

2024-2025 SEASON

BEL CANTO COMPANY | GREENSBORO YOUTH CHORUS | GATE CITY VOICES

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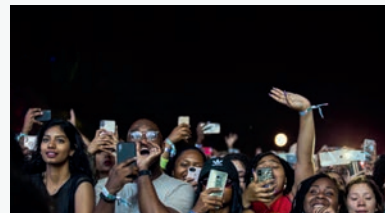


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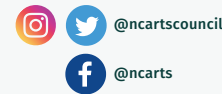
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THE CHORAL ARTS COLLECTIVE

BEL CANTO COMPANY | GREENSBORO YOUTH CHORUS | GATE CITY VOICES

2024-2025 SEASON PLAYBILL

From Board President Carmen Deese	4
2024-2025 Choral Arts Collective Board of Directors	4
Directory of 2024-2025 Sponsors	5
From Artistic Director Welborn E. Young.	6
2024 Annual Campaign	8
From Executive Director Jeffrey Carlson	11
From Greensboro Youth Chorus Co-Directors LJ Martin & Claire Jurs.	12
Choral Arts Collective 2024-2025 Season	13
Muse, October 12 & 14, 2024	13
Tidings, December 8 & 9, 2024	14
Stars, Light, and Wonder, December 14, 2024	14
The Night Before Christmas, December 15, 2024	15
Amore, February 15, 2025	15
Sanctuary, March 2 & 3, 2025	16
Ramblin', April 26 & 28, 2025	21
Through Our Eyes, May 17, 2025	21
About Bel Canto Company	22
Welborn E. Young, Choral Arts Collective Artistic Director	23
Bel Canto Company Singers	25
Christy Wisuthseriwong, Bel Canto Company Accompanist	26
Brittany Kaehler, Bel Canto Company Assistant Conductor.	26
About Gate City Voices	29
Gate City Voices Singers	29
About Greensboro Youth Chorus	30
Claire Jurs, Greensboro Youth Chorus Co-Director	31
LJ Martin, Greensboro Youth Chorus Co-Director.	31
Greensboro Youth Chorus Singers.	32
Jiawei Tschu, Greensboro Youth Chorus Accompanist	33
Kevin Lawson, Greensboro Youth Chorus Accompanist.	33
On the Road	34

FROM BOARD PRESIDENT CARMEN DEESE

Dear Friends of the Choral Arts Collective,

As President of the Choral Arts Collective Board of Directors, I am delighted to invite you to join us for a season filled with musical excellence, community, and inspiration. Our organization is comprised of three distinct groups: Bel Canto Company, Greensboro Youth Chorus, and Gate City Voices. Each group brings its unique talents and perspectives to our collective mission of fostering a vibrant choral arts scene in Greensboro.



This season, we have curated a diverse and exciting program that will showcase the exceptional artistry of our members. Whether you are a seasoned concert goer and long-term supporter or new to the world of choral music, we believe you will find something to appreciate. From the “beautiful singing” found in Bel Canto’s performances, to the talented and energetic Greensboro Youth Chorus and enthusiasm found in Gate City Voices, we are thrilled to have you on this journey with us. It is through the remarkable talents and hard work of these ensembles that we realize the melding of our vision of a world that celebrates excellence, diversity, and lifelong participation in choral music with our mission to create engaging, inclusive, and entertaining choral experiences.

We invite you to join us for our full season of concerts and events. Your support is essential to our continued success and our ability to enrich the cultural life of our entire community. For it is when an audience can take in the joy of live music and simply be present, that art truly comes to life.

Thank you for your continued patronage.

Sincerely,

Carmen P. Deese
Board President

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Interested in volunteering or serving on the board? Contact The Choral Arts Collective:
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We are exceptionally grateful to these businesses and organizations for their support of our 2024-2025 Season. We hope you will patronize businesses that support the arts and The Choral Arts Collective. Let them know that you saw their ad in this book and tell them how much you appreciate their support of lifelong choral music in the Triad.

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For sponsorship information and other ways you can support The Choral Arts Collective’s vision of a community celebrating excellence, diversity, and lifelong participation in choral music, visit www.choralartscollective.org/support.



FROM ARTISTIC DIRECTOR WELBORN E. YOUNG

"What a joy, to travel the way of the heart." – Rumi

Recently, The Choral Arts Collective board of directors met during a weekend retreat. A week later we had our first board meeting. The purpose of the retreat was to welcome new board members and to familiarize them with the history of the organization, its vision and mission statements, the ensembles, and to review the strategic plan. I left the retreat and the board meeting with an overwhelming sense of joy and optimism because of the robust exchange of ideas and energy shared at these meetings. Planning this season with the board members and the staff has reminded me of the heart, sincerity, and giving spirit that makes this organization remarkable. Every day I am grateful for the opportunity to be "at this table." Rumi's words are a reminder to me how lucky I am to travel the way of the heart.



Collective News

During the summer, the co-directors of GYC, LJ Martin and Claire Jurs were clinicians for the second annual summer music camp hosted by The Choral Arts Collective. The number of young singers present for each of the two weeks was impressive. Singers from first grade through high school rehearsed, engaged in artistic projects, and concluded each week with an "informance" highlighting the singers' musical experiences from the week. In June, nearly one hundred returning and new singers auditioned for Bel Canto Company and Gate City Voices. The range of talent was impressive. Jeff Carlson, Executive Director for the Choral Arts Collective, and I met often to find and walk through potential rehearsal locations that could handle the eighty plus singers in the combined adult ensembles. We are happy and grateful to announce that New Garden Friends Meeting on New Garden Road will be our new rehearsal location. And of course, planning and confirming calendar dates and concert locations for next season occupied some of our summer weeks as well. The artistic staff and Jeff are working to continue the growth and health of Greensboro Youth Chorus, Gate City Voices, and Bel Canto Company.

Greensboro Youth Chorus

All three ensembles, Music Explorers, Apprentice Choir, and Concert Choir are growing and unifying under the leadership of LJ Martin and Claire Jurs. The season is full! Apprentice Choir and Concert Choir held their Fall "Kick-Off" Retreat day in September at Irving Park United Methodist Church. This event provides valuable information for the singers' families and also showcases what the singers do in rehearsal. Beyond the annual December and May showcase concerts, GYC ensembles will be participating in NC-Sings sponsored by the NCACDA at Queens College in Charlotte this October, UNCOSA's production of *The Nutcracker* at Tanger Center in December, The Piedmont Invitational Children's Choir Festival in March, as well as various performances of the national anthem at Swarm and Grasshoppers games and outreach performances at area retirement communities.

Bel Canto Company and Gate City Voices

As I write this in September, Bel Canto's first season concert, *Muse*, is coming right up. The musical settings and the poetry serve as a source of joy, peace, and power. Whether

it is something nostalgic we love to revisit every year to remind us of family traditions or discovering new season delights, the holiday concert, *Tidings* featuring Bel Canto Company with Gate City Voices, will warm your hearts. Our planet is a most hallowed space. Bel Canto and Gate City Voices invite several high school ensembles to perform works of their choice in *Sanctuary*. Alex Berko's multi-movement work *Sacred Place* is a setting from various sources of writings about preserving our environment. *Ramblin'* is a captivating program that will take you on a journey through diverse geographical and emotional landscapes as Bel Canto celebrates the spirit of adventure and discovery.

As paraphrased from the works of Rumi, when what you do is inspired by your soul, you feel a river of joy moving in you. I wish for you the joy of discovery, peace and wonder.

Welborn E. Young
Artistic Director



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FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR JEFFREY CARLSON

As I sat in that dimly lit auditorium, I made a decision, one that has shaped the course of my life ever since. It was October of my senior year, and I was the only student from my small-town Nebraska high school to make All-State Chorus. As Dr. Andre Thomas rehearsed the 400+ talented singers in the University of Nebraska's Lied Center for Performing Arts, I realized that my dream of becoming a physicist or engineer – I loved math and science and excelled at both – had suddenly changed. I couldn't imagine not singing every day for the rest of my life, and as I sang in that rehearsal I decided to major in music. I wasn't sure what exactly I would do with that major – I thought maybe teach high school choir – but I knew that of everything I had been involved with up to that point in my life, music was the one thing I was unwilling to give up.



The rest, as they say, is history. Today I have the privilege of serving as executive director of this incredible organization, now in its 4th season and born from two ensembles with a combined 79 years of history serving the Greensboro arts community. I don't know if Dr. Thomas knew he was changing anyone's life in that rehearsal specifically, but I'm certain he knew it was a possibility every time he made music with others. I'm also sure that everyone reading this can point to at least one example where music affected their life, not just dramatic changes, but also simple moments that are often no less profound. I'm proud that at the heart of The Choral Arts Collective's vision is creating space for lifelong participation in choral music that can lead to those life affirming and sometimes life changing moments.

Last season, the programming of Bel Canto Company, Greensboro Youth Chorus, and Gate City Voices reached more than 3,300 people at 17 Choral Arts Collective sponsored performances, and an estimated 26,000 people at community performances throughout the state. 40 professional singers were contracted to sing in Bel Canto, 42 talented community signers joined Gate City Voices, and 61 K-12 students registered for Greensboro Youth Chorus. This summer 75 students participated in our 2nd annual summer choir camp. We are justifiably proud of these successes, but there is more to do.

In Guilford County there are thousands of students with limited or no access to choir singing or opportunities for music education. Our community is full of talented singers eager for opportunities to utilize their gifts. Audiences throughout the Triad crave exceptional, moving, and entertaining performances celebrating our local talent. We can provide a musical outlet for those currently without, from our youngest singers to our most seasoned concertgoers.

When you invest in The Choral Arts Collective, you make it possible for us to offer potentially life changing musical opportunities. In fact, more than 40% of our annual budget is subsidized through individual support. Quite literally, we cannot do this work without you. Just think, the music you support could be changing someone's life at this very concert!

Thank you for being here today, for your financial contributions, and for all you do for The Choral Arts Collective. We are deeply grateful for and honored by your support.

Enjoy the concert!

Jeffrey Carlson, *Executive Director*

2024-2025 Season

FROM CO-DIRECTORS CLAIRE JURTS & LJ MARTIN

As we step into a new season at Greensboro Youth Chorus, we are filled with excitement and anticipation! Building on the momentum of last year's successes—such as our powerful performances of the national anthem, our enchanting participation in the UNCSCA *Nutcracker*, and our collaboration with the Young People's Chorus of New York City—we are poised for a year rich with opportunities to showcase the incredible talent of our youth.

This year promises even more avenues for our singers to shine and to connect with the community. We are thrilled to provide platforms for our chorus to sing at various community events, further amplifying the voices of our talented young performers. Each performance is a chance to not only share music but also to represent the vibrant spirit of our area's youth.

We continue to stand firm upon our three pillars: Community, Excellence, and Heart.



Community: Our chorus is growing stronger, and we are eager to welcome new faces! We're excited to begin a partnership with UNCG, which allows us to integrate undergraduate interns into our program. Their fresh perspectives and mentorship will enhance our singers' experiences and further enrich our community. Together, we will create a nurturing environment that fosters friendship, collaboration, and joy through music.

Excellence: This season, our singers will engage in even more rigorous training, developing their skills through focused practice and collaborative rehearsals. The dedication of our families and the hard work of our singers are what will make our choral sound exceptional. With your support, we will continue to cultivate a culture of discipline and artistry that encourages our youth to reach their fullest potential.

Heart: Our singers will delve deeper into the emotional aspects of their performances, connecting not only with the music but also with each other and the world around them. They will learn to infuse their sound with intention and empathy, becoming ambassadors of joy and understanding through their art.

As we embark on this exciting season, we encourage everyone to get involved and engage with our chorus in new ways. Whether you're attending our performances, participating in community events, or simply spreading the word about our mission, your enthusiasm fuels our journey. Let's come together to celebrate the power of music, the joy of collaboration, and the vibrant voices of our youth. We look forward to sharing this wonderful adventure with you all!

Sincerely,

LJ Martin & Claire Jurs, *Greensboro Youth Chorus Co-Directors*

THE CHORAL ARTS COLLECTIVE

BEL CANTO COMPANY | GREENSBORO YOUTH CHORUS | GATE CITY VOICES

2024-2025 Season

Celebrating excellence, diversity, and lifelong participation in choral music

Presenting Sponsors:



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This project is supported by the North Carolina Arts Council, a division of the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources. The Choral Arts Collective is a non-profit resident organization of the Greensboro Cultural Center, made possible by a significant in-kind contribution from Creative Greensboro, the City of Greensboro's office for arts & culture.

MUSE*

THE OPENING CONCERT OF BEL CANTO'S 42ND SEASON

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2024 at 7:30 PM

MONDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2024 at 7:30 PM

EBENEZER LUTHERAN CHURCH
1900 WALKER AVE, GREENSBORO

When the soul of an artist finds its voice, their muse speaks through evocative, stirring, and exquisitely beautiful compositions.

The opening concert of Bel Canto Company's 42nd Season weaves a tapestry of inspiring and moving selections by some of today's most insightful contemporary choral composers.

Jake Runestad's *Reflections*, based on the writings of Thoreau, reminds us of the essential value of living fully without sacrificing time for introspection and reflection. Florence Price set her own text in *Resignation*, a description of her experience struggling for a better world in the time of legal segregation. Edie Hill's *We Bloomed in Spring* on the words of St. Teresa of Avila, a glorious work in madrigal-esque style, explores the mystery of the soul.

Come hear these pieces and more in a celebration of the beauty of existence and find your muse!

* Concert included in Bel Canto Company 2024-2025 Season Subscription.

TIDINGS*

THE SOUNDS OF THE SEASON WITH BEL CANTO & GATE CITY VOICES

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2024 at 3:30 PM
MONDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2024 at 7:30 PM

CHRIST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
410 N HOLDEN RD, GREENSBORO

Every year we look forward to those things that bring the holidays alive for us. Whether we are discovering new seasonal delights or revisiting something nostalgic that reminds us of cherished family traditions, each December is it music that warms our hearts and kindles the spirit of the season within us. Tonight's concert, *Tidings*, brings together a wide range of choral music to help kick off your holiday season.

There are wonderful new arrangements of traditional holiday carols such as *In the Bleak Midwinter* and *Hark the Herald Angels Sing*. Chilcott's *Nova* along with the stunning Poulenc *O Magnum Mysterium* bring contemporary sounds to ancient texts. What holiday would be complete without *The Christmas Song*? Tonight we will be "roasting the chestnuts" in a gorgeous new jazz arrangement by Audrey Snyder.

Composer Dan Forrest has become a favorite of Bel Canto audiences. Tonight we will be performing his joyous setting of *O Come All Ye Faithful*. We will round out our program with other favorite composers such as Dale Warland, John Rutter, and Benjamin Britten. You will be sure to find an old friend and a new delight for your holidays.

* Concert included in Bel Canto Company 2024-2025 Season Subscription.

STARS, LIGHT, AND WONDER

GREENSBORO YOUTH CHORUS WINTER CONCERT

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2024 at 3:00 PM

TEW RECITAL HALL, UNCG SCHOOL OF MUSIC
100 MCIVER ST, GREENSBORO

Join us for *Stars, Light, and Wonder: A Choral Winter Concert*, where we celebrate the beauty and magic of the winter season through the power of music. This enchanting performance features a diverse array of choral works that illuminate the themes of hope, joy, and connection. As we explore the warmth of light amidst the chill of winter, our voices will weave together a tapestry of sound that invites you to reflect on the wonders of the season. Experience the joy of community and the brilliance of song as we embark on this musical journey together!

THE NIGHT BEFORE CHRISTMAS

8TH ANNUAL FREE FAMILY MATINEE PERFORMANCE

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2024 at 3:00 PM

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Kids from one to ninety-two will love this 45-minute holiday-themed concert. Treat yourself to a sugar cookie and enjoy a performance featuring a charming rendition of *'Twas The Night Before Christmas*. With a sing along and free admission, the whole family is sure to enjoy this program of holiday favorites by members of Bel Canto Company and Greensboro Youth Chorus. Make this concert part of your family's holiday tradition!

AMORE

ANNUAL GALA & FUNDRAISER

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2025 at 6:00 PM

THE COLONNADE AT REVOLUTION MILL
1000 REVOLUTION MILL DRIVE, GREENSBORO

Don't miss the party that's always the talk of the town! With a glass of your favorite wine or beer in hand, enjoy passed hors d'oeuvres while playing the silent auction and raffle. Then sit down to an elegantly plated dinner followed by a world-class performance by members of Bel Canto Company and Greensboro Youth Chorus. See for yourself why The Choral Arts Collective's sole fundraiser sells out year after year!

\$125/plate

(Includes wine, beer, meal, and performance.)

Producer Ticket: \$250/plate

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BEL CANTO & GATE CITY VOICES SALUTE MUSIC EDUCATORS

SUNDAY, MARCH 2, 2025 at 3:30 PM
MONDAY, MARCH 3, 2025 at 7:30 PM

CHRIST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
410 N HOLDEN RD, GREENSBORO

Old meets new and sacred stands with secular as Bel Canto Company and Gate City Voices celebrate the Triad's outstanding high school conductors and their choirs. We are excited to celebrate and honor the work of the Triad's exceptional music educators in this unique musical celebration.

News regarding North Carolina public high school choral programs is all too often focused on declining resources and budget considerations. We seek to honor the work and diligence of our high school choral musicians and their dedicated and talented teachers. Featured in the first half of this program are the exceptional work and performances of our high school choral guests and their directors. Each ensemble will have the opportunity to shine in a selection of their own. Then their esteemed director will be offered an opportunity to conduct Bel Canto Company and/or Gate City Voices on a piece of their choosing!

This collaborative event also showcases two major selections:

Sacred Place by Alex Berko – Bel Canto Company and Gate City Voices join together to present what the composer describes as "an ecological service that connects the old with the new, the sacred with the secular, and the individual with their community." Scored for chorus, violin, cello, and piano, the central themes of this six-movement work are ecological preservation and healing set within the structure of a traditional Jewish service. Although each movement is titled after a different pillar of the service (Opening Prayer, Amidah, Shema, Mi Sheberach, Kaddish, Closing Prayer), none of the text is in Hebrew. Rather it is a collection of the writings of several environmentalists and poets exploring their relationship with the earth, including Wendall Berry, John Muir, William Stafford, and Rabindranath Tagore.

Proud Music of the Storm by Jake Runestad – Performed by all ensembles and conducted by Bel Canto Artistic Director Welborn Young, this piece is based on Walt Whitman's poem of the same name celebrating the sounds of our world, from nature to music. Runestad describes it as an "ode to all sounds that make up Whitman's world and how they inspired him to create." Like many of Runestad's works, it evokes a deep love for nature and implores the listener to protect its sacred beauty.

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All of us at the Deuterma Law Group offer our enthusiastic applause to The Choral Arts Collective for its 2024-2025 season. Featuring Bel Canto Company and the Greensboro Youth Chorus, we know every performance will share the joy of song with audiences of all ages. We can't wait for the lights to go down, the curtain to rise and the program to begin!



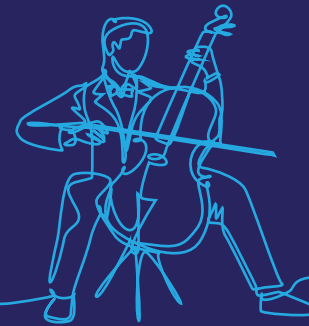
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RAMBLIN'

A MUSICAL JOURNEY OF DISCOVERY

SATURDAY, APRIL 26, 2025 at 7:30 PM
MONDAY, APRIL 28, 2025 at 7:30 PM

VIRGINIA SOMERVILLE SUTTON THEATRE AT WELL-SPRING
4100 WELL SPRING DRIVE, GREENSBORO

Tonight we embark on a journey of discovery. You're invited to ramble along with us as we explore diverse geographic and emotional landscapes through exciting and captivating choral settings by such composers as Bob Chilcott, Shawn Kirchner, Jonathan Quick, Jeffery Douma, and many more. Join us on a sojourn celebrating the spirit of adventure.

Set in an evocative jazz style *Swimming Over London* by Bob Chilcott recalls memories of a lovely encounter in that great city. Chilcott's lush harmonies and rhythmic energy reflect the feeling of gliding over the city's iconic skyline, where each note paints a vivid picture of adventure and wonder. The beloved sea shanty *The Wellerman* entertains and inspires you to join along in this rousing arrangement. We will serenade you with *Moonlight In Vermont*, arranged by Darmon Meader. This classic standard brings a sense of nostalgia and tranquility, capturing the beauty of a moonlit evening.

More nostalgic and poignant works such as *On My Journey* arranged by Jeffrey Douma delves into the themes of hope and reflection. We pay homage to our absent friends and family with *Go Rest High On That Mountain* arranged for choir. This powerful arrangement resounds with themes of loss and comfort.

Ramblin' promises an unforgettable journey resonating with musical beauty. Pack your bags and get on board.

** Concert included in Bel Canto Company 2024-2025 Season Subscription.*

THROUGH OUR EYES

GREENSBORO YOUTH CHORUS SPRING CONCERT

SATURDAY, MAY 17, 2025 at 3:00 PM

VENUE TBA
GREENSBORO

Join us for *Through Our Eyes* a Greensboro Youth Chorus concert inspired by the beauty of the world and a celebration of nature's splendor and the deep connections that unite us all. Through captivating choral works, we honor the renewal and vibrancy of the season with music that reflects the harmony of our world and the beauty we find in each other. As we sing of blooming flowers, flowing rivers, and vast landscapes, our voices will lift in a tribute to the shared experiences that transcend borders and cultures. Let the sounds of spring inspire you to embrace the beauty of the earth and the bonds of community as we journey together in song!

The advertisement features a purple border. At the top, the name "Sandra L. Fuller" is written in a large, elegant, cursive purple font, with "DDS, PA" in a smaller, sans-serif font to the right. Below the name, "Cosmetic & Restorative Dentistry" is written in a smaller, purple, serif font. A large, stylized purple graphic resembling a smile or a pair of lips is positioned below the text. At the bottom of the advertisement, a photograph shows an elderly couple smiling warmly at the camera. The man is wearing a white shirt and has his arm around the woman's shoulder. The woman is wearing a blue top and has her arm around the man's neck. Below the photo, the address "1515 West Cornwallis Dr, Suite 120 | Greensboro, NC 27408" and phone number "(336) 379-1207" are listed, along with the website "www.sandrafullerdds.com".

1515 West Cornwallis Dr, Suite 120 | Greensboro, NC 27408
(336) 379-1207 | www.sandrafullerdds.com

BEL CANTO COMPANY

Led by Artistic Director and Conductor Dr. Welborn Young, Bel Canto Company is an ensemble of more than 40 outstanding musicians dedicated to presenting exceptional, innovative and engaging choral performances for diverse audiences. We believe in the joy of singing and the power of live choral performances to entertain, inspire, heal, build community, and express that which cannot be expressed by words or music alone.

Now in our 41st Season, Bel Canto has contracted well over 250 local singers, released 14 albums, commissioned several new works, and performed for prestigious music festivals and conferences throughout the Southeast, including Washington Cathedral's Summer Music Festival, Spoleto Festival USA, The American Choral Directors Association Southern and North Carolina Division Conferences, and the National Endowment for the Arts program *American Masterpieces: Choral Music*. The ensemble has performed with the American Boychoir, the Virginia Chorale, the Greensboro Symphony, the North Carolina Symphony, the Carolina Chamber Symphony, and has been featured on National Public Radio on Chorus America's *The First Art* and NPR's *Performance Today*.



Bel Canto Company was founded in 1982 by Dr. Richard Cox, then a music faculty member at UNCG, as an outgrowth of the Greensboro Opera Company chorus. The group performed primarily opera and Broadway music, emphasizing solos and small ensembles. This ensemble, sponsored by the Greensboro Parks and Recreation Department, sang one concert that first season. In the same year, David Pegg organized the *Camerata Singers*, whose purpose was to provide Triad music graduates an ensemble that would perform high quality choral music representing all historical periods. After David left Greensboro for Kent State in 1984, the two ensembles joined forces and talents as Bel Canto Company under the direction of Dr. Cox. David returned to Greensboro in 1986 and conducted Bel Canto through the 2004-2005 Season, serving as both Artistic Director and Conductor. Current Artistic Director and Conductor, Dr. Welborn Young, took over after David passed him the baton, both symbolically and literally, at the emotional final concert of the 2004-2005 Season.

Since 1993, Bel Canto has released 14 albums, six of which remain available: *Rejoice and Be Merry* (2011), *American Perspectives* (2012), Dan Forrest's *Requiem for the Living* (2014) which went on to become a top-40 classical album on iTunes, *Radiance* (2016), *Joyful Noise* (2019), and the world premiere of Dan Forrest's *the breath of life* (2019).

In 2021, Bel Canto Company merged with the Greensboro Youth Chorus to form The Choral Arts Collective, a nonprofit organization whose vision is of community celebrating excellence, diversity, and lifelong participation in choral music.

WELBORN E. YOUNG, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Choral Arts Collective Artistic Director Welborn Young has been the Artistic Director and Conductor of Bel Canto Company since 2005. Critics describe his work as “inspired,” “glorious, precision-honed,” “exquisite,” and as a display of “...intense attention to details of dynamic shading and rhythmic nuance.” He regularly performs a variety of music ranging from large choral-orchestral works such as Bach's *St. John Passion*, Forrest's *Jubilate Deo* and Richard Einhorn's *Voices of Light: The Passion of Joan of Arc* to intimate *a cappella* works.



Under his direction, Bel Canto Company was the annual concert ensemble for Hinshaw Music's Celebration, has performed at Southern Regional and State ACDA conferences, and continues to be a featured ensemble at regional concert series. Concert recordings were featured on National Public Radio's *Performance Today*. Bel Canto Company released six CDs that highlight live performances: *Rejoice and Be Merry*, *American Perspectives*, *Radiance*, *Joyful Noise*, the premiere of Dan Forrest's *Requiem for the Living* chamber edition, and Forrest's *the breath of life* commissioned by Bel Canto Company.

For seven years, Dr. Young served as the conductor of the Choral Society of Greensboro in performances of major choral-orchestral works. He has been a featured festival conductor at the Concertgebouw in Amsterdam, at the York Minster International Choral Festival in Great Britain, and at Carnegie Hall. In 1998 he prepared the Grant Park Symphony Chorus in their first recording.

Dr. Young is a guest conductor for honor choirs and is a clinician in festivals and clinics throughout the US. His choirs have toured in Europe in cities such as Florence, Vienna, Budapest, Prague, Cambridge, York, and London. Also a lover of opera, he has worked with Nashville Opera and Greensboro Opera. Dr. Young holds the DMA in Choral Conducting from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. He is Professor Emeritus and served as the Director of Choral Activities and Professor of Music at the University of North Carolina Greensboro where he was the recipient of the 2007 Outstanding Teacher of the Year Award.





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BEL CANTO COMPANY 2024-2025

SOPRANO

Paula Barger
 Gloria Boykin
 Eby Buscher

Catherine Clifton

Sponsored by Deb Harris Richardson

Emily Ennis

Emily Ford Coates

Sponsored by Ryan & Alisha Homer

Amanda Girelli

Brittany Kaehler

Emily Mote

Alicia Reid

Samantha Saake

Sponsored by Clem Clement

Lauren Elena Smith

Sponsored by Robert Dixon & Susan French

Kayla Sorenson

Hilary Webb-Propst

Sponsored by Patricia Bailey

Laura Worst

Sponsored by Jane & David Girardi

ALTO

Alexandra Arpajian

Ashley Annette Ellin

Talia Falcon Blackburn

Lauren Johnson

Anne Lewis

Sarah Love Taylor

Briana L. McClarin

Shelby Moss

Marlo T. Nall

Sponsored by David & Nancy Griffith

Melissa Ramsaur

Sponsored by Deb & Greg Bowers

Rachel Sommers

Krista Steinour

Cathy Williams West

Sponsored by Carol & Fred Andresen

Nan Wooten

TENOR

Tandy Brown

Sponsored by Kathy Adams & Bobby Doolittle

H. Lee Kirkman

Sponsored by Pamela Murphy

Zach Roberts

William Snedden, Jr.

Sponsored by Ken Keeton

Robert Steinour

Daniel Tolodziecki

Sean Toso

Sponsored by Glenn & Mary Lou Strohl

John Wright

BASS

Jason Barrios

Sponsored by Norman & Carolyn Smith

Zeke Duncan

Sponsored by MW Law Firm

Robert Frederick

Robin Hardman

Sam Howell

David W. McDonald

Jordan Rosser

Nathan Tolodziecki



You may read full biographies and view photographs of this year's singers at www.choralartscollective.org/artist-category/bel-canto or by scanning the QR code above.

BRITTANY KAEHLER, ASSISTANT CONDUCTOR

Brittany Kaehler is pursuing her DMA in choral conducting at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro and serves as assistant conductor for Bel Canto Company and Gate City Voices. Additionally, she is the Director of Choirs at Ebenezer Lutheran Church in Greensboro, NC. Brittany is also the Music Director for the Carolina Theater's *This Community Sings*. Previously, she directed the Children's Music Ministry and was the Youth Choir assistant director at St. Mary's Episcopal Church in High Point, NC. Her peers have recognized her talent and dedication to the craft, being awarded the Sigma Alpha Iota (SAI) Graduate Conducting Scholarship in 2021, and is now the Graduate Conducting Scholarship Director for SAI Philanthropies, Inc. Brittany has extensive experience in music education and conducting, serving as a clinician for multiple All-County Choral festivals and conducting or participating in the premieres of numerous choral works. Before arriving in Greensboro, she was the Choral Director and General Music Educator at North East Carolina Preparatory School in Tarboro, NC. She holds a MM degree from UNCG in choral conducting and a BM degree in music education with a concentration in voice from East Carolina University.



CHRISTY WISUTHSERIWONG, ACCOMPANIST

Dr. Christy Wisuthseriwong is an active pianist and collaborator in the Triad. She is a Master Teacher at The Music Academy of North Carolina in Greensboro, teaching piano to students of all ages and levels since 2006. She is the pianist for Bel Canto Company and Gate City Voices and is also a staff pianist on faculty at Elon University. She is pianist and organist at First Presbyterian Church of Asheboro. She received her Bachelor of Music in piano performance and pedagogy at Meredith College in Raleigh and studied Collaborative Piano at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, where she earned her Master of Music and Doctor of Musical Arts.



Christy is a frequent collaborator with vocalists and instrumentalists, and performs chamber music recitals at various schools and churches around the country. She has taught at Guilford College and has been an accompanist for the American Singers' Opera Project at Wake Forest University in Winston-Salem, the Greensboro Opera Company chorus, UNCG Opera Theatre, NC-NATS auditions, and Community Theatre of Greensboro. Internationally, Christy attended the opera performance and language study program Oberlin in Italy, and the University of Miami Frost School of Music German Lieder program for singers and pianists in Salzburg, Austria. Dr. Wisuthseriwong is a member of the North Carolina Music Teachers' Association.



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GATE CITY VOICES 2024-2025

The mission of Gate City Voices is to create an inclusive performance outlet for community singers seeking musical excellence. Now in its fourth season, Gate City Voices is an auditioned, volunteer choir that performs alongside Bel Canto Company, presenting expansive choral works composed for large choirs. The chorus sings a wide variety of music - from works by well-known names of the choral repertory to those of underrepresented composers whose music is often absent from the concert hall - and settings that range from a *cappella* to lush chamber orchestrations.

Does this sound like the singing experience you have been looking for? Then why not join? Singers from diverse backgrounds and musical experiences are welcome and encouraged to audition.

SOPRANOS

Carolyn Ahrens
Cami Carr
Indu Gargeya
Mary Ellen Georoff
Christy Golden
Alexandra Jones Twaddell
Claudia Lange
Lee Lashley
Sarah Lempka
Ashley Maddock
Ginny Olson
Phoenix Harmony Putney
Mary Riddell
Roxy Roessing
Makenzie Simpson
Lynn Smith
Cora Wise

ALTOS

Jill Amidon Strickland
Alicia Archibald
Deborah Bowers
Adele Coleman
Melite Etienne
Jane Girardi
Rosalind Grier
Libby Haile
Carolyn F. Hall

Emily Morgan
Sheila Morrell
Casey O'Hara
Rebecca Oden
Pamela Porter
Erin Price-Erwin
Betty Reynolds
Darlene Younger

TENORS

Susan Hill
Bill Johnston
Daniel Mosca
Wendell C. Putney
George Reynolds

BASSES

Jim Egede-Nissen
Steve Hall
Tom Hardin
James Mayes
Jeffrey Perrier
Tom Wright



You may read full biographies and view photographs of this year's singers at www.choralartscollective.org/artist-category/gate-city-voices or by scanning the QR code above.

GREENSBORO YOUTH CHORUS

Community. Excellence. Heart.

Greensboro Youth Chorus is dedicated to helping students develop their musical talents, nurturing their love for music, and creating a strong sense of community through the joy of singing together. We provide a positive and supportive environment where children can learn, grow, and express themselves as talented musicians, amazing performers, and exceptional individuals.

With choirs for grades K-12, we help youth explore their love of singing. Our students learn music-reading, sight-singing, and choral techniques. We perform a wide range of repertoire from diverse places, times, and composers. Through music we foster cultural awareness, community involvement, and collaboration, all while making friends!

Founded by Ann Doyle in 1988, the Greensboro Youth Chorus has offered children opportunities that enrich their lives through music education and nurture inner qualities, such as personal and group responsibility, independence, discipline, commitment and self-esteem. Co-Directors Clair Jurs and LJ Martin lead Greensboro Youth Chorus, with Claire conducting the Music Explorers and Apprentice Choirs, and LJ conducting the Concert Choir. Together they work to empower young musicians through a challenging, creative, and diverse curriculum of the finest repertoire written for young voices.

The Greensboro Youth Chorus has had many prestigious and exciting performance experiences including state, national, and international competitions and festivals, as well as collaborations with outstanding conductors, composers, and instrumentalists. They have performed for the Southern Division Conference of the American Choral Directors Association and have toured British Columbia, Germany, France, Scotland and England.

In 2021, Greensboro Youth Chorus merged with Bel Canto Company to form The Choral Arts Collective, creating an intergenerational organization dedicated to lifelong participation in choral music. The Choral Arts Collective and Greensboro Youth Chorus are committed to providing an inclusive and welcoming environment for all members of our community including singers, board members, staff, volunteers, and audience members.

SING WITH GREENSBORO YOUTH CHORUS THIS SPRING!!!

Did you know that enrollment for grades K-12 is open for Spring Semester 2025? Come and make great friends while singing beautiful music.

Music Explorers - Claire Jurs, Conductor

Grades K-2, Tuesdays, 4:15 - 5:00pm

Apprentice Choir - Claire Jurs, Conductor

Grades 3-5, Tuesdays, 5:15 - 6:30pm

Concert Choir - LJ Martin, Conductor

Grades 6-12, Tuesdays, 5:45 - 7:15pm

We rehearse every Tuesday evening in the Greensboro Cultural Center and want everyone to have the opportunity to sing with us. We strive to make tuition affordable and accessible for all, and need-based scholarships are available.

To register and for more information visit: www.greensboroyouthchorus.org

CLAIRE JURS, GREENSBORO YOUTH CHORUS CO-DIRECTOR

Claire brings over 20 years of music teaching experience to singers of all ages, having taught in community, school, and church settings. Currently pursuing her PhD in Music Education at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, she also directs the Apprentice Choir and Music Explorers with the Greensboro Youth Chorus. Claire holds a BM in Music Education from Furman University and an MM in Vocal Performance from the Cleveland Institute of Music. As a certified Kodály instructor, she has taught general music in both public and private schools in Wisconsin and Pennsylvania. She has served as an adjunct voice professor at Allegheny College, Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College, and Elon University, and has maintained a successful private voice studio for many years.



A firm believer in nurturing children's musical language from an early age, Claire created and led early childhood music classes in her northwest Pennsylvania community, which evolved into a K-8 community children's choir. Additionally, she has directed adult and children church choirs and currently serves as the director of handbells and children and youth music at Elon Community Church. Throughout her teaching career, Claire remains committed to sharing the joy of music while fostering a welcoming, supportive, and inspired community of singers. Claire resides in Greensboro with her husband, Doug Jurs, a piano professor at Elon University, and their two children, Silas and Louisa.



LJ MARTIN, GREENSBORO YOUTH CHORUS CO-DIRECTOR

LJ Martin is a music educator and conductor in the Triad area. He graduated from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro where he received his BM in music education. While at UNCG, he also studied American Sign Language and became interested in the intersection of music and deaf culture. LJ is currently the choral director at Wheatmore High School in Trinity, NC. There, he teaches chorus classes, directs the musical theatre program, and is the advisor for the Tri-M Music Honors Society. He is also on faculty at the Governor's School of North Carolina where he works in the choral music department. LJ is a member of the National Association for Music Education and an alumni of the Alpha Xi chapter of Mu Phi Epsilon.



GREENSBORO YOUTH CHORUS 2024-2025

MUSIC EXPLORERS

Sophia Arnett	Lottie Harrison
Lizzie Bryant	Savannah Harrison
Emmy Burnside	Joey Herndon
Xavier Calhoun	Winnie Herndon
Marianna Carlson	Brynn Saake
Jensen Celestin	Nora Smith-Bramley
Kai Draves	Reagan Tucker
Evelyn Dupuis	Abby Younger
Benjamin Girardi	Lilith Younger
Catherine Girardi	

APPRENTICE CHOIR

Landon Bryant	Isla Nuss
Taylor Daniels	Eleanora Proctor
Amelia Darty	Hallie Grey Pryor
Gigi Homer	Rhea Rorie
Lou Jurs	Callie Ross Southern
Luah Kang	Skyler Shoffner
Reuel Kang	Ava Taylor
Clara Mann	Della Walters
Harshini Mohan	Alice Walton
Bea Neas	

CONCERT CHOIR

Arjun Arunprasad	Charlotte Howes
Ashley Bumgarner	Allie Maxim
Anayah Butler	Clara Meixner
Simone Crawford	Zahra Pitts
Caroline Dutton	Aarna Sharma
Aurora Gonzalez	Isla Sink
Marlee Hale	Elena Smith
Miriam Hall	LJ Sturdivant
Helena Henshaw	Madison Warren

JIAWEI TSCHU, GREENSBORO YOUTH CHORUS ACCOMPANIST

Jiawei Tschu began his piano study in his hometown Tongliao in the province of Inner Mongolia in China. At the age of seventeen he came to the US to study under the tutelage of Professor John Salmon at UNCG, where he obtained a BM in piano performance in 2016. During his undergraduate study, he chose to spend a semester in Austria studying German at the University of Klagenfurt and piano at the Carinthian Conservatory. He returned to Austria after graduation in order to continue his piano study under the direction of Professor Alexei Kornienko. He also took lessons at the Vienna Conservatory and the Graz Conservatory. During this stay in Austria, he obtained his academic certification in German language and was awarded two Artistic Diplomas by the Carinthian Conservatory.



In addition to his performance life, Jiawei is also an active piano pedagogue. He taught piano at the Lernraum-Schule as well as the New School of Rock in Klagenfurt, Austria, to kids at age from 6 to 13. Jiawei currently teaches piano at Moore Music in addition to offering private lessons. In 2020, Jiawei returned from Austria to Greensboro and earned his MM from UNCG in piano pedagogy in 2022 under the direction of Dr. Annie Jeng and Prof. Andrew Willis, where he is now pursuing the DMA in Collaborative Piano under the direction of Dr. James Douglass.

KEVIN LAWSON, GREENSBORO YOUTH CHORUS ACCOMPANIST

Kevin is excited to join the Greensboro Youth Chorus family and serve as an accompanist this year! His career spans over 20 years working as a collaborative artist in many areas: accompanying, composing, vocal coaching, film and music directing award winning off-Broadway musicals. New York credits include *Stinky Kids*, *Drowsy Chaperone*, *Wonderful Town*, *Pajama Game*, and *Urinetown*. Kevin has worked regionally all over the US, including a 4-year residency as music director at the American Melodrama and Vaudeville Theatre in California. He is also a Returned Peace Corps volunteer having served in Ukraine as well as working with other international humanitarian aid organizations. Kevin is currently pursuing his MFA in Music Direction for Musical Theatre at UNCG.



GREENSBORO YOUTH CHORUS SCHOLAR SPONSORSHIPS

Need-based scholarships are possible in part due to the generous sponsorship of:

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Ryan & Alisha Homer	Angela Talton
Ken Keeton	

In addition to the many generous contributions received in memory of Tate Bradley Majette (pg 8).

Is there a student in your life who loves to sing? We have a choir for them! Learn more about Greensboro Youth Chorus and register at:

www.greensboroyouthchorus.org/#join



ON THE ROAD

If you happen to be in the neighborhood, we hope you'll join us!

NC SINGS 2024

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2024 3:00 PM

Queens College, Charlotte, NC

Greensboro Youth Chorus joins area students at the Fall NC ACDA state conference for a music learning clinic lead by Alex Gartner and Dr. Julie Yu.

THE NUTCRACKER

DECEMBER 5-8, 2024

Steven Tanger Center for the Performing Arts, Greensboro, NC

Greensboro Youth Chorus sings in NC School of the Arts' production of Tchaikovsky's holiday classic. Tickets at tangercenter.com.



A BEL CANTO CHRISTMAS

MONDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2024 at 7:30 PM

Front Street United Methodist Church, Burlington, NC

MONDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2024 at 7:30 PM

First Presbyterian Church, High Point, NC

Thank you to Front Street United Methodist Church and First Presbyterian Church for inviting us to perform for you this holiday season!

PIEDMONT CHILDREN'S CHOIR FESTIVAL

SATURDAY, MARCH 1, 2025 at 4:00 PM

North Ridge United Methodist Church, Raleigh, NC

Greensboro Youth Chorus joins area children's choirs in a festival concert conducted by Dr. Megan Boyd.



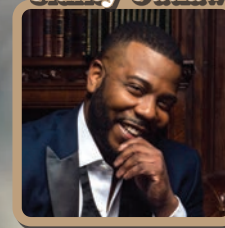
DON GIOVANNI

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

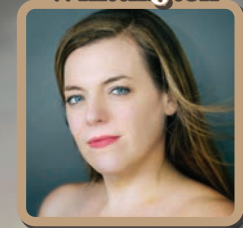
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OCT 27 | 2:00 PM

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