Vocal Jazz Ensemble in the US and Canada. Ms. Reason is also a professional pianist and has performed across the US, Canada, and Europe. Her contemporary chamber ensemble, Citywater, is currently Ensemble-in-Residence at California State University, Sacramento. She looks forward to a second appearance at Carnegie Hall, as well as a appearances at the Orfeo Music Festival in Italy and the Valhalla Music Festival at Lake Tahoe. For more information, please visit www.jennifer-reason.com.

Sacramento Gay Men's Chorus

The Sacramento Gay Men's Chorus was founded in 1984 as a singing group that aimed to foster a sense of community and provide support for gays and lesbians in the Sacramento area. Over the past 30 years, through musical performance and outreach programs, the chorus has grown to become an integral part of the Sacramento music community, as well as a voice for the gay and lesbian community in the greater Sacramento area. With that voice, SGMC has confronted intolerance and bigotry by providing a positive experience of the gay community. The Sacramento Gay Men's Chorus strives to create a fun environment for gay men who enjoy making music together. The chorus has grown to 70 members and is focused on both musical excellence and dynamic choralography.



Director: Steven Johnson

www.sacgaymenschorus.org
email: sgmcinfo@gmail.com

Steven A. Johnson, MA, is a graduate of CSU Sacramento where he studied piano performance and choral conducting with Dr. Frank Wasko and Dr. Donald Kendrick. Steven is currently Director of Worship and Music at St. John's Lutheran Church in downtown Sacramento where he plans, plays and conducts a variety of ensembles and liturgical worship services. In 2011 he wrote a musical setting for baptism, a setting of the *Lord's Prayer* and a complete mass setting that is receiving accolades from liturgical churches across the country.

Sacramento Master Singers

The Sacramento Master Singers (SMS) has been advancing the art of choral music in Northern California and beyond since 1982. Our mission: to delight, challenge and inspire audiences with area choral premieres, new arrangements of classic songs, and visually engaging performances. We also tour nationally and internationally, most recently in Scotland in 2015. SMS draws from an enormous variety of musical periods and styles — no two concert programs are ever the same. SMS is profoundly grateful to all of our creative partners through the years. Guest conductors have included Joseph Jennings, Moses Hogan, Maria Guinand, and Alice Parker. We've shared the stage with the Boston Pops, the Sacramento Philharmonic, the Sacramento Children's Chorus, Celebration Arts, Sacramento Black Art of Dance, pianist Richard Glazier, Celtic music duo Men of Worth, and Grammy award-winning Native American flutist Mary Youngblood. SMS is particularly proud of its youth outreach programs, including



our children's holiday concerts, joint concerts with college choirs, and our annual Asya Pleskach Scholarship for Young Choral Singers.



Director: Dr. Ralph E. Hughes

www.mastersingers.org
email: smsbusiness@surewest.net

Ralph Hughes, conductor of the Sacramento Master Singers since 1986, is widely known for innovative and engaging programming. Under his leadership, SMS has become a professional caliber chamber choir that has a unique ability to connect with its ever-growing audience on an emotional level. Dr. Hughes has a Doctoral Degree in Conducting from the University of South Carolina and a Master's Degree in Choral Conducting from CSUS. Since 1990 he has been teaching choir, voice and piano at American River College. He is a member of the American Choral Directors Association, and the International Federation for Choral Music. Dr. Hughes has a deep love of multicultural music and programming designed to stimulate interest among young people. He participates regularly in the World Symposium on Choral Music, bringing new works from some of the planet's leading choral directors and composers home to Sacramento.

Sacramento Valley Concert Choir

The Sacramento Valley Concert Choir is a non-auditioned, volunteer mixed community choral association that has been performing in churches, retirement residences and for community groups throughout the greater Sacramento Valley since 1969. It performs private and public concerts each spring and winter. The spring program, performed during late April and early May, is usually broad-based, including selections from popular musicals, folk songs, patriotic pieces and the works of composers and arrangers who have dedicated their careers to the expansion and improvement of choral literature. Fall concerts, which begin after Thanksgiving, are generally comprised of sacred and secular holiday music from a variety of traditions. After every concert, audiences are invited to join the choir in a group sing-along.



Artistic Director: Jim R. Parr, Jr.

www.svcchoir.org
email: president@svcchoir.org

Jim R. Parr, Jr. is a Sacramento native. He received his Bachelor of Music in Voice; K-12 Music Teaching Credential; Special Education Teaching Credential-Severely Handicapped; and Master's in Education-Special Project, using performing arts to integrate persons with disabilities into the communities in which they live; all from California State University, Sacramento. He has been a member of the Sacramento Gay Men's Chorus since 1987 and has been involved in GALA choruses (International Gay and Lesbian Association of Choruses) since 1989. He also started the Chamber's Mixed Ensemble, DIVA (Diverse Individuals Vocalizing Affirmatively). A music specialist with the San Juan Unified School District working with special needs and full inclusion students, Jim believes that music is a lifelong gift and a language that crosses all barriers to both heal and change.

Sacramento Women's Chorus

The Sacramento Women's Chorus is a non-profit group of diverse women who are building friendships and community through their love of music, dedication to musical excellence, and commitment to performing music which reflects the lives of all women. The chorus performs on behalf of all women, the environment, peace, social justice, tolerance, LGBTI equality, and the celebration of diversity. The chorus welcomes adult women of all ethnicities, cultures, sexual orientations, physical abilities and stages of life. If you are an adult woman in the Sacramento area who loves to sing and are looking for a place to share in the joy of music,



Sacramento Women's Chorus might be the chorus for you!



Director: Robin Richie

www.sacramentowomenschorus.com
email: sacramentowomenschorus@live.com

Robin Richie has taught singing and music performance for many years in schools and choruses. She teaches voice technique, selects a wide variety of music, and challenges each member to improve and become her own best singer. As a performer, she has performed with Sacramento Stage Companies and top-placing Sweet Adeline Quartets. She currently teaches music in the Rocklin School District.

Sierra Master Chorale

Established in 2008, the Sierra Master Chorale is a dedicated group of auditioned singers performing choral music of wide variety and with high quality to ensure that both the listening audience and the performers share a sense of great enjoyment and pride. Conducted by Music Director Ken Hardin, the 70-voice chorus is establishing a reputation of providing “not only beautiful music, but a thrilling performance” to very enthusiastic audiences.



Director: Ken Hardin

www.sierramasterchorale.org
[email: info@sierramasterchorale.org](mailto:info@sierramasterchorale.org)

Ken Hardin, pianist/conductor/artistic director, spans the genres of jazz, Broadway, and classical with strong, diverse experience and education in conducting, performing and teaching. Hardin studied conducting under composer, conductor, pianist and arranger Jay Blackton (music director and conductor for Rodgers and Hammerstein). Hardin also studied conducting and piano-stylings with the noted composer and arranger Johnny Green. He directed, composed, and accompanied musicals and played for auditions throughout Los Angeles and while on the faculty of CSU Northridge. He was sought out as a pianist for honor choirs by choral conductors such as Paul Salumonovich and Roger Wagner. Hardin moved to Nevada County in 1984 and has been an integral part of the arts community ever since. He is currently artistic director for InConcert Sierra and choral director and conductor for Sierra Master Chorale.

Valley Choral Society

Valley Choral Society is comprised of singers from throughout the greater Sacramento Valley and foothill area. The choir’s mission is to break down barriers and create a common bond by performing music that elevates the human soul and brings God’s light to the community. The choir’s fall concert series traditionally features Handel’s *Messiah* and beautifully arranged Christmas carols. A mixture of contemporary and classical work is featured during the spring concert series. The choir has performed with the Folsom Lake Symphony Orchestra, Camellia Symphony Orchestra, and Sacramento Youth Symphony, and has joined area choirs in Sacramento’s annual A Call for Unity concert, among other appearances. Valley Choral Society is an artistic partner with Galena Street East, an organization dedicated to



Valley Choral Society is an artistic partner with Galena Street East, an organization dedicated to serving the community through entertainment presented by professionally trained young performers and to provide uplifting programs that educate and inspire.



Director: Dr. Paul Allen

www.valleychoral.org
[email: choir@valleychoral.org](mailto:choir@valleychoral.org)

Paul Allen has a rich musical background. He has served as associate conductor of the Ft. Lauderdale Philharmonic and musical director for the Ft. Lauderdale Philharmonic Chorus in Florida; organist and choirmaster at the First Methodist Church in Miami, and director of the South Florida Mormon Chorale. In Sacramento, he has served as the Director of Music at Trinity and St. Mark’s Methodist Churches. He holds a degree in Music and Choral Conducting from Cambridge University and is an accomplished tenor. He has worked as the Musical Director for dozens of theatrical productions, including *Les Misérables*, *The Wizard of Oz*, *Beauty and the Beast*, *Guys and Dolls*, *South Pacific*, and *The Pirates of Penzance*. Locally, his music directing credits include productions for Music Circus and Sacramento State University.

Vocal Art Ensemble

The Vocal Art Ensemble brings together experienced musicians pursuing artistic expression through finesse of the human voice. Appealing to both the discerning musician and the casual music lover, performances feature a cappella choral pieces and intimate instrumentals or mesmerizing dance. VAE aims to present exquisite evenings of music. Themed performances celebrate the elegant beauty of Renaissance motets, tonal color of modern works, and exotic flavor of music from other cultures. Concerts typically take place in December and May throughout Yolo County and include performances in Davis, Woodland, Sacramento, Dixon, and Vacaville.



Director: Tracia Barbieri

www.vae.trug.com
[email: tracia@trug.com](mailto:tracia@trug.com)



Tracia Barbieri aims to unlock the musical expressiveness and polish in her singers, taking a hobbyist venue and finessing a professional-level commitment and skill. She maintains a private piano lesson and composition studio, where she has shared her musical knowledge with adults and children alike for the past two decades. Running VAE rehearsals out of her living room, Tracia shows that a community can make quality music through dedication and love.

VOCALE Sacramento City College

The Sacramento City College Choirs have a rich history of choral music education and performance that started in 1968. The ensembles have traveled and performed in seventeen different countries and have participated twice in performing masterworks at Carnegie Hall. The Vocal Ensemble (VOCALE) is the auditioned choral ensemble from Sacramento City College. They study the art of choral music and rehearse and perform a diverse range of choral literature from traditional to contemporary and from Western to non-Western traditions. The Vocal & Choral Music Program at Sacramento City College is under the direction of Professor Daniel Paulson.



Director: Daniel Paulson

www.scc.losrios.edu/choir

Daniel Paulson, holds a Bachelor of Music degree in voice performance from Sacramento State University, and a Masters of Music Degree in Choral Conducting from California State University, Los Angeles. Hailed as an “astute programmer” and a conductor who can “coax urbane performances from his singers,” Daniel has been a featured conductor on the International Festival of New American Music in Sacramento, CA, the Old First Concert Series in San Francisco, CA, the Northern Zone Music Educators Association’s High School Honor Choir in Nevada, CA, and the American Choral Directors Association’s 2011 National Convention in Chicago, IL. As a commissioned composer, Daniel’s catalogue includes over twenty works written for strings, piano, and chorus. Currently, he is Professor of Voice and Choral Music at Sacramento City College, is a resident artist with the Tahoe Symphony Orchestra and Chorus, and serves as Founder & Music Director for Vox Musica.

Voices of California

The Voices of California (VoCal) is a male singing organization that strives to provide outstanding musical entertainment for audiences, providing an atmosphere wherein each member is able to achieve his full potential as a performer. The group has reasonably high standards for performance and membership in the chorus, and provides programs for continuing training of members in all aspects of musical performance through the use of both internal and external coaching.



Director: Gabe Caretto

www.voicesofcalifornia.org
[email: info@voicesofcalifornia.org](mailto:info@voicesofcalifornia.org)

Gabe Caretto was first introduced to barbershop harmony in 1986 by his high school music teacher, and has been actively performing in both choruses and quartets ever since. A classically-trained musician, Gabe received a bachelor's degree in music from Southern Oregon State College and a master's degree in music education from the University of Oregon. Over the past 25 years, Gabe has served in a variety of leadership roles for the Barbershop Harmony Society, including serving on the faculty of Harmony University. He is a sought-after coach for choruses, quartets, and youth workshops and festivals throughout the northwest and California. Gabe is one of the founding members of Voices of California, and has served as its Music Director since its inception in January 2010.

Woodland Chamber Singers

The Woodland Chamber Singers is a community based, non-profit chorus dedicated to promoting choral singing in Yolo County. Heralding 60-70 voices plus instrumentalists from Woodland, Davis, Sacramento, Dixon, Winters, and the surrounding areas, the Woodland Chamber Singers brings together a wide range of voices, ages, and skill levels from the community. In the spring of 2014, the group was one of four choirs appearing in the 2014 New



York Choral Festival, performing at St Paul's of the Apostle church and at Carnegie Hall, where they received a standing ovation. WCS presents two performances a year that aim to be entertaining, educational, and memorable. The popular Christmas concerts have become a holiday tradition, showcasing a variety of familiar and inventive holiday favorites, and the spring concerts feature an array of works to bring joy to the audience. In an effort to offer musical variety, knowledge, and vocal skill to the WCS choral experience, singers are provided the opportunity to perform as soloists, in small ensembles, and in women's and men's ensembles. The Woodland Chamber Singers is a non-auditioned SATB chorus that has been providing the gift of music to local communities for over 35 years. It is the mission of WCS to build bridges between the youth of Yolo County and its adult community through the vocal arts.



Lenore Turner-Heinson

www.woodlandsingers.org
[Email: info@woodlandsingers.org](mailto:info@woodlandsingers.org)

Lenore Turner-Heinson, Artistic Director for The Woodland Chamber Singers, received her Bachelor of Arts in Music and Theatre from the University of California at Davis. Her career spans over 40 years in the performing arts including a deep dedication to choral music education and private voice and piano instruction. She is also recognized for her work as musical director for the Yolo Stage Company, a young people's musical theater summer workshop, and Instructor of Music and Theater for the Yocha Dehe Wintun Academy.



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