



Alaska Chamber Singers

GABRIELLE PIERLE, Interim Conductor



2021 – 2022 SEASON

Delight in Spring

Celebrate light, joy, and new beginnings!

April 1 & 2 at 8 p.m.

Cathedral of Our Lady of Guadalupe

Sponsored by
Alaska Pacific Leasing



alaskachambersingers.org

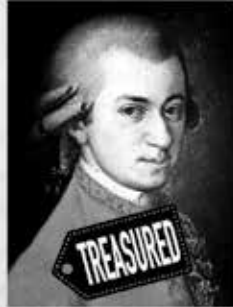


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President's Message

Dear Friends,

Welcome to our 2022 spring concert. Interim conductor, Gabrielle "GG" Pierle, and the singers have selected a superb program titled *Delight in Spring* with selections ringing with themes of joy and renewal that are certainly appropriate to an Alaskan spring. The entire Alaska Chamber Singers organization is very pleased you are joining us today at our first in-person concert since February of 2020 as we celebrate new beginnings together.

Today's concert features Vivaldi's stirring masterpiece, *Gloria*, a work that has maintained its appeal to audiences around the world for nearly three centuries. Also featured is Brahms' charming and delightful *Zigeunerlieder* and, of course, a set of English a cappella pieces including an arrangement of *Down by the Riverside* by contemporary black composer, Stacey V. Gibbs and contemporary female composer Susan LaBarr's *Grace Before Sleep*.

We are especially grateful for the continued financial support of our many sponsors, donors, and patrons. Your ongoing donations during the past two years have allowed us to maintain our commitment to provide excellent choral music for all Alaskans to enjoy. I would like to thank our good friends at Alaska Pacific Leasing for sponsoring today's program. In addition, we thank M.J. Murdock Charitable Trust, Rasmuson Foundation, Carr Family Foundation, Atwood Foundation, and Richard L. and Diane M. Block Foundation. Their support, along with that of others makes it possible for us to be here today.

I invite you to enjoy the concert as we surround you with the beautiful - and live - sounds of *Delight in Spring*.

Albert J. Alvarez
President
Alaska Chamber Singers

Alaska Chamber Singers

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Gabrielle Pierle

Interim Artistic Director/Conductor



Recipient of the West High School's Exceptional Teacher Award in 2018, West Anchorage High School Choral Director Gabrielle Pierle was named Alaska Chamber Singers Interim Conductor and Artistic Director for the 2021-22 season.

An accomplished vocalist, Gabrielle has sung with Alaska Chamber Singers for five seasons and is frequently heard as soprano soloist including recent ACS concerts featuring Mozart's *Requiem*, Fauré's *Requiem*, Bernstein's *Chichester Psalms*, Britten's *Rejoice in the Lamb*, Muehleisen's *Eternity Passing Over* and Brahms' *Liebeslieder Walzer*. Under her skilled direction, Ms. Pierle's West High Choirs routinely perform alongside the Alaska Chamber Singers and Anchorage Symphony Orchestra for Chorus and Orchestra masterworks. Gabrielle was born and raised in St. Louis, Missouri and has lived in Anchorage since 2016. She received her earliest music training with the St. Louis Children's Choirs, performing in New York City, Scotland and Australia. Pierle holds a Bachelor of Music degree from Murray State University where she was awarded the College of Education's Outstanding Senior in Music and Outstanding Student Teacher Awards.

David Hagen

Artistic Director/Conductor (on sabbatical)

David Hagen became artistic director and conductor of the Alaska Chamber Singers (ACS) in 1995, succeeding founder and longtime artistic director Elvera Voth. He has conducted ACS in numerous major works including a performance of Britten's monumental *War Requiem*, a joint production with the Anchorage Concert Chorus, Alaska Chamber Singers and Alaska Children's Choir. Having grown up in Anchorage, Hagen received his earliest musical training in the Anchorage School District, performing in such ensembles as the Service High Symphonic Band and the Anchorage Youth Symphony. Hagen holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from George Fox University and a Master of Music degree in choral conducting from the University of Cincinnati College Conservatory of Music. David is currently enjoying a well-deserved sabbatical and we look forward to welcoming him back next season.

*Photography and
audio/video recording is prohibited.*

*Please turn off all cellular phones,
wristwatch alarms, and pagers.*



Alaska Chamber Singers

Elvera Voth, Founder
Gabrielle Pierle, Interim Artistic Director / Conductor
Susan Wingrove-Reed, Accompanist

singers

** Section Leader*

Soprano

Sharon Cooke
Kim Hayes
Katherine Huffman
*Rebecca Nelson
Meredith Rude

Alto

Elizabeth Astle
Mary Britton
Ann Cherrier
Liesl Davenport-Wheeler
*Andrea Gardner
Annie Herzog
Amanda Myers
Madison VanAusdal
Megan Webb

Tenor

Jeremy Austin
Jack Britton
*Luke Honeck
Mark Iverson
Dustin Jorgensen
Jim Powell
Bardon Simons
Mark Skrade

Bass

Mark Bledsoe
Phil Cheesebro
Ken Diemer
Tim Fosket
Andrew Gonzalez
Spencer LeFebvre
*Jon Rippe

guests

Kara Guggenmos, Soprano

Apryl Cardwell - Soprano, Dimond High School
Bronwyn Embree - Soprano, West Anchorage High School
Skye Morriseau - Alto, West Anchorage High School
Alison Pogue - Soprano, Bartlett High School
Teaneakuma Pulini - Bass, West Anchorage High School
KC Sargento - Soprano, Dimond High School
Nathan Shem - Bass, West Anchorage High School
Charlotte Wagner - Soprano, South Anchorage High School

accompanist



Pianist **Susan Wingrove-Reed** enthusiastically embraces opportunities to collaborate with committed singers and instrumentalists. In addition to the Alaska Chamber Singers, Reed plays keyboard with the Anchorage Symphony, the annual AK All State Honor Choir, West, Bartlett, and Dimond choirs, countless solo and ensemble festivals/competitions and performs with the Sitka Summer Music Festival. She spends every summer as staff pianist for the Sitka Fine Arts Camps. She has been the resident music educator (pre-concert lectures and program notes) for the Anchorage Symphony and SMF for over thirty-five years, sharing stories about composers, music and history. A graduate of Indiana University with Piano Performance and MAT degrees, she returned home to Alaska to pursue a life in the arts and education. Reed is a retired ASD choir and drama teacher (Bartlett High School) and received a Governor's Award for her contributions to arts education. When Covid began, she joined the Alaska Black Caucus to further her commitment to anti-racism and concert programming that is inclusive of historically neglected voices and serves on the Justice Committee.

chamber orchestra for vivaldi

Violin I

Dawn Lindsay
Olesya Waln
Celina Farmer

Violin II

Robert Hancock
Matthew Cancio
Elise Gelbart

Viola

Katie Kroko
Lena Lukina

Cello

Linda Ottum
Mary Alice Donaldson

Bass

Joel Stamoolis

Oboe

Emily Weaver

Trumpet

Hannah Johnston

Organ

Susan Wingrove-Reed

PROGRAM

DELIGHT IN SPRING

Gabrielle Pierle, Conductor

Gloria

Antonio Vivaldi (1678-1741)
edited by Mason Martens

Featuring chamber orchestra
Annie Herzog, mezzo-soprano
Kara Guggenmos, soprano

- Movement I: Gloria in excelsis
- Movement II: Et in terra pax
- Movement III: Laudamus te
- Movement IV: Gratias agimus tibi
- Movement V: Propter magnam gloriam
- Movement VI: Domine Deus
- Movement VII: Domine Fili Unigenite
- Movement VIII: Domine Deus, Agnus Dei
- Movement IX: Qui tollis
- Movement X: Qui sedes ad dexteram
- Movement XI: Quoniam tu solus sanctus
- Movement XII: Cum Sancto Spiritu

intermission

Zigeunerlieder Gypsy Songs

Johannes Brahms (1833-1897)

Featuring Luke Honeck, tenor
Kara Guggenmos, soprano
Susan Wingrove-Reed, piano

Movement I

He, Zigeuner, greife in die Saiten ein!
Spiel das Lied vom ungetreuen Mägdelein!
Laß die Saiten weinen, klagen,
traurig bange,
Bis die heiße Träne netzet diese Wange!

Hey, Gypsy, pluck your strings!
Play the song of the unfaithful maiden!
Let the strings weep and lament,
mournful and despairing,
Until hot tears flow down these cheeks!

Movement II

Hochgetürmte Rimaflut,
Wie bist du so trüb;
An dem Ufer klag ich
Laut nach dir, mein Lieb!

High-towering River Rima,
How murky you are;
On the water's edge I lament
Loudly for you, my beloved!

Wellen fliehen, Wellen strömen,
Rauschen an dem Strand heran zu mir.
An dem Rimaufer laß mich
Ewig weinen nach ihr!

The waves flee, the waves stream by,
Roaring toward me on the shore;
At the edge of the Rima let me
Weep for her forever!

Movement III

Wißt ihr, mein Kindchen am
allerschönsten ist?
Wenn ihr süßes Mündchen scherzt und
lacht und küßt.
Mägdelein, du bist mein, inniglich küß
ich dich,
Dich erschuf der liebe Himmel einzig
nur für mich!
Wißt ihr, [wenn]1 mein Liebster am
besten mir gefällt?
Wenn in seinen Armen er mich
umschlungen hält.
Schätzelein, du bist mein, inniglich küß
ich dich,
Dich erschuf der liebe Himmel einzig
nur für mich!

Do you know when my beloved is the
fairest?
When her sweet little mouth jests and
laughs and kisses.
Maiden, you are mine; dearly I kiss you,
Dear heaven created you for me alone!
Do you know when my beloved pleases
me the best?
When he enfolds me in his arms.
My treasure, you are mine; dearly I kiss
you,
Dear heaven created you for me alone!

Movement IV

Lieber Gott, du weißt, wie oft bereut
ich hab,
Daß ich meinem Liebsten einst ein
Küßchen gab.
Herz gebot, daß ich ihn küssen muß,
Denk, solange ich leb, an diesen ersten
Kuß.
Lieber Gott, du weißt, wie oft in stiller
Nacht
Ich in Lust und Leid an meinen Schatz
gedacht.
Lieb ist süß, wenn bitter auch die Reu,
Armes Herze bleibt ihm ewig, ewig treu.

Movement V

Brauner Bursche führt zum Tanze
Sein blauäugig schönes Kind;
Schlägt die Sporen keck zusammen,
Csardasmelodie beginnt.
Küßt und herzt sein süßes Täubchen,
Dreht sie, führt sie, jauchzt und springt;

Wirft drei blanke Silbergulden
Auf das Zimbal, daß es klingt.

Movement VI

Röslein dreie in der Reihe blühn so rot,
Daß der Bursch zum Mädchel gehe, ist
kein Verbot!
Lieber Gott, wenn das verboten wär,
Ständ die schöne weite Welt schon
längst nicht mehr;
Ledig bleiben Sünde wär!

Schönstes Städtchen in Alföld ist
Kecsckemet,
Dort gibt es gar viele Mädchen schmuck
und nett!
Freunde, sucht euch dort ein Bräutchen
aus,
Freit um ihre Hand und gründet euer Haus,
Freudenbecher leeret aus.

Dear God, you know how often I've
been sorry
That I once gave my beloved a little kiss.

My heart told me that I had to kiss him;
As long as I live, I'll think about that first
kiss.
Dear God, You know how often in the
silent night
I've thought of my beloved in joy and
sorrow.
Love is sweet, even if regret is bitter;
My poor heart will forever be true to him.

A swarthy young man leads to the dance
His fair, blue-eyed maiden;
His spurs strike boldly together,
The csárdás medody begins.
He kisses and hugs his sweet little dove,
He whirls her around, leads her, cheers,
and jumps;
And he tosses three shining silver pieces
Upon the cymbal so that it jingles.

Three little roses in a row, blossoming so red,
That it is not forbidden for the boy to
woo a maiden!
Dear god, if it had been forbidden,
The beautiful wide world would long
have been no more;
To remain single would be a sin!

The loveliest village in Alföld is
Kecsckemet,
There are many maidens who live there,
pretty and nice!
Friends, choose a little bride there,
Ask for her hand and build your house,
And drain the cup of happiness!

Movement VII

Kommt dir manchmal in den Sinn, mein
süßes Lieb,
Was du einst mit heiligem Eide mir
gelobt?
Täusch mich nicht, verlaß mich nicht,
Du weißt nicht, wie lieb ich dich hab,
Lieb du mich, wie ich dich,
Dann strömt Gottes Huld auf dich herab!

Movement VIII

Horch, der Wind klagt in den Zweigen
traurig sacht;
süßes Lieb, wir müssen Scheiden: gute
Nacht.
Ach wie gern in deinen Armen ruhte ich,
doch die Trennungstunde naht, Gott
schütze dich.
Dunkel ist die Nacht, kein Sternlein
spendet Licht;
süßes Lieb vertrau auf Gott und weine nicht;
führt der liebe Gott mich einst zu dir
zurück,
bleiben ewig wir vereint in Liebesglück.

Movement IX

Weit und breit schaut niemand mich an,
und wenn sie mich hassen, was liegt mir
dran?
Nur mein Schatz der soll mich lieben
allezeit,
soll mich küssen, umarmen und Herzen
in Ewigkeit.
Kein Stern blickt in finsterner Nacht;
keine Blum mir strahlt in duftiger Pracht.
Deine Augen sind mir Blumen
Sternenschein,
die mir leuchten so freundlich, die
blühen nur mir allein.

Do you sometimes remember, my sweet
love,
What you once swore to me with a
sacred vow?
Do not deceive me, do not leave me --
You do not know how much I love you!
If you loved me as I love you,
God's favour would stream down upon you!

Hark, the wind laments in the branches,
mournful and soft;
Sweet love, we must part: good night.

Ah, how gladly I rested in your arms,
But the hour of parting is approaching,
may God protect you.
Dark is the night: not even a small star
gives any light.
Sweet love, trust in God and do not weep;
If our dear God one day leads me back
to you,
We will be united forever in love's bliss.

Far and wide, no one looks at me,
And if they hate me, what is it to me?

Only my beloved, who will love me
forever,
Shall kiss me, hold me, and embrace me
for eternity.
No star gleams in the dark night;
No flower radiates fragrant splendour at me.
To me, your eyes are starlight flowers

That shine on me so kindly and that
blossom for me alone.

Movement X

Mond verhüllt sein Angesicht,
süßes Lieb, ich zürne dir nicht.
Wollt ich zürnend dich betrüben, sprich
wie könnt ich dich dann lieben?
Heiß für dich mein Herz entbrennt,
keine Zunge dir's bekennt.
Bald in Liebesrausch unsinnig,
bald wie Täubchen sanft und innig.

The moon is veiling her face,
Sweet love; I am not angry with you.
Were I to afflict you with my anger, tell me,
How could I then love you?
My heart blazes feverishly for you,
Even if no tongue confesses to it,
One moment left absurd by its intoxication,
Another moment, as gentle and earnest
as a little dove.

Movement XI

Rote Abendwolken ziehn am
Firmament,
Sehnsuchtsvoll nach dir,
Mein Lieb, das Herze brennt,
Himmel strahlt in glühnder Pracht,
Und ich träum bei Tag und Nacht
Nur allein von dem süßen Liebchen mein.

Red evening clouds drift across the
heavens;
Full of longing for you,
My love, my heart burns;
The sky blazes in glowing splendour,
And I dream day and night
Of my sweet beloved alone.

In These Delightful Pleasant Groves

Henry Purcell (1659-1695)
arranged by John Leavitt (b. 1956)

Liebst du um Schönheit

Gustav Mahler (1860- 1911)
written by Friedrich Rückert

Performed by Ken Diemer

Leibst du um Schönheit,
O nicht mich liebe!
Liebe die Sonne
Sie trägt ein goldnes Haar.
Liebst du um Jugend,
O nicht mich liebe!
Liebe die Frühling,
Der jung ist jedes Jahr.
Liebst du um Schätze,

If you love for beauty,
O love not me!
Love the Sun,
She has golden hair.
f you love for youth,
O love not me!
Love the Spring,
That is young each Year.
If you love for riches,

O nicht mich liebe!
Liebe die Meerfrau,
Sie hat viel Perlen klar.
Liebst du um Liebe,
O ja, mich Liebe!
Liebe mich immer,
Dich lieb' ich immerdar.

Who has many shining Pearls.
If you love for Love,
Ah, yes love me!
Love me ever,
I love you forever.
O love not me!
Love the Mermaid,

In Love With the Beautiful Eyes...

David White (b. 1944)

I Got Rhythm

Gershwin (1898-1937)
arranged by Christopher Clapham

Performed by Liesl Davenport-Wheeler, Amanda Myers, Jeremy Austin, and Phil Cheasebro

Grace Before Sleep

Susan LaBarr (b. 1981)

If It's Magic

Stevie Wonder (b. 1950)

Performed by Megan Webb

Act II trio from II Barbiere di Siviglia

Gioachino Rossini
(1792- 1868)

Performed by Annie Herzog, Luke Honeck, and Spencer LeFebvre

Down by the Riverside

arranged by Stacey V. Gibbs (b. 1962)

ALASKA CHAMBER SINGERS

guest soprano



Kara Guggenmos is thrilled to be here for tonight's performance. She loves art song and choral music is most known for her rendering of the Richard Strauss Four Last songs, Beethoven's 9th Symphony, Handel's Messiah, Mozart's Requiem and Verdi's Requiem. Since moving to Alaska from Colorado in 2016, Kara has had several new musical adventures, including singing in Mendelssohn's ELIJAH in 2019 with Anchorage Concert Chorus under the direction of Grant Cochran and being asked to be a part of a fabulous classical ensemble, TRIO PRONTO. This trio made up of the pianist and harpist from the Anchorage Symphony Orchestra and herself has traveled to schools giving educational concerts as well as giving local concerts primarily featuring works by women composers. They hope to be collaborating again soon.

Operatic roles and appearances include: Mimi in Puccini's La Boheme; Susanna in Le Nozze Di Figaro; Donna Anna in Don Giovanni; the Countess in Le Nozze Di Figaro; Hannah in the Merry Widow and Gretel in Hansel Und Gretel.

Awards and achievements include winning the NATSAA Competition in 2002, which led to her Carnegie Hall solo recital debut in Weill Hall in June of 2003. Ms. Guggenmos has been a Metropolitan Opera National Council regional finalist and district winner. Ms. Guggenmos has coached with such prestigious singers and coaches as Benita Valente, Martin Isepp and Ashley Putnam.

Kara received her Bachelor of Music degree in Sacred Voice Performance from Moody Bible Institute in 1996 under the teaching of Dr. Terry Strandt, and her Master of Music degree in Vocal Performance from the University of Colorado, Boulder, in 2001 where she studied with Julie Simson and Robert Harrison. Kara had the privilege of being adjunct voice faculty at the University of Alaska Anchorage for the 2018-2019 academic school year. She is the former Worship Director at Calvary Church, Longmont, Colorado where she joyfully served for 13 years and is passionate about Church and Church ministry. Kara has three sons and resides in Palmer, Alaska where she has a private voice and piano studio that she hopes to start up again after losing her husband suddenly in 2019.

BIOGRAPHIES

sopranos



Sharon Cooke has a degree in Music Education with a choral emphasis from Northern Arizona University. She teaches both middle school choir and elementary music for the Anchorage School District. Sharon has been in the Chamber Singers off and on a few times now. The first time she left because she had enough free time to travel the world; the second time she had her first baby and suddenly had not time at all. Sharon is thrilled to be back in the group and hopes to stick around for a while this time. When she is not doing musical things, Sharon likes to spend time in the outdoors.



Kimberly Hayes moved to Alaska from Arkansas in September of 2016. She currently teaches at Bear Valley Elementary School in the Anchorage School District. She holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Music with a vocal emphasis from John Brown University and a Master of Arts in Teaching, Secondary Education from Harding University both which are located in Arkansas. During her spare time she works for Alaska Missions and Retreats doing mission work around the state of Alaska. Kimberly grew up in a very musical family and music has always been one of the joys in life. She loves to hike, fish, hunt, and enjoy the beauty of Alaska.



Katherine Huffman, sop II, began singing with ACS around 1991. She has also enjoyed performing with the Anchorage Concert Chorus, Anchorage Opera, AVE and the Anchorage Folk Festival. Since studying voice in college Katherine is grateful to notice that some of her best friends and artistic experiences have been made being part of the Anchorage musical community. With special gratitude to her high school guitar teacher, Henry Hedberg, who recommended she try out for the choir.



Rebecca Nelson is a music educator who grew up in Anchorage singing and playing music with her family, school, and church. She earned her Bachelor's degree in music education from Baylor University and a Master's degree in education from the University of Alaska Anchorage, with an emphasis in secondary choral curriculum. She has been teaching in the Anchorage School District since 2000, and currently is the choir director at South Anchorage High School. Rebecca has served as president of the Alaska Choral Directors' Association and is on the board of the Alaska Music Educators' Association. She is a regular mentor for new teachers and student-teachers. Rebecca serves on the Music Curriculum Committee for the school district and has twice assisted in writing and aligning the secondary choral curriculum. Rebecca is a frequent music in-service presenter and is the Fine Arts Department Chair at her school. She has taught music pre-K-12, and music education at the University of Alaska Anchorage. Rebecca has been singing with the Alaska Chamber Singers since 2002, and also enjoys producing musicals, reading, cooking, traveling, and enjoying the great outdoors.



Meredith Rude was born and raised in Anchorage and graduated from the University of Alaska Fairbanks with a bachelor's degree in music education. She teaches choir and band at Begich Middle School, gives private music instruction, and serves as accompanist and music director at her church. Meredith is an accomplished trumpeter and pianist, and has a knack for learning how to play new instruments. When she's not singing, strumming or blowing her horn she enjoys hiking, gardening, and playing with power tools. She currently shares her home with three sweet rescue kitties and one rambunctious rescue pup.

altos



Elizabeth Astle grew up in Los Angeles and has lived in seven states and four countries. She is now proud to call Alaska home. From Broadway to barbershop and from opera chorus to oratorios, she has dabbled in and enjoyed all kinds of singing groups. One very memorable experience included singing Mahler's *8th Symphony* with over 600 musicians. Elizabeth is now happy to be creating chamber music. She has a degree in music from Brigham Young University and a master's in international relations from Georgetown, which she uses to teach her four children about international music and to conduct her church choir.



Mary Britton arrived in Anchorage in January 2014, welcomed by a display of Northern Lights, quite a sight for someone who had always lived in the Midwest and had never seen them before. A piano teacher, music therapist, singer and conductor in her past life, Mary is thrilled to have an opportunity to again participate in musical excellence in this, her third season with ACS. When not making music, Mary can be found volunteering at a mobile food bank and at her church, reading, and exploring Alaska with her newly-retired husband.



Ann McDonald Cherrier- A lifelong Alaskan since age 4, Ann grew up in Eagle River, AK. Teaching middle school math is her day job. A chance solo in 4th grade started a love of music that included playing the flute and singing with her college choir, The Adelphians, at the University of Puget Sound. Ann is a private pilot and enjoys sharing her love of flying with anyone brave enough to climb in the right seat.



Liesl Davenport-Wheeler is a music educator with training in voice, piano and French Horn. She joined Alaska Chamber Singers in 1999. She studied music at the University of Oregon and received her master's degree in music education from the University of Southern Mississippi. She taught high school choir for over 20 years, five of which also included middle and high school band. She is currently in her 6th year teaching music at Trailside Elementary. She is also music director at Turnagain United Methodist Church. She sings with the Alaska Sound Celebration Chorus and is a part of a barbershop quartet called Sweet Chillys. One of her most memorable musical experiences is marching her freshman year of college with the University of Oregon marching band. When she is not making music, she is walking her dogs, knitting, gardening, cooking, reading, putting together puzzles, going to the cabin or exploring Alaska with her husband in the camper.



Andrea Gardner, a native Oregonian, was born and raised in Portland. She attended Oregon State University where she received both her Bachelor of Arts and Masters degrees. While at OSU, Andrea studied choral conducting, vocal performance, and piano performance and was employed as a collaborative pianist for the music department. After graduating, Andrea taught choir at Ridgeview High School in Redmond, OR and elementary choir with the Youth Choirs of Central Oregon for two years before she made the move to Alaska in the summer of 2016. She currently teaches choir at Dimond High School in the Anchorage School District. Outside of the classroom, Andrea enjoys playing with her dogs, Coda and Forte.



Annie Herzog is originally from Poulsbo, Washington and moved to Alaska in the summer of 2020. Annie began her singing career in the 8th grade when she joined the treble choir at her middle school. She never looked back! Annie has enjoyed singing in both the choral and classical solo setting. She has sung with Pacific Lutheran University's Choir of the West and has also sung with the Tacoma Opera, and Anchorage Festival of Music. Annie teaches choir at Bartlett high school. When she is not teaching she enjoys hiking, skiing, and playing with her kitty, Stella.



Amanda Myers moved to Alaska in August 2021 from Hangzhou, China, where she taught Elementary Music and Drama at Hangzhou International School. Originally from the Pacific Northwest, Amanda began her singing career in John Day, Oregon, singing in church and participating in the Grant Union High School and All-State Honor choirs. She went on to attain her Bachelor of Music from Eastern Oregon University in La Grande, specializing in Voice with a minor in Theatre. As a section leader in the EOU Chamber Choir, she was able to tour both nationally and internationally. She began teaching the Union County Children's Choir in 2008 and has taught voice ever since. Amanda lives with her husband, Matthew Baxter, and their beautiful daughter. Amanda enjoys adventuring to new places with her family, and otherwise making her life a musical.



Madison VanAusdal attended Brigham Young University in Utah and graduated with a Bachelor's Degree in Music Education in 2019. She enjoyed performing as a member of the BYU Singers from 2015-2018, and traveled to Southeast Asia on tour. After marrying her Alaskan husband, Madison moved up to Eagle River in 2020. She currently teaches private piano and voice lessons from home, while raising her two young children and her dog Lucy.



Megan Webb is a lifelong Alaskan with roots on the Kenai Peninsula. She briefly left Alaska to study Music Education at the University of Nevada in Reno, where she studied clarinet, saxophone, voice and piano. After receiving her degree in 2002, Megan began her teaching career in the Mat-Su Valley before settling in Anchorage. Megan has been at Wendler Middle School since 2013, where she teaches 7th and 8th grade band, jazz band, and a music exploratory class for Life-Skills students. Megan also directs the choir, leads singing, and accompanies on piano and guitar at the Anchorage Unitarian Universalist

Fellowship, where she serves as the Music Director. Some of Megan's most cherished memories as an educator are traveling to remote areas of Alaska to work with young musicians, and being asked to officiate the wedding of two of her former high school students who met and fell in love in her choir class. When she's not busy with her musical endeavors, Megan can be found gardening, at pub trivia, traveling to music festivals, and spending time with her energetic and entertaining 8 year old son, Elliot. Megan is thrilled to be back singing in person with ACS this season!

tenors



Jeremy Austin grew up in Southeast Alaska in a largish family of classical and folk musicians, studied music pedagogy in British Columbia, and taught privately until 2018 in Alaska's interior. French horn, voice, piano, and arranging are particular musical passions. His current career as a senior software product manager and consultant, along with home support from his wife and two musical teenagers, leaves time to enjoy singing and recording with the Alaska Chamber Singers and Anchorage Concert Chorus.



Jack Britton, tenor, moved to Anchorage in 2013, started singing with Alaska Chamber Singers in 2016, and has considered it one of the most musically rich experiences of his life. The variety of music and the fine product from ACS is a source of great enjoyment. His other great passion in music is his cello. His musical resume includes the Columbus, MS Madrigal Singers as well the Columbus Symphony, many performing small ensembles over the years, several years with the Louisville Thoroughbred Chorus, an internationally known Barbershop chorus, and, most recently, 8 years as principal cellist of the Indiana University Southeast orchestra. Now retired, Jack's professional life included flying for the USAF and UPS. He leads a happy life here in Anchorage, accompanied by his wife, Mary, who you can see in the ACS alto section.



Luke Honeck is excited to sing with ACS again! Luke holds a Bachelor of Music in Vocal Performance from Lawrence University where he graduated top of his class. In Anchorage, he teaches voice, violin, viola, guitar, and piano in his studio in the Turnagain Arts Building. When he's not teaching, you can find him as Choir Director for St. Mary's Episcopal Church or performing with Anchorage Opera, the Anchorage Symphony Orchestra, the Anchorage Festival of Music, or featured in recitals. Luke has always enjoyed the high-caliber singing of the Alaska Chamber Singers and is looking forward to seasons to come!



Mark Iverson is a charter member of the Alaska Chamber Singers. His 53 years of choral singing began in his mother's church choir and includes the USAF Academy Cadet Chorale, which he joined so he could stand at ease for a few hours each week. He has also performed with the Anchorage Opera, the basically Bach Festivals, Anchorage Summer Music Festivals and the 25th Statehood Anniversary Russian Choir. He recently retired as an IT project manager after having been employed within the Alaska oil industry for 39 years.



Dustin Jorgensen is closing out his last season with the Chamber Singers before moving with his family to Oregon in the Spring of 2022. After more than 15 years in Alaska, Dustin is eternally grateful for the wonderful music community in Anchorage that has allowed him to keep engaged with his favorite hobby, singing! It has been his pleasure to sing with the Alaska Chamber Singers, Anchorage Opera, UAA Opera Ensemble and Midnight Sons Acapella Chorus as well as in several local Musical Theatre productions.



Jim Powell is one of the few remaining Chamber Singers who sang our first concert. His singing began in high school, continued at the U. S. Merchant Marine Academy (Kings Point) and through law school in Ann Arbor. His Alaska singing debut was in Fairbanks with the Messiah tenor solos in 1964. He then continued with those solos for the next 20 years in Anchorage. He practiced civil trial law for 40 years in Anchorage, and now runs a B&B in Turnagain. He is frequently seen on his bike or flying his Cessna at Merrill Field.



Bardon Simons grew up in Seattle where he received his early musical training playing violin in school orchestras. Seeking new outlets for musical expression while at Whitman College, he joined the college madrigal and concert choirs and performed as a chorus member in college opera productions. Since moving to Anchorage in 1985, he has sung with the Anchorage Concert Chorus, Anchorage Festival of Music, Anchorage Opera, and National Symphony Orchestra during its 1992 Alaska tour. Bardon enjoys gardening and reading history and biographies when taking a break from his job as business manager for a commercial real estate development firm.



Mark Skrade was born in Anchorage, grew up in Ireland, and moved home to Alaska in 2010. An interest in singing began while he was attending Saint Mary's University of Minnesota and is now an avocation in Anchorage. In addition to the Alaska Chamber Singers, Mark has performed with the Anchorage Opera Chorus in four productions, with Cyrano's Theatre Company in one musical, and sang in his first Community Messiah right after the 2018 earthquake. He is grateful for these experiences and for the opportunity to learn in Kate Egan's studio. Mark is a cantor at Holy Family Cathedral and is proud to work for Matson at the Port of Alaska.

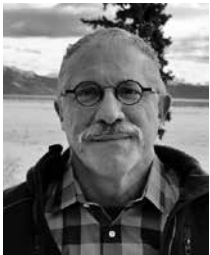
basses



Mark S. Bledsoe has been a fixture in the Alaska Chamber Singers' bass section since 1996. He received his Bachelor of Music degree from Willamette University College of Music, where he majored in organ performance. Mark performed with many of the musical ensembles there. He has become a familiar face in the Alaska choral music scene, having sung over the years with not only the Alaska Chamber Singers, but also with the New Madrigal Singers, Basically Bach Chorus, the Anchorage Opera Chorus and the Anchorage Concert Chorus. We recently asked Mark what he liked best about singing with the Alaska Chamber Singers. He thought for a minute and then looked up from his bowl of soup. Chuckling, Mark said "Well, with a range of nearly a full octave, there's lots to choose from. I suppose I like the A Flats and B Flats best." Then he returned to his soup.



Phil Cheasebro was born and raised in Aztec, NM and moved to Alaska in 2009. Phil has been a member of many ensembles (classical, contemporary, rock/country, a cappella, and barbershop) throughout New Mexico, Colorado, Alaska and New York. Phil sang for 5 seasons with the Anchorage Opera and has performed with the New York Lyric Opera and received his Bachelor of Music in vocal performance under Dr. Mari Hahn from University of Alaska Anchorage. Phil is very involved in barbershop, participating in many local, regional and international events. He currently directs the Anchorage Midnight Sons Chorus and was musical director the Manhattan based Big Apple Chorus, and associate musical director of Voices of Gotham.



Ken Diemer Ken grew up in rural upstate New York and began musical training at an early age. He received his education at a local community college, and then at the New England Conservatory of Music in Boston where he majored in vocal performance. Ken has had the good fortune to perform with the Boston Symphony Orchestra, The Boston Pops Orchestra, The Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra at the Casals Festival, and in various New England Music Festivals. He returned to Alaska for a second time in 2002 and this time it stuck. Ken joined the Alaska Chamber Singers in 2020, and has been a member of the Anchorage Concert Chorus since 2017. Ken enjoys athletics, and along with continuing to learn new things, is an avid outdoor person who really enjoys fishing, hunting, and gardening.



Tim Fosket has been singing all his life and can't seem to stop; he has performed in 46 states and five Canadian Provinces. In Anchorage, he has been a member of the Alaska Heritage A Cappella Choir, Batteries Not Included, Anchorage Concert Chorus, the Russian American Colony Singers, Anchorage Opera, Next in Line Productions and now, after a long break, is returning to Alaska Chamber Singers. He moved to Alaska from Seattle where he sang with the Seattle Men's Chorus and Esoterics; prior to that, he sang with the Tanglewood Festival Chorus in Boston. It all started in high school when a music teacher told him to let go of the cello and join the choir. Secretly, he still misses that cello.



Andrew Gonzalez is an Alaska transplant from the midwest who has been involved with music nearly his entire life playing the piano, french horn, and singing. He began voice lessons in high school and sang in the Iowa All-State Chorus and Dubuque Julien Chamber Choir. He went to Luther College in Decorah, Iowa where he sang in the Nordic Choir under Dr. Allen Hightower touring the British Isles. Since college he picked up the ukulele, mandolin, spoons, and a little melodica. He is loving Alaska and is thrilled to be a member of the Alaska Chamber Singers. Andrew is a researcher at the University of Alaska Anchorage.



Spencer LeFebvre is a lifelong Alaskan with a passion for music, especially singing and piano. He has some of the area's best mentors having attended West High School under the direction of ACS' very own Gabrielle Pierle, and piano instructor Dean Epperson. Currently, he is working on a joint recital scheduled in April and May with Susan Reed and Mina Schmidt. Spencer plans to attend Louisiana State University in the fall. He is thrilled to be performing tonight for the second time with Alaska Chamber Singers.



Jon Rippe grew up in Northern Virginia and started singing at a very young age. He discovered chamber music in high school, and had the pleasure of touring Europe with The Sound of America Honor Band & Chorus after graduating in 2004. From his late teens into his early 20's, he sang with over a dozen different choirs and musical ensembles ranging from jazz quartets to 100+ voice chorales. After enlisting in the Air Force, Jon took a 6 year hiatus from singing, but is glad to be back on the scene with the Alaska Chamber Singers. On his free time, Jon likes to rock climb, mountain bike, and run up mountains. He plans on staying in Alaska indefinitely and is looking forward to experiencing everything the state has to offer.

Special Recognition

Alaska Chamber Singers gratefully recognizes the contributions of two outgoing board members whose terms have expired: Caren Ailleo and Bardon “Bart” Simons.

Introduced to the organization by one of the singers in the ensemble, Caren served on the Board of Directors for many years. Her expertise in fundraising and non-profit management were heavily utilized in service of ACS. She was particularly valuable in helping ACS strengthen its grant writing capacity and skillfully guided the organization toward significant growth in fund development. At the same time, she served as Vice President of the Board during the administrations of two Presidents. Her knowledgeable and steady guidance is greatly missed. Caren remains a good friend and supporter of ACS.

Bart Simons served on the ACS Board as Treasurer for more than ten years. His financial and business management acumen helped to strengthen ACS during a time of significant growth. Not only was he responsible for helping ensure the financial stability of ACS, he was also on hand as ACS began building and expanding its savings account, anticipating a time when it would become our endowment. He insisted on full Board participation in the building of our annual budgets and made sure that, through the involvement of our Artistic Director, the budget fully supported the organization’s musical advancement. Happily, Bart remains a singer in the tenor section as well as a friend and patron of ACS.

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Alaska Chamber Singers History

Established in 1986 by Elvera Voth, Alaska Chamber Singers (ACS) is one of the state's finest music ensembles. Led by Conductor/Artistic Director David Hagen since 1995, ACS's mission is to enrich Alaska through choral excellence. Singers are selected annually by audition and are dedicated to the study, rehearsal, and performance of high-quality choral literature.

In 1992, ACS was the first American chorus to perform in Magadan, Russia, Anchorage's Sister City, as part of a cultural exchange. Later in 1992 ACS and other area singers combined forces with the Kamchatka Choir from Petropavlovsk-Kamchatsky, Russia, in a performance of Prokofiev's *Alexander Nevsky* suite with the National Symphony Orchestra under the baton of Mstislav Rostropovich. ACS regularly collaborates with Anchorage Concert Chorus, Anchorage Symphony Orchestra, and Alaska Children's Choir.

In 1996, ACS was featured on the radio program *A Prairie Home Companion* with Garrison Keillor in its broadcast from the Alaska Center for the Performing Arts. In July 1997, ACS traveled to Washington, D.C., and performed at the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts under the sponsorship of U.S. Senator Frank Murkowski. ACS has twice been chosen by audition to perform at the American Choral Directors Association Northwestern Division Convention: 2008 in Vancouver, B.C. and 2016 in Seattle.

In 2012, ACS commissioned and premiered *Alaska Spring*, a major new work by celebrated composer Libby Larsen setting the poetry of former Alaska poet laureate Tom Sexton. ACS has also commissioned works by Grant Cochran, David Dickau, Moses Hogan, Steven Sametz, and Gregory Walker.

ACS has sung under notable guest conductors including Anton Armstrong, David Dickau, Moses Hogan, and Kenneth Jennings. ACS has participated in workshops led by Chanticleer and New York Polyphony.

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