

BIOS

About the conductor

Jessica Israels is an accomplished singer and conductor who has captivated audiences in both jazz and classical music throughout the United States. She performs locally as a soloist, as well as with Cappella Romana, the Chuck Israels Jazz Orchestra, Jecca Jazz Ensemble, Outer Voices, and Resonance Ensemble. Jessica teaches voice at Clackamas Community College, and is the Music Director at St. Gabriel's Episcopal Church in Portland.

Jessica holds a Master of Music degree in Choral Conducting from Valdosta State University, and a Bachelor of Music degree in Vocal Performance from Western Washington University.

To learn more about Jessica, please visit: www.jessicaisraels.com

About the pianist

Kelly Bard started to play piano when she was 6 years old. She has a Bachelor of Arts in Music Education from Oregon State University. Over the years, she has played for school choirs and bands, choirs for state high school competitions, vocal & instrumental students in regional competitions, and church services. For over 10 years, she was the primary accompanist and choral-assistant coach for a small private school in Oregon City. Kelly is MWC's rehearsal accompanist, getting and loving to sing when not accompanying.

About the bass player

Chuck Israels is a composer/arranger/bassist who has worked with Billie Holiday, Benny Goodman, Coleman Hawkins, Stan Getz, Herbie Hancock, J.J. Johnson, John Coltrane, and many others. He is best known for his work with the Bill Evans Trio from 1961 through 1966 and for his pioneering accomplishments in Jazz Repertory as Director of the National Jazz Ensemble from 1973 to 1981. Chuck has recently completed his memoir, entitled *Bass Notes: Jazz in American Culture: a Personal View*, available on Amazon.

For more information, please visit: www.chuckisraelsjazz.com

About the drummer

Michael Rodenkirch is a drummer, arranger, composer, and educator based in Portland, OR. He recently graduated from the University of North Texas with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Music with a minor in History. Michael has a plethora of playing experience playing anything from musicals to playing jazz festivals. He has studied with many great musicians with most of his education coming from Alan Jones, Quincy Davis, Richard DeRosa, and Chuck Israels.

About Multnomah Women's Chorus

Multnomah Women's Chorus began in the summer of 2014 at the Multnomah Arts Center. In 2022, it transitioned into an independently-run community treble ensemble. The chorus rehearses and performs on Monday evenings at the Episcopal Parish of St. John The Baptist Church on the Oregon Episcopal School campus, and St. Gabriel's Episcopal Church in Bethany.

For more information, please visit: www.jessicaisraels.com/multnomah-womens-chorus

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DONATIONS

If you would like to donate to the Multnomah Women's Chorus, you may do so by cash at the front entrance, or by Venmo to the handle [@jeccajazz](https://www.venmo.com/@jeccajazz). Donations help fund supplies, admin costs, and musicians. Thank you for your support.