2025-2026 SEASON

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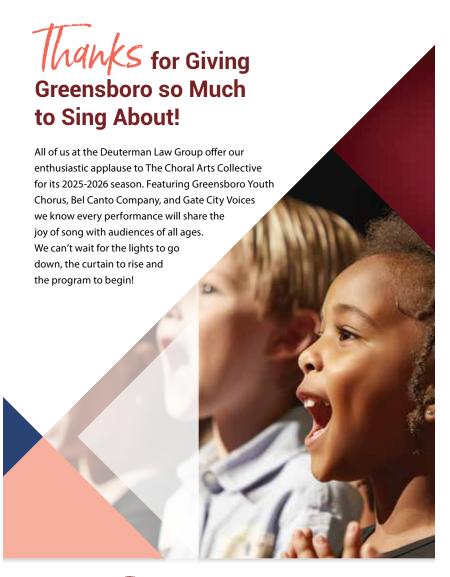




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CHORAL ARTS

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FROM BOARD PRESIDENT CARMEN DEESE

Dear Friends of the Choral Arts Collective,

We've all had that moment: the instant a song's lyrics or melody transports you to another time or place. Maybe it evokes a bittersweet memory of a loved one who has moved on, or a time when life felt simpler and easier. Perhaps you smile before you even realize it, simply recalling a joyful moment, and then find yourself humming or singing that song for the rest of the day. Indeed, music permeates our lives. From life's milestone events to holidays, we sing to unite across special events, memorializing and celebrating through song and raised voices.



Beyond those everyday moments, can you recall a time when music moved you—profoundly, deeply, pushing you beyond what you thought possible? I can vividly recall the moment I realized the immense impact choral music can have on one's soul. More than a decade ago, I was attending a Bel Canto Company concert. As the voices soared and the harmonies swelled and swirled around me, I was simply overcome with emotion and moved to tears. The music enveloped me. As I glanced around the room at others, equally mesmerized and captivated, I was reminded of the power of our shared humanity.

This experience solidified my support for choral music. In the years since, I have shared these musical moments with friends and family. Most recently, as I faced the immense grief of losing my beloved father, I found deep comfort in our concerts. Sitting in the audience, free from life's expectations, I was able to simply be present. The music offered the solace and healing that I desperately needed.

Music creates the ties that bind us together. In its unique communal experience, it transcends the divisions that so often mark our modern world. Where simple words may fail, a melody can lift the message and unite us, reminding us of our shared humanity.

This is the very mission of the Choral Arts Collective come to life—to create an engaging, inclusive, and entertaining choral experience in a community that celebrates diversity, excellence, and lifelong participation in choral music. Whether you are a seasoned concertgoer, finding your voice in the Greensboro Youth Chorus, or new to the world of choral music, we believe you will find a home and a community here.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I thank you for your support. It is through the remarkable talents and hard work of our directors and ensembles that we meld our vision and our mission on the stage, but it is through the community we share with you that the art truly comes to life!

We invite you to join us for our full season of concerts and events and bring someone along for the experience, too! Your support is essential to our continued success, and we are so happy that you are on this journey with us.

Thank you for your continued patronage. We look forward to sharing this season with you! Sincerely,

Carmen P. Deese Board President

DIRECTORY OF 2025-2026 SPONSORS

We are exceptionally grateful to these businesses and organizations for their support of our 2025-2026 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

Dear Choral Arts Family,

I am regularly reminded that two states of being can, and often do, exist simultaneously. The Choral Arts Collective community—the Board of Directors led by President Carmen Deese; Jeffrey Carlson, our executive director; Chappell Upper, our new program manager; Susan Hill, our administrative assistant; all the musical staff and conductors; and more than 140 singers of all ages—shows me the beauty and caring spirits that come together to make this community. At the same



time, this special collective exists in a divided world of hurt and uncertainty. The paradox is striking, and it highlights the importance of what we do as a choral arts community.

You, too, are an essential part of this community. Your attendance at our concerts, support of your child's involvement in Greensboro Youth Chorus, contributions to our fundraising, and participation in the *Amore Gala* make it possible for us to celebrate, create, entertain, and educate. As expressed in the Choral Arts Collective vision statement: *We envision a community that celebrates excellence, diversity, and lifelong participation in choral music.* This simple yet aspirational statement lies at the heart of who we are and what we endeavor to do.

Our vision comes to life through the work of our ensembles, guided by passionate leaders and sustained by dedicated singers. The Greensboro Youth Chorus has welcomed a permanent conductor for our youngest group, Music Explorers. After a process of several months, Andy McGeagh—who had been serving as interim conductor—was appointed as the permanent Director of Music Explorers and Assistant Director of Apprentice Choir. He will work closely with Claire Jurs, Director of Greensboro Youth Chorus and conductor of Concert Choir and Encore. This summer, both Andy and Claire worked tirelessly running our Summer Choir Camp in partnership with Guilford County Schools, preparing the 2025–2026 season, and welcoming new singers into the Greensboro Youth Chorus family.

Alongside this important work with our youngest singers, our adult ensembles are also preparing for a season of artistry and growth. Both Gate City Voices and Bel Canto Company held robust early-summer auditions in preparation for an exciting forty-third season. Bel Canto will be featured in the October concert, *Myths and Mystics*, and the April concert, *Feeling or Fancy*. Gate City Voices and Bel Canto Company will join forces for the holiday concert, *Currier and Ives*, and the March concert, ... *America*... Guest artists this season include Brooks Whitehouse, professor of cello at The University of North Carolina School of the Arts, who will be featured during *Myths and Mystics*. In addition, several regional high school educators will be honored for their incredible work and be invited to guest conduct Bel Canto Company for part of the ... *America*... concert.

We are especially excited for this year's *Night Before Christmas* concert, now presented in partnership with The Carolina Theatre's annual *Christmas at the Carolina*. Featuring singers from all of our ensembles, this festive event will take place on the first Saturday in December, just before Greensboro's beloved holiday parade, offering families a joyful start to the season.

We live out our vision through the exploration and performance of exceptional choral music. Through engaging, inclusive, and entertaining performances, we build community, offer kindness, and discover new ways to express our care and love for one another. I look forward to celebrating another season of song, inspiration, and connection with you.

Yours truly,

Welborn E. Young

Artistic Director

THE CHORAL ARTS COLLECTIVE BOARD OF DIRECTORS & STAFF

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Interested in volunteering or serving on the board? Contact The Choral Arts Collective: 200 N Davie St. #8 | Greensboro, NC 27401 | (336) 333-2220 | choralartscollective.org

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The ACGG is a proud supporter of the Choral Arts Collective and the difference they make in our community.

Bookmark The ACGG's events calendar to plan your next night out!





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Continuing the tradition, and headed by his son, Bill, the company has expanded its services over the years.

Changes have occurred, yet

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FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR JEFFREY CARLSON

Great communities deserve great art—and great art builds great communities. Today, as you join us for an afternoon or evening of beautiful singing, you are helping us build the kind of community we all want to be part of. The Choral Arts Collective exists to bring people together—singers and listeners alike—to create exceptional performances and meaningful connections through music.



Last season, Bel Canto Company, Greensboro Youth Chorus, and Gate City Voices reached more than 3,250 people at 17 Choral

Arts Collective–sponsored performances, and an estimated 23,000 more at community performances and events throughout the state! 136 young singers participated in Greensboro Youth Chorus and Summer Choir Camp, 50 professional singers and guest artists performed with Bel Canto Company, and 48 talented community singers found their voice in Gate City Voices.

Numbers alone, though, can't tell the whole story. Behind each statistic is a child growing in confidence, a professional artist pursuing their craft, a family experiencing live music together, an audience member moved to tears. Your presence here today makes you part of these stories

At the heart of our work is one quintessentially human instrument: the voice. The Choral Arts Collective was formed to be a place for everyone to use theirs. We believe music—and most especially singing—is vital. Collaborating, communicating, learning, and making music together are powerful acts. Singing builds community, bridges divides, and plays an essential role in the lives of our students, professional singers, avocational singers, and audiences.

This year, we are thrilled to share performances that will both challenge and delight. The 2025–2026 season is filled with new collaborations, expanded opportunities for young singers, and performances that showcase both beloved traditions and bold, adventurous repertoire. Highlights include a featured performance with acclaimed cellist Brooks Whitehouse, a new holiday partnership with The Carolina Theatre bringing together singers from all three of our ensembles, and the addition of a fourth Greensboro Youth Chorus ensemble for our most advanced young musicians. We are also proud to celebrate four outstanding high school music educators who will guest-conduct Bel Canto Company and Gate City Voices.

We believe music has the power to unite, to heal, and to inspire. When you attend a concert, volunteer your time, bring a friend, or make a contribution, you help keep that power alive in our community. More than 40% of our annual budget depends on charitable gifts, so every act of support—large or small—truly matters.

As you enjoy tonight's performance, know that you are not just an audience member; you are a vital part of this collective journey. Thank you for being here, for sharing in the joy of singing, and for helping us build a stronger, more connected community through music.

Enjoy the concert!

Jeffrey Carlson, Executive Director

FROM GREENSBORO YOUTH CHORUS DIRECTOR CLAIRE JURS

Dear Friends of the Youth Chorus,

Each year in the Greensboro Youth Chorus, our roots grow a little deeper and our wings stretch a little wider. Rooted in the shared joy of singing together, our singers are grounded in community, discipline, and care for one another. At the same time, they are learning to take flight—exploring new repertoire, taking creative risks, and finding greater confidence not only in their sound, but in their whole being.



This season, we continue to nurture both roots and wings. Our singers are offered opportunities to share their voices within the larger community—at concerts, festivals, and special events—while also building a strong and supportive singing community within the chorus itself. In rehearsal each week, we see friendships forming, laughter shared, and courage blossoming as singers discover what it means to make music together.

In a world where many young people struggle with isolation and self-doubt, singing in community offers an antidote. Music-making gives them a sense of purpose, a place to belong, and a language of expression that goes beyond words. Together, our singers are learning that their voices matter, and that when blended with others, they create something greater than themselves.

As always, our mission rests upon three pillars: Community, Excellence, and Heart.

Community – Welcoming singers of all backgrounds, we are continually widening our circle and strengthening our bonds through shared song. Additionally, our choral music education interns from UNCG bring fresh energy and perspective while gaining hands-on experience working with our singers. Our community continues to grow.

Excellence – We encourage each singer to listen closely, work diligently, and grow musically with every rehearsal and performance. We continue to build music literacy skills and foster healthy vocal technique, while exploring the flexibility of our sound within various styles.

Heart – We inspire our singers to infuse their music with care, expression, and meaning, so that they become not just performers, but true artists. We invite them to pay attention to the world around them, noticing how music can speak to moments of beauty, need, and change in our community and beyond. By nurturing this kind of awareness, we encourage our singers not only to sing from the heart, but to carry that heart into their daily lives, offering compassion, joy, and understanding wherever they go.

Thank you for being part of this journey with us. Your encouragement, attendance, and support—whether through spreading the word, sponsoring a singer, or simply applauding at a concert—help us to provide a place where roots deepen and wings take flight. We look forward to a year filled with music, growth, and the shared joy of singing together.

With gratitude and excitement,

Claire Jurs

Director of the Greensboro Youth Chorus

CHORAL ARTS

BEL CANTO COMPANY | GREENSBORO YOUTH CHORUS | GATE CITY VOICES

2025-2026 Season

Celebrating excellence, diversity, and lifelong participation in choral music



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This project is supported by the North Carolina Arts Council, a division of the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources. Additional support made available through The Arts Council of Greater Greensboro New Creative Investment Initiative, with Guilford County and North Carolina Arts Council American Rescue Plan Act funding. 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.

MYTH & MYSTICS*

FABLES, LEGENDS & TALES TOLD THROUGHOUT HISTORY

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2025 at 3:30 PM MONDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2025 at 7:30 PM

EBENEZER LUTHERAN CHURCH 1900 WALKER AVE. GREENSBORO

Bel Canto Company's 43rd season opens with a concert inspired by fables, legends, and tales told to help make sense of the world around us. Stories passed down to us across the generations, born of the innate human desire to explain the inexplicable, are ingrained in our cultures and psyches. Mythical lore and mystical writings from disparate times, places, and cultures have always been a source of inspiration for composers. And that is to say nothing of the abiding influence the yearning for the divine has had upon music.

Be entranced by:

- *Caminante*, by Andrea Casarrubios, featuring Brooks Whitehouse on cello, a song that draws inspiration from Spanish author Antonio Machado's timeless poem
- *Prometheus*, by Kristopher Fulton, an evocative telling of the Greek myth wherein fire is brought from Olympus to Earth
- Yoshayv B'sayser Elyon, by Mark D. Templeton, a setting of Psalm 91 sung in Hebrew whose melodies and sonorities embody a sense of raw humanity
- Les Sirens, by Lily Boulanger and text by Charles Grandmougin, seduces the listener with melodies as beautiful as its namesake
- Join us for an evening of wonder, surprise, and beauty featuring these and additional selections by Dan Forrest, Edie Hill, Hugo Wolf, Eric Whitacre, Ivo Antognini, and more.

* Concert included in Bel Canto Company 2025-2026 Season Subscription.



THE NIGHT BEFORE CHRISTMAS

NOW PART OF CHRISTMAS AT THE CAROLINA!

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2025 at 9:30 AM

THE CAROLINA THEATRE 310 S GREENE ST, GREENSBORO

Kids from one to ninety-two will love this free, holiday-themed spectacular! Treat your child to a free popcorn and small drink, meet Mr. and Mrs. Claus, carol with members of Bel Canto Company and Greensboro Youth Chorus accompanied by the theatre's Robert-Morton pipe organ, and be charmed by a 45-minute performance featuring a delightful rendition of 'Twas The Night Before Christmas. After the singing, enjoy a short holiday film and then make your way to Greensboro's Holiday Parade. Make this event part of your family's holiday tradition!

CURRIER & IVES*

GET COMFY COZY & WE'LL SING A CHORUS OR TWO

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2025 at 3:30 PM MONDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2025 at 7:30 PM

CHRIST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 410 N HOLDEN RD, GREENSBORO

Friends are calling! Get comfy cozy and we'll sing a chorus or two reveling in joy, hope, and togetherness.

Take a moment for yourself this holiday season. Set down your phones and unplug from the hustle and bustle of December. Wrap yourself up in nostalgic holiday favorites and gorgeous melodies in a wide range of musical styles performed by Bel Canto Company and Gate City Voices. Take time to breathe and to enjoy the wonder of the season. After all, "these wonderful things are the things we'll remember all through our lives!"

Selections include:

- Ian Humphries's version of The Twelve Days of Christmas, a spryly humorous take on the famous Christmas list
- How Far Is It to Bethlehem, a beautiful and rich setting of the traditional English carol arranged by Stephen Paulus
- Let It Snow! Let It Snow! Let It Snow! arranged by Mark Hayes, an effervescent jazz rendition of this seasonal favorite
- John Rutter's sparkling arrangement of *The Holly and the Ivy* in his signature choral style
- Plus selections by Kirby Shaw, Molly Ijames, Fred Prentice, Sergei Rachmaninoff, Mack Wilberg, Andre Thomas, Bill Snedden and more!

Our annual holiday concerts are a Greensboro holiday tradition—make it a part of yours!

* Concert included in Bel Canto Company 2025-2026 Season Subscription.

WHERE THE LIGHT BEGINS

GREENSBORO YOUTH CHORUS WINTER CONCERT

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2025 at 3:30 PM

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

Taking inspiration from Susan LaBarr's *Where the Light Begins*, this program reminds us that even in the darkest days of winter, light grows in simple gifts of love, peace, and togetherness. Each piece, whether playful, meditative, or exuberant, points us toward hope and warmth in the season. Join us as we weave together lullabies, carols, spirited songs of winter, and messages of unity, celebrating both the stillness and the joy that winter brings.

AMORE

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SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2026 at 6:00 PM

THE COLONNADE AT REVOLUTION MILL 1000 REVOLUTION MILL DR, 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, Gate City Voices, 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

(Includes priority seating, recognition of sponsorship in connection with event, wine, beer, meal, and performance.)

Tickets and more information at www.choralartscollective.org/amore.

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...AMERICA...*

WE MUSE ON AMERICA'S STORY-250 YEARS ON

SUNDAY, MARCH 8, 2026 at 3:30 PM MONDAY, MARCH 9, 2026 at 7:30 PM

CHRIST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 410 N HOLDEN RD, GREENSBORO

Bel Canto Company and Gate City Voices muse on America's story—250 years on—through profound and moving music.

Choral music is an art, aspiring to excellence and beauty and inspiring the gamut of human emotions. Like all great art it also serves as a historical document, reflecting the times in which it was composed. Choral music raises important questions and invites us to reflect upon our identity—Who are we? What are our hopes? Our fears? Our strengths? Our weaknesses?

In the year of the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence, our nation's story—one of harmony and dissonance, hope and despair, sparkling and troubled times—is still being written. This concert contemplates America in her many aspects—her people, her vistas, her achievements, her failings—while examining her past, present, and future. Works from across the spectrum of American voices, including Zanaida Stewart Robles, William Grant Still, Rosephanye Powell, Daniel Elder, Bob Dylan, and more, illustrate how our identity, for good or ill, is a synthesis of events in our nation's history.

We are also excited to honor four of the Triad's outstanding high school conductors and their choirs. Each will guest-conduct Bel Canto Company on a piece of their choosing, and their students will have an opportunity to join Bel Canto and Gate City Voices in one or more selections on the evening's program. We are thrilled to be able to recognize their dedication and artistry.

* Concert included in Bel Canto Company 2025-2026 Season Subscription.

Sponsored by:

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FEELING OR FANCY?*

FLIRT WITH THE NATURE OF LOVE

SUNDAY, APRIL 26, 2026 at 3:30 PM MONDAY, APRIL 27, 2026 at 7:30 PM

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

Flirt with the nature of love at a concert full of charm, humor, and beautiful singing.

"Is love a feeling or a fancy?" asks Marianne (Kate Winslet) in 1995's Ang Lee adaptation of Jane Austen's classic *Sense and Sensibility*. So too does this program inquire as to the true nature of love.

The repertoire for this concert, by turns both whimsical and serious, may never fully answer the question. However, we think the many, many songwriters and composers who have poured their hearts into their work would at least agree that love is a fickle, frustrating, maddening, and joyous thing, including:

- A flirtatious and humorous arrangement of Bésame Mucho by Consuelo Veláquez
- Leonard Bernstein's Make Our Garden Grow from Candide
- Marianna by Phillip Wilby, a warm and richly melancholy British folk arrangement
- La Rose Complète, Morten Lauridsen's setting of the Rilke poem exemplifying his impossibly lush harmonic style
- And many more sincere, ironic, passionate, and whimsical selections in classical, contemporary, musical theater, and pop styles.

* Concert included in Bel Canto Company 2025-2026 Season Subscription.

SONGS FOR THE JOURNEY

GREENSBORO YOUTH CHORUS SPRING CONCERT

SATURDAY, MAY 16, 2026 at 3:30 PM

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

From the highways of *Route 66* to the wide-open landscapes of *900 Miles*, this program celebrates the many ways we travel through life. With jazz, love songs, folk tales, and songs from around the world, we sing of discovery, belonging, and joy along the journey. Travel with us as we explore roads near and far and discover the songs that carry us home.

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 43rd 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.



BEL CANTO COMPANY 2025-2026

SOPRANO

Catherine Clifton Hardman
Sponsored by Deb Harris Richardson

Liz Doebler

Sponsored by Lawrence & Patricia Doebler

Emily Ford Coates

Brittany Kaehler

Sponsored by Ryan & Alisha Homer

Emily Mote

Alicia Reid

Sponsored by Deborah & Gregory Bowers

Samantha Saake

Sponsored by Clem Clement

Lauren Elena Smith

Sponsored by Robert Dixon & Susan French

Kayla Sorenson

Hilary Webb-Propst

Sponsored by Barbara Cromheecke

Laura Worst

Sponsored by Jane & David Girardi

ALTO

Alexandra Arpajian

Ashley Ellin

Talia Falcon Blackburn

Anne Lewis

Sponsored by Sheila Morrell

Sarah Love Taylor

Sponsored by Barbara Ann Peters

Ashlev Maddock

Sponsored by Betty & George Reynolds

Shelby Moss

Marlo T. Nall

Sponsored by David & Nancy Griffith

Melissa Ramsaur

Sponsored by Deb & Greg Bowers

Rachel P. Sommers

Sponsored by Patricia Bailey

Nan Stahl

Brvn Schaeffer

Cathy Williams West

Sponsored by Carol & Fred Andresen

Nan Wooten

TENOR

Tandy Brown

Sponsored by Gary & Ellen Taft

Jordan Castillejo

Arwyn Davis-Potter

Shyla Powell

Sponsored by Ann & Bill Hass

William Snedden, Jr.

Sponsored by Ken Keeton

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

Sponsored by Croom W. Coward

Robin Hardman

David W. McDonald

Sponsored by Stephen & Nancy Fogarty

Jeffrey Perrier

Jordan Rosser

Sponsored by Mark Tolodziecki

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. She is also an Adjunct Professor of Voice at Campbell University. Additionally, she is the Director of Choirs at Ebenezer Lutheran Church in Greensboro, NC, and 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.



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 Master of Music degree from UNCG in choral conducting and a Bachelor of Music degree in music education with a concentration in voice from East Carolina University.



CHRISTY WISUTHSERIWONG, ACCOMPANIST

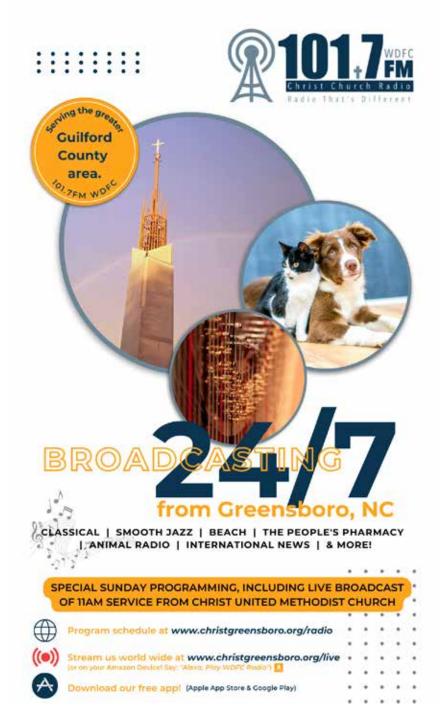
Dr. Christy Wisuthseriwong is an active pianist and collaborator in the Triad. She is a Master Teacher at The Music Academy of North Carolina in Greensboro, teaching piano to students of all ages and levels since 2006. She is the pianist for Bel Canto Company and Gate City Voices and is also a staff 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.





GATE CITY VOICES 2025-2026

The mission of Gate City Voices is to create an inclusive performance outlet for community singers seeking musical excellence. Now in its fifth 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 Mary Ellen Georoff Christy Golden Jessica Gulisek

Anna Gray Smith Alexandra Jones Twaddell

> Claudia Lange Lee Lashley Ginny Olson April Ragan Mary Riddell Roxy Roessing Lynn Smith Casev Sullivan Cora Wise

ALTOS

Leeing Wu

Jill Amidon Strickland Alicia Archibald **Deborah Bowers Heather Cates** Adele Coleman Melita Ftienne Jane Girardi Rosalind Grier Libby Haile Carolyn F. Hall **Emily Morgan** Casey O'Hara

Rebecca Oden Pamela Porter Erin Price-Erwin Betty Reynolds Millie Thomas Darlene Younger Rachel Younger

TENORS

Emily Hedrick Susan Hill Chris Malone Daniel Mosca George Reynolds

BASSES

Nathan Golden Jim Egede-Nissen Steve Hall Tom Hardin **Timothy Hastings** Chris Lunsford James Mayes Nicolas Pogue 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 offers 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. Today, Claire Jurs serves as Director of Greensboro Youth Chorus. She conducts Apprentice Choir, Concert Choir, and the newly formed Encore Choir. She is joined by Andy McGeagh who conducts Music Explorers and serves as assistant conductor of Apprentice 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.

SING WITH GREENSBORO YOUTH CHORUS!!!

Music Explorers - Andy McGeagh, Conductor

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

Apprentice Choir - Claire Jurs, Conductor

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

Concert Choir - Claire Jurs, Conductor

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

Encore Choir - Claire Jurs, Conductor Grades 6-12 (by audition), Tuesdays, 7:45 - 8:30pm

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 provide generous need-based financial assistance.

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

CLAIRE JURS, GREENSBORO YOUTH CHORUS DIRECTOR

Claire Jurs directs the Apprentice, Concert, and Encore Choirs of the Greensboro Youth Chorus. She is currently a PhD candidate in Music Education at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. She earned a Bachelor of Music in Music Education from Furman University and a Master of Music in Vocal Performance from the Cleveland Institute of Music, where she received the Boris Goldovsky Prize in Opera. With over 20 years of teaching and performing, Claire focuses on the intersection of vocal pedagogy, community engagement,



and choral leadership. She completed Level 1 Kodály certification at DePaul University, emphasizing her dedication to music literacy and foundational singing skills.

Claire has a deep understanding and strong background in music education and conducting. She has served as a clinician for several All-County Chorus festivals, as well as a director of various summer music camps. Claire has taught general music in both public and private schools in Wisconsin and Pennsylvania, creating inclusive and dynamic musical environments for students of diverse backgrounds. Her teaching experience extends to higher education as well, having served on the voice faculty at Elon University, Allegheny College, and Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College. She currently serves as the Director of Handbells and Children and Youth Music at Elon Community Church in Elon, NC. She has also served as the Director of the Chancel Choir and Barry Robinson Men's Chorus at Salem United Church of Christ in Verona, WI and the Chancel Choir Director at Christ Episcopal Church in Meadville, PA.

While teaching at Allegheny College in Meadville, PA, Claire founded early childhood music classes that later developed into a community children's chorus that she directed. This initiative sparked her passion for community-based music programs, fostering creativity and collaboration among young singers.

Claire is an active member of the North Carolina chapter of the American Choral Directors Association and the North Carolina Music Educators Association. Outside of directing and teaching, she enjoys spending time with her husband, Doug Jurs, piano professor at Elon University, their two children, Silas and Lou, and two cats, Zigzag and Lennon.



GREENSBORO YOUTH CHORUS 2025-2026

MUSIC EXPLORERS

Luna Blake	Evelyn Dupuis	Calla Saake
Lizzie Bryant	Kannon Keesee	Holden Shearer
Aurora Davidson	Calaya Rivers	
Avalon Davidson	Brynn Saake	

APPRENTICE CHOIR

Sophia Arnett	Catherine Girardi	Eleanora Proctor
Kuba Barnett	Casey Hoey	Rhea Rorie
Xavier Calhoun	Ksena Kasiah	Lauren Stone
Marianna Carlson	Clara Mann	Ava Taylor
Taylor Daniels	Béa Neas	Jayce Thompson
Nora Florence	Isla Nuss	Della Walters
Pippa Garrison	Bruno Proctor	Ali Walton

CONCERT CHOIR / ENCORE

Arjun Arunprasad	Karina Havlen	Lydia Saur
Ellie Beatty	Josephine Hoey	Aarna Sharma
Landon Bryant	Lou Jurs	Isla Sink
Bethany Coleman	Chloe Killian	Elena Smith
Simone Crawford	Ginny Lowder	LJ Sturdivant
Amelia Darty	Allie Maxim	Anmol Suman
Caroline Dutton	Harshini Mohan	Elise Tappouni
Eliza Franks	Genevieve Pennington	Madison Warren
Dior Grice	Zahra Pitts	

ENCORE

Landon Bryant	Ginny Lowder	Aarna Sharma
Simone Crawford	Allie Maxim	Isla Sink
Lou Jurs	Harshini Mohan	Elena Smith
Chloe Killian	Zahra Pitts	Madison Warren

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

ANDY MCGEAGH, ASSISTANT CONDUCTOR

Andy McGeagh directs the Music Explorers and assistant directors the Apprentice Choir of Greensboro Youth Chorus. Andy specializes in early childhood music, with six years of experience teaching in the public schools of New York and North Carolina. Currently, Andy teaches Pre-K through second grade music and is director of the Upper-School Contemporary Band ensemble at Westchester Country Day School in High Point, and continues to run their own music teaching business, focusing on early childhood education and music for young



children. They have also worked for Education Through Music, a nonprofit in New York City, and launched the first early childhood music program at Riverdale Temple Nursery School in the North Bronx in 2019. Andy holds a Bachelor of Arts in Music Education and a Master in Music Education from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, and they are a certified First Steps in Music teacher.

ANGELITA BERDIALES, ACCOMPANIST

Peruvian-born pianist, Angelita Berdiales, started her musical training at the National Conservatory of Music in Lima-Peru at just eight years old. Her passion for music led her to pursue studies abroad, earning her bachelor's degree from Florida Gulf Coast University and her master's degree from the University of South Florida. Currently, she is pursuing her DMA at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro.



Angelita has performed at prestigious festivals in America and Europe. She has given masterclasses in Latin America and has earned numerous

awards, including first prizes in concerto competitions and a grant for Equity, Diversity, Inclusion & Access (EDIA), resulting in a concert titled "Honoring Hispanic Cultures through Music," celebrating the musical traditions of Latin America and Spain. Her most recent teaching appointments include Guilford College and The Music Academy of North Carolina.

GREENSBORO YOUTH CHORUS SCHOLAR SPONSORSHIPS

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

Carol & Fred Andresen
Deb & Greg Bowers
Clem Clement
Robert Dixon & Susan French
Ryan & Alisha Homer
Ann and Bill Hass
Ken Keeton
Kris Landrum

Dan & Beth Mosca Eleanor Procton George & Betty Reynolds Ken & Linda Shahbaz Glenn & Mary Lou Strohl Norman & Carolyn Smith Mark Tolodziecki

During the 2024-2025 Season, we offered tuition assistance to 15% of Greensboro Youth Chorus singers. This year, through your support, we have been able to significantly expand our financial assistance program making tuition accessible for even more young singers. Thank you for your generosity!

ON THE ROAD

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

NC SINGS 2024

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2025 at 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 Robyn Lana and Adrian Mclin.

THE NUTCRACKER

DECEMBER 4-7, 2025

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 1, 2025 at 7:30 PM

Front Street United Methodist Church, Burlington, NC

MONDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2025 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, FEBRUARY 28, 2026 at 4:00 PM

Durham, NC

Greensboro Youth Chorus joins nine regional youth choirs in a festival concert hosted by the Durham Children's Choir.





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