

CONTRA COSTA CHORALE

Presents its 2025 Spring Concert

Living, Laughing, Loving



ARTWORK BY RUTH BLOCK, TENOR

KENSINGTON
Friday, May 9th

WALNUT CREEK
Sunday, May 11th



A partnership of the Contra Costa Chorale with Contra Costa County schools showcasing the many talented students in the performing arts within our county.

FRIDAY, MAY 9, 2025

Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, Kensington

Hercules High School Advanced Orchestra

Arleen Wong, Director

Pavane for a Dead Princess Maurice Ravel, arr. Jeremy Woolstenhume

Aria for Strings..... Frank J. Halferty

First Violin: Jude Gatchalian, Jaymee Micael

Second Violin: Nathaniel Villanueva, Chun Hei Ko

Viola: Jaidon Alphonso, Grace Ramirez

Cello: Laka Pajaro, Cameron Solis

Double Bass: Ryan Deguzman

Piano: Jordan Yue

SUNDAY, MAY 11, 2025

Walnut Creek Presbyterian Church, Walnut Creek

Contra Costa School of Performing Arts Vocal and Instrumental Students

Lilith Spivack, Vocal Director

Selections from *The Sound of Music* Richard Rodgers and Oscar Hammerstein II

Opera Workshop: Robin Bauer, Kenza Bennouna, Ella May Goldsmith, Echo Ramirez, Jaxson Sears

Musical Theater: Angelica Bernal, Madeline Hawelu, Daniel Limberg,
Emma Martinez Magtibay, Kimberly Murrieta, Amayah Vides, Arlyn Weeks

Instrumental: Tem Garner, Ethan Matthew Martinez

Living

Sacred Place.....Alex Berko (w. 2023)

Michael Grossman, violin • Krisanthy Desby, cello
Soloists: Daniel Bort, Katherine Gorringer, Mitch Ashley,
Alice Knudsen, JoAnn Thomas, Greg Lassonde

- I. Opening Prayer (*Wendell Berry, from "The Porch Over the River"*)
- II. Amidah (*John Muir to Teddy Roosevelt, on preserving Yosemite National Park*)
- III. Shema (*William Stafford*)
- IV. Mi Shebeirach (*Traditional Jewish Prayer*)
- V. Kaddish (*Rabindranath Tagore, 1861-1941*)
- VI. Closing Prayer (*Wendell Berry*)

Laughing

Animal Crackers.....Eric Whitacre (w. 2006)
Words by Ogden Nash

- I. The Panther
- II. The Cow
- III. The Firefly

Lirum Bililirim Rossino Mantovano (16th c.)

They Are MotherJennifer Lucy Cook (w. 2022)
Soloists: Katherine Gorringer, Tanya Drlik, Jessica Frasure, Nan Ayres, JoAnn Thomas

Loving

Sing On! (A Musical Toast).....Gwyneth Walker (w. 2008)
Col. Henry Heveningham, alterations by G. Walker

Love is Love is Love is LoveAbbie Betinis (w. 2017)



Liebeslieder Walzer, Op. 52 Johannes Brahms (1833-1897)

- | | |
|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| I. Rede, Mädchen | XI. Nein, es ist nicht auszukommen |
| II. Am Gesteine rauscht die Flut | XIV. Sieh', wie ist die Welle klar |
| IV. Wie des Abends schöne Röte | XVIII. Es bebet das Gesträuche |

That Which Remains.....Andrea Ramsey (w. 2013)
Text by Helen Keller

The Promise of Living, from "The Tender Land".....Aaron Copland (1900-1990)
Text by Horace Everett

We Are All Bound Up Together.....Joan Szymko (w. 2019)
Text by Frances Ellen Watkins Harper

CONTRA COSTA CHORALE

SOPRANO

Barbara Berry
Constance Brown
Valerie Carpenter
Julia Carvalho
Tanya Drlik
Cathy Edwards
Nina Felden
Karen Glasser
Katherine Gorringer

Elmina Green
Amelia Grounds
Judith Keig
Sandy Kruger
Susan Lambert
Deena Love
Jean Lutwak
Eileen Malone
Nicki Norman

Joy Ogden
Monica Olivares
Katie Rodriguez
Jenny Sanjeevan
Karine Schomer
Ann Smith
Joy Svihra
Gennifer Tate

ALTO

Judith Carrillo
Eldonna Cooley
Diana Feinberg
Jessica Frasure
Kathy L. Haug
Geri Havlicek
Laurie Isenberg
Anne Jennings
Linda Jones

Janet Keyes
Regina Marchione
Christine Moriuchi
Cynthia Mulligan
Lynne Ono
Heidi Ronfeldt
Catherine Sampietro
Debbie Sanderson
Kate Sibley

Lee Steadman
Carol Strand
Alisa Gould Sugden
Carol Terry
Cassandra Todd
Catherine White
Amy Willats
Katie Wolfman

TENOR

Mitch Ashley
Nan Ayers
Ruth Block
Ferdinand Bondt
Daniel Bort

Ron Cheatham
Shoshana Dembitz
Alice Knudsen
Jamie McGrath
Jerry Reynolds

Abigail Smith
Carole Strauss
JoAnn Thomas
Andrea Weber
Don Wollwage

BASS

William Abernathy
Achi Ben Shalom
Kevin Glaz
David Hubbell
Chad Keig

Greg Lassonde
Terry Lee
Peter Liddell
Spero Matthews

Richard Page
Joe Scott
Leo Scurry
Jim Wong

The Contra Costa Chorale rehearses and performs in the Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, which occupies land in Huchiuñ, the unceded territory of the Chochoño-speaking Ohlone people. We understand that our community continues to benefit from the seizure and occupation of this land. We acknowledge and embrace our responsibility to take restorative action. We affirm that this is deeply felt and commit our members to be in right relationship with Indigenous communities, aligning in solidarity, supporting Indigenous projects, and caring properly for the land.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Tanya Drlik, *President*

Deena Love, *Vice President*

Nicki Norman, *Secretary/Treasurer*

Nan Ayers

Alice Knudsen

Susan Lambert

Regina Marchione

Cynthia Mulligan

Arleen Wong

Kate Sibley, *General Manager*

Chad Keig, *Graphic Designer*

DR BRAD SCHULTZ ~ ARTISTIC DIRECTOR



Dr. Brad Schultz became the Artistic Director of the Contra Costa Chorale beginning with the Fall 2024 season. A native of Minnesota, Brad's musical background includes vocal and instrumental performance and conducting, church and community music making, university teaching and public musicology.

Brad is also the minister of music at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church in Belvedere, where he directs the sanctuary choir, plays the organ, and organizes a concert series. He has previously served United Methodist, Unitarian Universalist, Lutheran, and Presbyterian congregations in Oregon, Iowa, Minnesota, Idaho, and Georgia. In addition to his duties with the Chorale and in Belvedere, Brad lectures on music topics at the Belvedere-Tiburon Public Library and is an associate faculty member at

Santa Rosa Junior College, with appointments in the music and lifelong learning departments.

Brad holds a Ph.D. in Musicology from the University of Oregon with a certificate in Historical Performance Practice. His dissertation focuses on the keyboard works of Jan Pieterszoon Sweelinck, a composer active in Amsterdam in the early seventeenth century, through lenses of embodied cognition, rhetoric, and organology (the study of musical instruments).

Brad also teaches online music courses for the University of Oregon and previously served on the faculty of Luther College in Decorah, Iowa. He performs regularly as an organist, collaborative keyboardist and continuo player, and conductor, and enjoys making music with other musicians in the Bay Area. He received a Master's of Sacred Music degree in organ performance from Emory University and Candler School of Theology in Atlanta, GA, and a Bachelor's degree in tuba performance from Luther College. He lives in Tiburon with his husband Matt, a digital advertising consultant.

MARTIN MORLEY ~ COLLABORATIVE KEYBOARD ARTIST



A native of Montana, Martin Morley has enjoyed a multifaceted career as a pianist, music therapist, teacher, handbell clinician, and conductor. He holds Bachelor's and Master's degrees in piano performance from the University of Kansas, where he studied with Flora Chiarrapa Silini, Richard Angeletti, and Portuguese

virtuoso Sequeira Costa; in addition, Martin performed for six years in monthly master classes with

such luminaries as Gary Graffman, Byron Janis, and Leon Fleisher. He has toured North America as an accompanist for Columbia Artists Management and been featured as a concerto soloist with orchestras in Kansas, California, and Texas. His keyboard comedy routines have slain audiences in several states. Martin is on the Master Artists roster of the Contra Costa Performing Arts Society, and has performed several times in benefit concerts for the Hope Solutions organization and for the Young People's Symphony Orchestra. In addition to his position as Director of Worship and Music at Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Lafayette, Martin teaches private lessons and continues performing as a soloist and collaborative pianist in the Bay Area and beyond.

TEXTS AND TRANSLATIONS

Living

Sacred Place

I. Opening Prayer

In the dusk of the river, the wind
gone, the leaves grow still—
The beautiful poise of lightness,
The heavy world pushing toward it.

—Wendell Berry

Excerpt from "The Porch Over the River"

II. Amidah

"How softly these mountain rocks are adorned, and how fine and reassuring the company they keep — their brows in the sky, their feet set in groves and gay emerald meadows, a thousand flowers leading confidingly against their adamant bosses, while birds bees butterflies help the river and waterfalls to stir all the air into music — things frail and fleeting and types of permanence meeting here and blending as if into this glorious mountain temple Nature had gathered her choicest treasures, whether great or small to draw her lovers into close confiding communion with her."

—John Muir to Teddy Roosevelt
on preserving Yosemite National Park

III. Shema

The earth says have a place, be what that place requires hear the sound the birds imply and see as deep as ridges go behind each other. (Some people call their scenery flat, their only pictures framed by what they know: I think around them rise a riches and a loss too equal for their chart — but absolutely tall.)

The earth says every summer have a ranch that's minimum: one tree, one well, a landscape that proclaims a universe — sermon of the hills, hallelujah mountain, highway guided by the way the world is tilted, reduplication of mirage, flat evening: the kind of ritual for the wavering.

The earth says where you live wear the kind of color that your life is (grey shirt for me) and by listening with the same bowed head that sings draw all things into one song, join the sparrow on the lawn, and row that easy way, the rage without met by the wings within that guide you anywhere the wind blows.

Listening, I think that's what the earth says.

—William Stafford

IV. Mi Shebeirach

May the source of strength
Who blessed the ones before us
Help us find the courage
to make our lives a blessing
And let us say Amen.

Bless those in need of healing
with *r'fuah sh'leimah*
The renewal of body,
the renewal of spirit
And let us say Amen.

—Traditional Jewish Prayer

V. Kaddish

"Let my thoughts come to you,
when I am gone,
Like the afterglow of sunset
at the margin of starry silence"

—Rabindranath Tagore

VI. Closing Prayer

In the dusk of the river, the wind
gone, the leaves grow still —
The beautiful poise of lightness,
The heavy world pushing toward it.

—Wendell Berry

Excerpt from "The Porch Over the River"

Laughing

Animal Crackers

The panther is like a leopard
except it hasn't been peppered.
If you behold a panther crouch
prepare to say, "ouch."
Better yet, if called by a panther.
don't anther.

The cow is of the Bovine ilk.
One end is moo, the other, milk.

The firefly's flame
is something for which science
has no name.
I can think of nothing eerier
than flying around with an unidentified glow
on a person's posterior.

—Ogden Nash

TEXTS AND TRANSLATIONS

continued

Lirum bililurum (*Translations only*)

Ah, sound the muted instrument.
You hear me well, Pedrina
and not just out of duty.

I have loved you for six years,
and been a good servant to you,
but I've been waiting for you so long
that I shall end by bursting with love.
Ah, don't give me more grief;
you know well that I speak the truth.

They Are Mother

What shall I call this force I know
Who do I come to when I wonder
The space that holds me when I'm low
More than a parent, friend, or lover

They are Mover
They are Maker
They are Mother.

They are the breath I see in cold
The ready muscle in the sprinter
They are the glitter and the gold
The steady heat lamp in the winter

They nod and know
They need nothing
They're god and grow,
They bleed blessings
They are solitude
They are multitude
They are gratitude.

Laugh lines around the all-seeing eye
And I can lean up into the sky.

Loving

Sing On!

If music be the food of love, sing on!
Sing on 'till I am filled with joy.
For then my listening soul you move
to pleasures that can never cloy.

Your eyes, your mien, your tongue declare
That you are music everywhere.
Pleasures invade both eye and ear,
so fierce the transports are, they wound.
And all my senses feasted are,
though yet the treat is only sound.

Sure I must perish by your charms,
Unless you save me in your arms,
With pleasures that can never cloy
Sing on 'till I am filled with joy.
For then my listening soul you move,
If music be the food of love.

—Col. Henry Heveningham,
alterations by Gwyneth Walker

Liebeslieder Walzer (*Translations only*)

I. Rede, Mädchen, allzu liebes

Tell me, my sweetest girl,
who with your glances
have kindled in my cool breast
these wild, passionate feelings!

Will you not relent, will you,
with an excess of virtue,
live without love's rapture,
or do you wish me to come to you?

To live without love's rapture,
is a bitter fate I would not suffer.
Come, then, with your dark eyes,
come, when the stars beckon!

II. Am Gesteine rauscht die Flut

The wildly lashed waves
dash against the rocks;
whoever has not learnt to sigh
will learn it when he loves.

IV. Wie des Abends schöne Röte

Like a lovely sunset
I, a humble girl, would glow,
and find favour with one alone,
radiating endless rapture.

XI. Nein, es ist nicht auszukommen

No, it is not possible
to put up with these people;
they interpret everything
so spitefully.

If I'm happy, they say
I harbour lewd desires;
if I'm quiet, they say
I'm madly in love.

TEXTS AND TRANSLATIONS

continued

XIV. Sieh', wie ist die Welle klar

See how clear the waves are,
when the moon shines down!
You, my dearest love,
love me in return.

XVIII. Es bebet das Gesträuche

The foliage trembles,
where a bird in flight
has brushed against it.
And so my soul
trembles too, shuddering
with love, desire and pain,
whenever it thinks of you.

*—Texts from "Polydora, ein weltpoetisches
Liederbuch," or "a world poetry song book."
by Georg Friederich Daumer, 1855
—Translations by Richard Stokes*

That Which Remains

What we have once enjoyed, we can never lose,
a sunset, a mountain bathed in moonlight
the ocean in calm and in storm,
we see these, love their beauty,
hold the vision to our hearts.

All that we love deeply becomes part of us,
Life is overlord of death, life is stronger than death,
and love can never lose its own.

—Helen Keller

The Promise of Living

The promise of living
With hope and thanksgiving
Is born of our loving
our friends and our labor.

The promise of growing
With faith and with knowing
Is born of our sharing
our love with our neighbor.

The promise of living
The promise of growing
Is born of our singing
in joy and thanksgiving

For many a year we've known these fields
And known all the work that makes them yield,
Are you ready to lend a hand?
By working together we'll bring in the harvest.

We plant each row with seeds of grain,
And Providence sends us the sun and the rain,
By lending a hand, by lending an arm,
Bring in from the land, bring out from the farm
The blessings of harvest.

Give thanks there was sunshine,
give thanks there was rain,
Give thanks we have hands to deliver the grain,
O let us be joyful, O let us be grateful
to the Lord for his blessing.

The promise of ending
in right understanding
is peace in our own hearts
and peace with our neighbor.

The promise of living
The promise of growing
The promise of ending
is labor and sharing and loving.

We Are All Bound Up Together

We are all bound up together
in one great bundle of humanity.

—Frances Ellen Watkins Harper

PROGRAM NOTES

In addition to growing together as a community of musicians, one of my primary goals for the Contra Costa Chorale in my first year as artistic director has been to get us all thinking about the ways that music can be an incredible tool to think with, and a vehicle for expressing big ideas and concepts, that are sometimes too big and broad to put into words. Through themes of living, laughing, and loving, as well as with through-threads of environmental justice and community building, I hope the program today is as inspiring to you as it has been to me.

Alex Berko's **Sacred Place** is an ecological service that connects the old with the new, the sacred with the secular, and the individual with their community. The outline of the work is a Jewish service, with texts made of various writers and thinkers who speak of the environment as a place of safety, comfort, and beauty. The writers chosen all view the earth as sacred, speaking of us as inhabitants, as visitors, but with definitions of sacred that transcend individual religious experiences – even as we perform this work in churches this weekend. Says the composer, “there is a deep, unifying power in collective listening that transcends a single person or a single group’s traditions. I am thinking about the concept of the ‘service’ in the broadest sense: coming together to sit, listen, breathe, and understand. The audience is entering a sacred space within themselves, quietly resonating with those around them.”

The **Animal Crackers** are a series of poems by Ogden Nash, set to music by Eric Whitacre in a whimsical fashion. The light-hearted *frottola* **Lirum Bililirum** borrows upon sixteenth century humor, accompanying the story of love with “a muted instrument,” which may have been either a lute or a bagpipe. Jennifer Lucy Cook created the text for **They Are Mother** with the Rev. Alex Reegan, a trans man and interfaith minister, who helped sculpt a text that embodies the energy of the feminine divine present in any gender, while also serving as a nod to our formative mothers (biological and otherwise) on this Mother’s Day weekend, and reminding us all (including the singers on stage today, that the “laugh lines around the all-seeing eye”, suggest we shouldn’t ever take ourselves too, too seriously.

The simple pleasures of music, food, and love are on display in Gwyneth Walker’s whimsical take on the famous text “If Music be the food of love, **Sing On!**” with instructions to Martin at the piano to “glissando with delightful abandon.” Johannes Brahms so loved the task of writing his famed **Liebeslieder Walzer** for chamber choir and two pianists that he wrote them twice. Andrea Ramsey’s setting of Helen Keller’s text in “**That Which Remains**” reminds us once more of the importance of place, and holding onto beautiful moments in nature just as all that we hold dear becomes part of us. We conclude our program this spring with Aaron Copland’s timeless message that “**The Promise of Living**, growing, and ending is labor, sharing and loving, as well as Joan Szymko’s reminder, which has been present with us in the conclusion of every rehearsal this year, that “**We are all bound up together** in one great bundle of humanity.”

I’m so thankful for this great bundle of humanity, which includes the musicians on stage, our poet laureate who provided this season’s poem in absentia, to Ruth Block for contributing our cover art, and especially to our General Manager, Kate Sibley, who is concluding her time with us this spring. For her tireless efforts in promoting, organizing, and wrangling on behalf of the Contra Costa Chorale, we are ever grateful, and the singers and I are delighted to dedicate these concerts to her.

And, if you are looking for a welcoming community of singers, I would love to hear from you! Our hearing process is very quick and low-stakes, and rehearsals begin again in August after a summer hiatus.

Thank you for being a part of our bundle of humanity today,



Dr. Brad Schultz
Artistic Director

ABOUT THE COVER



Ruth Block – Artist
Photo: Raphael Shevelev

Ruth Block lives in the SF Bay Area and has exhibited nationally and internationally since 1976. A native Floridian, formative years were spent in Chicago under artistic tutelage of her maternal grandmother with summers spent singing and artmaking at National Music Camp, Interlochen, MI. Her natural father was a leading abstract

expressionist painter in Tampa, FL. Block holds a BA in Art Education and MA in Counseling Psychology from Michigan State University, and an MFA in Studio Arts from John F. Kennedy University. Recently retired from decades as a teaching artist, a few accolades include: Oakland Business Arts Award Nomination for Coordinator/Director of The Fire Art Project, First Place Sculpture (Richmond Art Center) and twice Best in Show (New Mexico Art League). With a life-long passion for both teaching art and creating it, Block continues to sing and paint. Find more information about Ruth Block, including a direct link to her recent short film “Opposing Forces” under EVENTS on her website: www.ruthblock.com.



ARTIST'S STATEMENT

The image of “SOUL,” used as this Spring’s concert image, was chosen from my Second BOOK OF MANDALAS AND HEALING ART printed in 2022 and 2023. In most of my large and small works in various media, nuances of gesture, movement and forms found in Nature manifest. In this simple piece that came through me on a chilly continuing drought day in February 2015, there are an effervescence and new tendrils breaking through boundaries of the open circle. Singing LIVING, LAUGHING, LOVING, like the little mandala, we hope to nourish and uplift all of our souls. And like this open mandala, we hope the music and words will break through boundaries to resonate, sometimes with laughter, life and love that is stronger than death, doubt and despair, especially when it is difficult to see our way to the light in times of darkness. Like the mandala, we offer our tendrils of blessings bubbling up for “hope that springs eternal.” We Are All Bound Up Together, finding within ourselves deeper rooted connection to all Nature, all that is and trusting in a greater mystery than ourselves.

–R. Block, Richmond, CA Spring 2025



DARKNESS TO LIGHT

FALL 2025 PROGRAM

Frostiana; Randall Thompson

A Winter Brevary; Reena Esmail

Foundling Hospital Anthem; George F. Handel (which concludes with the Hallelujah Chorus)

Rehearsals begin August 25, 6:30-9:00
at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley,
1 Lawson Road in Kensington

CONCERTS FRIDAY, DECEMBER 5 AND SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7



**Walnut Creek Historical Society
Shadelands Ranch Museum
2660 Ygnacio Valley Rd., Walnut Creek, CA 94598**

MUSEUM HOURS:

1 PM - 4 PM Wednesdays & Sundays

February - October

ADMISSION: \$5 adults

PHONE: (925) 935-7871

EMAIL: wchs@wchistory.org

WEBSITE: wchistory.org

2025 EVENTS

Downtown Walking Tours

Second Saturday of the month

February - October

Registration required

FREE

Classic Car Show

Sunday, June 8

10 AM - 3 PM

Shadelands Summer Market

Sunday, August 24

10 AM - 2 PM

Santa at Shadelands

Saturday, November 29

10 AM - 3 PM

Holiday Teas

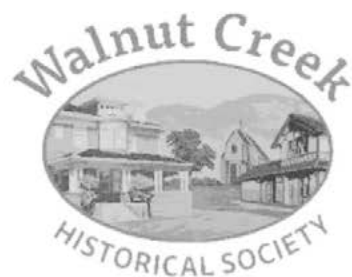
Saturday, November 29 - December 14

Two Seatings Daily: 11 AM & 1:30 PM

Holiday Faire

Saturday, November 29 - December 14

10 AM - 4 PM Daily



CONTRA COSTA CHORALE

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

The Contra Costa Chorale commits to promoting music education at all learning levels, to encouraging student participation in the fine and joyous art of choral singing, and to creating and supporting programs that build choral singers and audiences for the future.

For the past decade, the Contra Costa Chorale has raised funds to support student music programs in Contra Costa County, with the intent to focus on choral music in western and central parts of the county. Currently we have two active programs and are developing other opportunities.

OPENING ACT

Since 2017, the Chorale has invited student musicians' groups from Central and West Contra Costa schools to perform as our Opening Act. By the time the Chorale ceased operations during the COVID-19 pandemic, we had featured students from Madera Elementary School (WCCUSD) in Kensington, Orinda Middle School (Orinda Union School District), Korematsu Middle School (WCCUSD), and Dougherty Valley High School (San Ramon Valley Unified School District). We are not always successful in finding groups for each concert, but when we do find those whose schedules fit ours, the performances are enthusiastically received by our audiences.

School music groups you know could have the opportunity to perform for up to 10 minutes in front of our audience, in either Kensington or Walnut Creek. If you are interested or know of a group that would want to participate, please email us at cocochorale@gmail.com so that we can make a new connection.

VOCAL MUSIC STUDIES SCHOLARSHIPS

In 2020, the Contra Costa Chorale established a relationship with the West Contra Costa Public Education Fund (the Ed Fund) to provide scholarships to students who need assistance for studies, either at college or for some special program they wish to pursue even while still attending high school. Currently, the emphasis is on college scholarships, which the Ed Fund has made available on behalf of the Chorale since 2021.

In 2021, two \$1,000 scholarships were awarded to Madison Weller, De Anza HS, and Naja Ji Jaga, Middle College HS. Madison pursued her college studies at Contra Costa College with plans to transfer to San Jose State, and Naja began her studies at Boston University.

Another two \$1,000 scholarships were awarded in 2022 to Abraham Blanquel, Richmond HS, and Justin Trujillo, Pinole Valley HS. Both students intend to

pursue music careers, Abraham as a musician and in production and Justin as a music teacher—we hope in WCCUSD.

For the 2023 scholarships, the Community Connections Committee made the decision to increase the scholarship amounts to \$2,000 each, generating greater interest from the students. With a strong choice of candidates, the committee decided to award three scholarships. That year, the scholars were Kaylee Barron, Richmond HS; Jordan Daniel, Hercules HS; and Aleks Retiro, De Anza HS. Kaylee and Aleks presented the Chorale's Opening Act at the spring 2023 concert.

The spring 2024 scholarships were awarded to Sheesam Gurung, Pinole Valley HS; and Zidane Le, Hercules HS. Both students brought strong backgrounds in activities that reflected community building...and, of course, singing.

We are delighted to watch our Contra Costa Chorale scholars head off to college with a boost from us (made possible by donations from our friends).

STUDENT SINGERS

Contra Costa Chorale is constantly searching for talented students to join the Chorale for a concert set. We offer local students, either high school or college, a chance to experience being part of a community chorus, attending rehearsals and preparing for the concert alongside the Chorale singers. We expect students to be committed choral singers who have developed musical skills comparable to those of a community chorus, and to be at least minimally familiar with reading music. Students will receive scholarships to cover the cost of their tuition and music.

For more information about making any of these connections with the Contra Costa Chorale, email your request to cocochorale@gmail.com.

WE BELIEVE IN CHANGING LIVES THROUGH BETTER HEARING



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**CERTIFIED PILATES
 INSTRUCTOR**

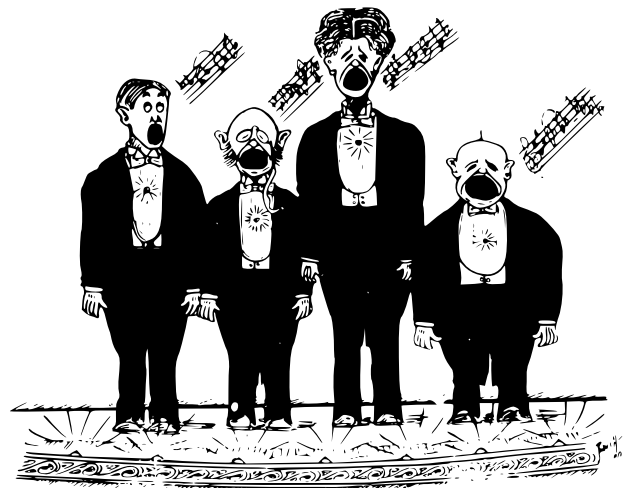
**BUILD MUSCLE, RELEASE
 TENSION, RECOVER FROM INJURY,
 AGE WITH STRENGTH & GRACE**

ATTENTION SINGERS!

Do you love singing in the shower? Did you sing in a high school chorus or church choir? Have you always wanted to sing but weren't sure you could? Looking for some new, exciting artistic challenge that's more fun than you could imagine? Want to raise your IQ by leaps and bounds? (Yes, making music makes you smarter! And healthier too!)

Well, take action! The Contra Costa Chorale wants you. You'll get great value from weekly rehearsals held in Kensington, including vocal coaching. Our next season runs late August to early December. Check out page 11 of this program to see a hint of what's coming. Come join us!

Contra Costa Chorale
 cocochorale@gmail.com; (510) 730-0202





A family-owned urban winery
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FRIDAY: 4:00PM - 8:00PM • SATURDAY - SUNDAY: 1:00PM - 6:00PM

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1352 S. 49th Street • Richmond, CA 94804 • (415) 806-7480



Richmond, the birthplace of the Contra Costa Chorale,
is experiencing a cultural renaissance!

AN ARTS CORRIDOR IS COMING SOON TO RICHMOND!

Watch for news of the Macdonald Avenue Richmond Arts Corridor,
which will connect cultural organizations, artists, musicians,
and other creators, integrating art into the city's environment
to enrich the lives of residents and visitors alike.



MEANWHILE, EXPLORE THESE PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS WORKING TOGETHER ON THE ARTS CORRIDOR:

Richmond Museum of History and Culture
4th and Nevin Streets | richmondmuseum.org

East Bay Center for the Performing Arts
339 11th Street | eastbaycenter.org/

Richmond PAL (Police Activities League)
2200 Macdonald Avenue | rpal.org/home.aspx

Richmond Art Center
2540 Barrett Avenue | richmondartcenter.org

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Parting in Perfect Harmony



Kate Sibley joined the Contra Costa Chorale as a singer in 2012, when her life partner and spouse, Cindy Beitmen, became the Artistic Director. A year later, at Cindy's urging, Kate took on the job of General Manager. In their time with the Chorale, the Kate and Cindy partnership

brought the Chorale from a small, conductor-less group to the financially stable organization we have become, with a committed group of more than

eighty singers. Their combined leadership brought us through a jubilant 50th Anniversary celebration. During the global pandemic, they guided us back to musical health, first by insisting on our continuing to sing—outdoors in the parking lot—and by presenting prudent concerts with both singers and audience fully masked and distanced. Without that extra effort and energy, the Chorale, like many other arts organizations, might have failed to thrive.



Kate has been instrumental in building our organizational infrastructure, leaving a living legacy for the Chorale's future.

But thrive we did.

Kate's administration has developed the Chorale's organization and management, transforming box office and financial operations. She has negotiated new venues, developed community partnerships, especially with the West Contra Costa Public Education Fund for student

scholarships, and early Giving Tuesday efforts, leading to successful annual fundraising campaigns. She has also innovated our approach to ticket sales and live-streaming, increasing our local and far-flung audiences. Kate has been instrumental in building our organizational infrastructure, leaving a living legacy for the Chorale's future.

Since Cindy's death last April, Kate has continued to faithfully serve the Chorale with her vision and intention to make the many transitions we have faced as painless as possible for us, including the search for Cindy's successor. Because of the structural and musical growth under their leadership, the Chorale was able to attract a director of the caliber of Dr. Brad Schultz.

During her tenure, Kate has been the hub for the Chorale's many moving parts. She has been our central communicator.

She contracts with vocal soloists and instrumentalists; she manages the venues, singers, donors, advertisers, and tickets sales.

On an individual, heart level, she knows every member of the Chorale personally. She is our negotiator, our nudge, our advocate and sometimes our personal therapist. She is reliable and dependable and helps us to be the same. Her humor is quiet and swift.

Kate Sibley will be sorely missed by all of us; her slim pink sandals will be very hard shoes to fill. It is with deep gratitude that we dedicate this concert to Kate.



Tribute to K8 Sibley

When you were the new kid on the block
How lucky was I that we were seated together?
We started LIVING a singing friendship

Sharing a wacky humor, we traded
Smart remarks and little jokes. When
Our LAUGHING would catch Cindy's eye

I feared she'd move our chairs
Yet on each new seating chart
We were still sitting side-by-side.

You soon became the pumping, working
Heart of the Chorale, learning our names,
Our idiosyncrasies, who you could ask for help,

And who needed help. You were always
Willing to take on the next task, the hard ask.
Through your kindness and all-seeing eye

We came to feel and know in our hearts
You were LOVING every one of us. Both of you
Will remain in our hearts, all ways, always.

Sing On!

Janet Keyes
April 2025



Announcing the Cindy Beitmen Legacy Circle

With the sad news of Cindy's passing, we are honoring her through our newly named Cindy Beitmen Legacy Circle. Current singers Janet Keyes & David Hubbell, and Kate Sibley, have already included the Chorale in their estate plans.

We encourage you to create your own legacy for the Chorale by including us in your will or living trust, naming us as an account beneficiary, or by considering other options.

Your thoughtful gift will keep the Chorale strong and help us meet the high standard that Cindy set for us during her 12-year tenure as Music Director.

Questions? For a confidential conversation:

Greg Lasonde (415) 509-4886,
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Soprano Joy
is delighted to praise her two
beloved granddaughters!

Scout Odessa is ending Freshman year at Amherst College. She is busy with many assignments in Economics, History, etc. She has found a fine group of other young men and women with whom to enjoy outdoor activities.

Neko continues to be an ace volleyball player. She writes sensitive poems, creates artistic ceramics, and, when home, helps her grandfather in the garden. She helps take care of her family's large dog, a mixed Toy Poodle. She is also very bright in economics and scientific classes.

CONTRA COSTA CHORALE

Sopranos



Front Row, left to right: Elmina Green, Joy Sviha, Sandy Kruger, Ann Smith, Barbara Berry, Julia Carvalho
Second row, left to right: Susan Lambert, Jenny Sanjeeven, Monica Olivares, Jean Lutwak, Eileen Malone, Karen Glasser, Cathy Edwards
Third row, left to right: Amelia Grounds, Judith Keig, Deena Love, Karine Schomer, Katherine Gorringer, Mary McQuilliams, Nina Felden
Missing from photo: Connie Brown, Valerie Carpenter, Tanya Drlik, Nicki Norman, Joy Ogden, Katie Rodriguez, Gennifer Tate



In Memoriam

Shiela G. Haug
1939-2023

Loving wife, mother,
mother-in-law, and grandmother.

She loved animals, and also
arts-and-crafts as well as painting. She
sang, played guitar, banjo, and organ.

Her singing voice was lovely and
so robust that the neighbors could
hear her down the street; luckily they
enjoyed it! Through her early eighties,
she went to dance classes 7 days a
week, enjoying Ballroom, Latin, Salsa,
and Line Dance. She is survived by her
children, Chorale Alto Kathy (Jay) and
Robin (Tom), and her grandson, Wyatt.

This spring is a season of celebration

for our wonderful grandchildren! Congratulations to
Nicole on graduating from UC Santa Barbara with
Honors in Sociology and Business Communication,
and to **Jack** on earning his degree in Data Science
and Computer Science from NYU—what incredible
accomplishments! We also celebrate **Dylan** as he
embarks on a promising career in hospitality. **Tiger** has
successfully completed his first year at the University
of Washington, while **Meagan** is finishing her second
year at UC Santa Barbara, excelling both academically
and on the track team. **Owen** continues his studies in
business at the University of Utah, and **Ben** is diving
deep into computer engineering at Cal Poly. Meanwhile,
our youngest grandchild, **Sydney**, is finishing her
sophomore year of high
school and showing great
dedication as a track athlete.
We are so proud of each of
them and can't wait to see all
the amazing things they will
accomplish!

Linda and Ken Jones,
Proud grandparents



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EC ZumFit
Zumba Classes Daily

CONTRA COSTA CHORALE

Altos



Front row, left to right: Lynne Ono, Kathy Haug, Diana Feinberg, Catherine White, Regina Marchione, Carol Terry
 Second row, left to right: Geri Havlicek, Catherine Sampietro, Lee Steadman, Linda Jones, Chris Moriuchi, Judi Carrillo, Carol Strand
 Third row, left to right: Janet Keyes, Kate Sibley, Laurie Isenberg, Debbie Sanderson, Jessica Frasure, Alisa Gould Sugden, Cyndi Mulligan
 Fourth row, left to right: Cassie Todd, Eldonna Cooley, Anne Jennings, Heidi Ronfeldt, Katie Wolfman
 Missing from photo: Amy Willats

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CONTRA COSTA CHORALE

Tenors & Basses



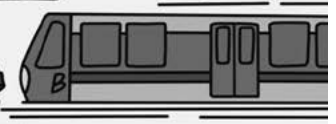
Front row: Achi Ben Shalom, Richard Page, Ruth Block, Alice Knudsen, Mitch Ashley, Terry Lee
Second row: Chad Keig, Ron Cheatham, Spero Matthews, Nan Ayers, Jamie McGrath, Peter Liddell, Carole Strauss
Third row: Kevin Glaz, Daniel Bort, David Hubbell, Don Wollwage, Jerry Reynolds, Abigail Smith, JoAnn Thomas
Fourth row: William Abernathy, Ferdinand Bondt, Jim Wong, Joe Scott, Leo Scurry, Shoshana Dembitz
Missing from photo: Andrea Weber, Greg Lassonde

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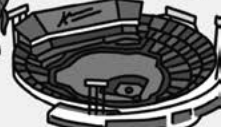
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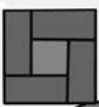
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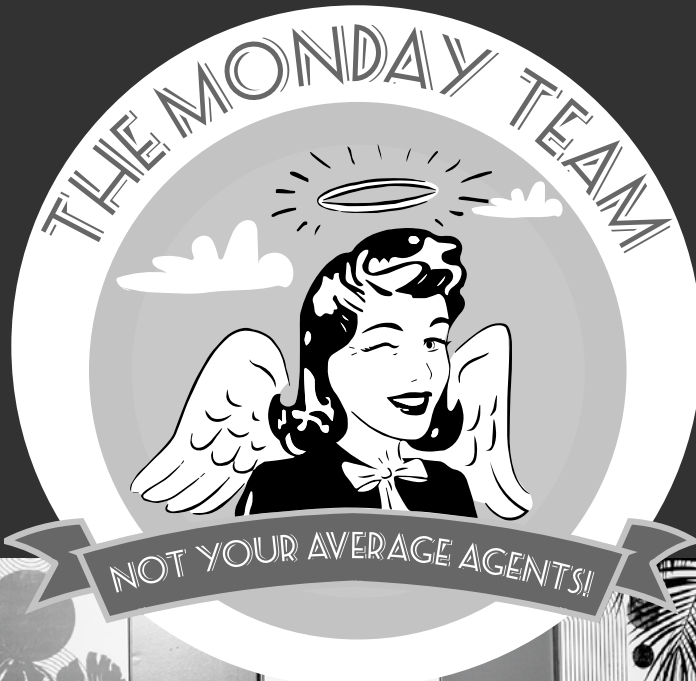
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And to our many Chorale members who volunteer 2,000-plus hours over and above rehearsal and concert singing time to make the organization run like a well-oiled machine. The Chorale is a cohesive, generous community, and we are grateful beyond words for all that our members give.

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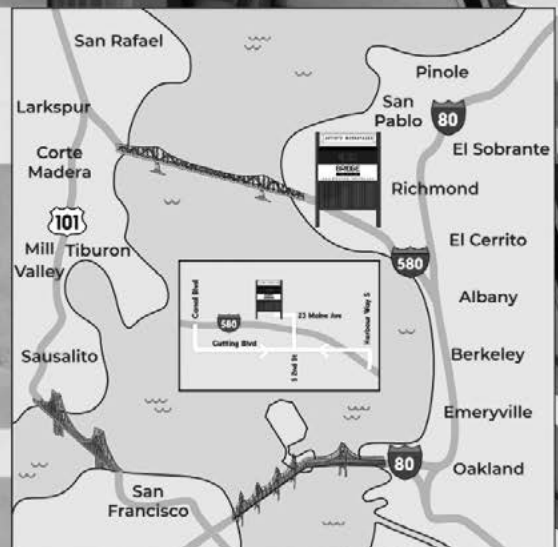


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We will always support diversity, equity and inclusion.
Our songs will always reflect
Beauty, compassion, community, strength
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Claudia Dechow
Chorale Alto