

# The Harmony Herald

Albuquerque Civic Chorus Newsletter

APRIL 2025

ISSUE 3

ALBUQUERQUE CIVIC CHORUS PRESENTS

## DREAMS & DESTINATIONS

A JOURNEY THROUGH SONG

May 3rd & 4th at 4 PM

*With Music From*

Stephen Sondheim  
Christopher Tin  
Cole Porter

*The Secret Garden  
The Music Man  
Brigadoon*

First Christian Church  
10101 Montgomery Blvd NE  
Albuquerque, NM 87111

\$15 in advance  
\$20 at the door  
FREE Entry (18 and under)



Scan to Get Tickets Today  
and Save!

*For the Joy of Singing*

### ABQ CIVIC CHORUS

Founded in 1934, the Albuquerque Civic Chorus is a community-based, non-auditioned choir composed of over 75 individuals passionate about singing and sharing the joy of music.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

*Join us for our Spring Concert!*

*From the streets of Broadway  
to the skies of Imagination.*

The Albuquerque Civic Chorus will be singing at First Christian Church on May 3rd and 4th at 4:00 PM.

### REHEARSALS

As a community chorus, we welcome anyone who wants to sing and will commit to attending rehearsals regularly and learning the music.

#### Rehearsal Information

Tuesday evenings at 7:00 PM  
First Christian Church  
10101 Montgomery Blvd NE  
Albuquerque, NM 87111

### BOARD MEMBERS

President	Barb Morrison
Vice President	Mike Stanton
Secretary	Carol Kandl
Treasurer	Cody Wesner-Ellis
Co-Treasurer	Ariana Hudgens
Librarian	Cindy Noe
Membership	Open
Publicity	Open
Fundraising	Connie Bowin
Past President	Linda Walters
Members-at-Large	
Cindy Sloan-Butts	Diane Jacobi
Aurora Moffett	Sandra Spurlock
Caitlin Rottler	Rose-Marie Strach
Director	Jerrilyn Foster
Accompanist	Scott Jacobsen

## The Albuquerque Civic Chorus would like to invite you on a journey through song—

*From the streets of Broadway to the skies of Imagination!*

This spring, our voices come together to celebrate dreams, destinations, and everything in between. From the whimsical charm of *The Music Man* to the soaring ambition of Christopher Tin's *Sogno di Volare*, our concert repertoire reflects the many paths we travel—through time, place, and emotion.

In this edition of The Harmony Herald, we highlight the stories behind the songs, spotlight the dedicated individuals who help our chorus thrive, and share ways you can be part of our growing musical journey.

### Featured Board Member: Mike Stanton

#### Meet our Vice President: A Leading Voice

As we gear up for our Spring concert, we're taking a moment to highlight a member who turns our choir's dreams into destinations: our Vice President, Mike Stanton.

With a lifelong love of music and a career rooted in education, Mike brings heart, harmony, and vision to the chorus. He's more than a guiding voice—he's a steady force helping shape the future of the group, one rehearsal (and one sectional) at a time.



When Mike Stanton joined the Albuquerque Civic Chorus two years ago, the tenor and bass sections were small—just a handful of voices as Mike recalls. What began as a return to the world of music quickly grew into a deep commitment to our chorus as a member and as a leader.

Mike's musical roots run deep. Raised in Albuquerque, he performed in musical theater and show choirs throughout his youth, gracing the stage at Popejoy Hall in productions like *The Sound of Music* and *Fiddler on the Roof*. After college, music took a backseat to life and career, but the passion never went away. Following his retirement from a long, accomplished career in education—most recently at UNM Health Sciences—Mike returned to his first love: singing.

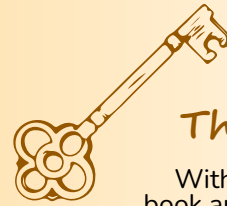
Since rejoining the world of choral music, Mike has become one of the chorus's most dedicated and enthusiastic leaders. As Vice President of the Albuquerque Civic Chorus, he approaches his role with a blend of heart and experience. With a background in teaching, special education, and adult learning, Mike demonstrates how choral singing can foster both individual growth and social connection. For Mike, it's not just about singing well—it's about building a space where people can connect, challenge themselves, and be proud of what they create together.

## Carol's CHORAL CORNER

by Carol Kandl

*These selections offer a rich and diverse musical experience, celebrating everything from the power of choral music in global unity to the beauty of love, fantasy, and discovery.*

*Each piece reflects a unique perspective on the human experience, and together they form a captivating journey through some of the most beloved and timeless works in choral music.*



### The Secret Garden

With music by Lucy Simon and a book and lyrics by Marsha Norman, *The Secret Garden* is a moving, tender story about healing, transformation, and the ever-prevailing power of love.

Set in 1910 England, the musical tells the story of Mary Lennox, a lonely and spoiled girl who is sent to live with her reclusive uncle in a mansion surrounded by an overgrown garden. As Mary discovers the magic of the secret garden, she begins to unlock the hearts of those around her, bringing life and light back into their world.

The choral selections from *The Secret Garden* include some of the show's most poignant and uplifting songs, such as *The Girl I Mean to Be* and *Wick*. These songs showcase the beauty of the score, which blends elements of classical, folk, and musical theater styles. The choir's sound will evoke the emotions of growth, renewal, and the quiet power of nature's healing.

### Brigadoon



*Brigadoon*, composed by Alan Jay Lerner and Frederick Loewe, is a classic American musical set in the Scottish Highlands, where a magical village appears only once every hundred years. The story revolves around two American tourists who stumble upon this hidden world and become involved in its strange yet beautiful happenings.

The choral selections from *Brigadoon* highlight some of the concert program's most enchanting and timeless songs, such as *Almost Like Being in Love* and *The Heather on the Hill*.

These pieces are characterized by their lush melodies and gentle harmonies, evoking a sense of romance and nostalgia. The choir's lush sound and expressive delivery will capture the beauty and mystery of this magical world.





## The Music Man

*The Music Man*, by Meredith Willson, is a quintessential American musical that captures the charm and spirit of small-town life. Set in the early 20th century, the musical tells the story of a con artist, Harold Hill, who poses as a music professor to swindle a town into buying musical instruments and uniforms for a boys' band that he never intends to form. However, through the power of music, Hill's plans begin to unravel as he falls in love with the town librarian, Marian Paroo.

In this choral selection, you'll hear some of the show's most iconic songs, including *Goodnight, My Someone*; *Good Night Ladies*; *Till There Was You*; and *Seventy-Six Trombones*.

These pieces are characterized by their energetic, brass-heavy orchestrations and singable melodies, making *The Music Man* a beloved classic. The choral arrangements bring the same vibrancy and charm to the stage, celebrating the power of music to bring people together.

## Baba Yetu : The Lord's Prayer



Composed by Christopher Tin, *Baba Yetu* is a powerful and uplifting choral work that gained international acclaim after it was featured as the theme song for the video game *Civilization IV*.

The piece is set to the Swahili text of the Lord's Prayer, and its energetic rhythms, soaring melodies, and lush harmonies evoke a sense of global unity and spirituality. The work's blend of traditional African choral styles with orchestral elements makes it an inspiring piece, showing humanity as interconnected.



## Sogno di Volare

Another masterpiece by Christopher Tin, *Sogno di Volare* (The Dream of Flight) was composed as the theme for the video game *Civilization VI*. With its sweeping orchestral opening and soaring choral parts, this work expresses the human longing for discovery and the eternal pursuit of knowledge.

Sung in Italian, the lyrics depict humanity's dream of exploring the skies and beyond, celebrating the spirit of adventure, progress, and the quest for a better future. This choral piece beautifully blends classical and modern elements to create a rich and inspiring experience.

One of the ways Mike enriches the chorus community is by regularly hosting tenor and bass sectionals at his home. What began as a small gesture—a few singers gathered to nail down the harmonies—has evolved into a welcoming tradition that draws nearly the entire lower voice section. These gatherings offer a chance to strengthen not just the sound, but the bonds between members.

Mike also puts his technical skills to work by bringing his own equipment to rehearsal, recording the fullness of our chorus for us to hear. We are able to review the sound, identify areas for improvement, and share helpful insights with the group. In doing this, we are empowered to make music that we are excited to share with the world.

Mike invests his time and energy in helping the chorus grow—musically, structurally, and socially. He sees a bright future for the group. He envisions collaborations, travel, and a wider reach, actively working to lay the foundation for that growth.

When asked what advice he would give to new and current members, he encouraged others to fully engage with the chorus, to get to know their section, to practice outside of rehearsal, and to view their involvement not just as a hobby, but as a source of fulfillment. Each rehearsal is a voice lesson, a time to invest into our sound and ourselves.

In a chorus that values harmony in every sense of the word, we thank Mike Stanton for his voice that rings out, and his presence that steadies our sound.

## Thanking our Director: Jerrilyn Foster

Every great journey needs a compass—and for the Albuquerque Civic Chorus, that guiding force is Jerrilyn Foster. Through each rehearsal and every note, she leads us not just through music, but toward meaning and growth.

This season, as we explore *Dreams & Destinations*, it feels especially fitting to thank the person who helps us chart the course. Her passion and expertise elevate our chorus beyond sound—transforming it into something truly unforgettable.

Thank you, Jerri, for believing in where we're headed, and for making the path there so inspiring.

## Thanking our Accompanist: Scott Jacobsen

Behind our great choral moments is a great accompanist—and ours happens to be the best. Scott brings not only technical brilliance to the piano, but a spirit of collaboration, flexibility, and warmth that keeps our chorus grounded and growing.

We are incredibly lucky to make music alongside someone so skilled, generous, and endlessly adaptable. Thank you, Scott, for being our foundation, our momentum, and our magic behind the keys.

## The Harmony Herald: Meet our Team

Newsletter Editor  
Contributing Writer

Selena Delgado  
Carol Kandl

## Let's Fall in Love – A Tribute to Cole Porter



Cole Porter, one of the greatest songwriters of the 20th century, revolutionized American musical theater with his witty lyrics and sophisticated melodies. Known for his charming yet elegant songs that seamlessly combine humor, romance, and a touch of cheek, Porter's music has become iconic.

*Let's Fall in Love*, one of Porter's most enduring classics, exemplifies his ability to craft irresistible tunes and clever wordplay. The song expresses the excitement and joy of love, urging the listener to embrace the timeless notion of falling in love under the right conditions. Its elegant phrasing make it a perfect choice for the choral setting, with arrangements that trademark wit and charm.

This choral tribute to Cole Porter, arranged by Jay Althouse includes not only *Let's Fall in Love* but other well-known hits such as *Night and Day* and *Just One of Those Things*. The choral arrangements capture the playful sophistication of Porter's music, offering a joyous celebration of his legacy that will captivate both long-time fans and new listeners alike.

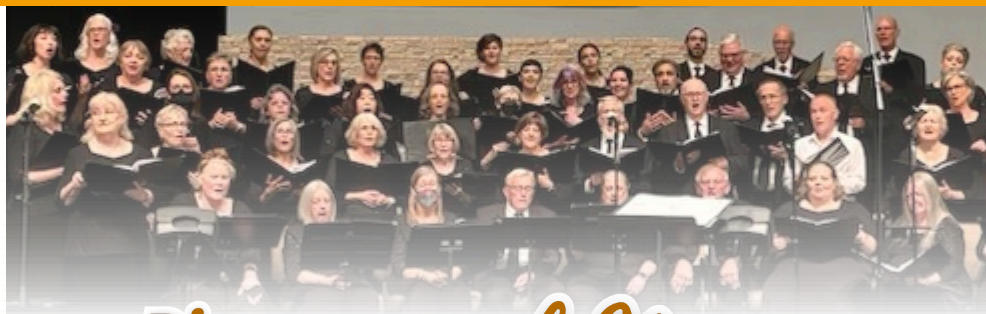


## Sondheim: A Choral Celebration

Stephen Sondheim, one of the most influential figures in musical theater, has written a remarkable array of songs that have transcended the stage. *Sondheim: A Choral Celebration* features selections from some of his most beloved works, arranged for choir to showcase the breadth of his musical genius. From the poignant and introspective to the witty and whimsical, Sondheim's music offers a compelling blend of complexity, emotional depth, and intellectual rigor.

Highlights from this choral celebration include selections from his musicals *A Funny Thing Happened On The Way to the Forum*, *Into the Woods*, *Sweeney Todd*, *Follies*, *A Little Night Music*, and *Company*.

Each of these pieces captures a unique aspect of the human experience, whether it's the yearning for love, the consequences of vengeance, or the joys and challenges of life's transitions. The choral arrangements emphasize Sondheim's intricate harmonies, sophisticated rhythms, and his deep understanding of character-driven storytelling through music.



## Discover the World of Music

At the beginning of each spring and fall season, we welcome new singers (ages 16 and up\*) to attend our first four open rehearsals. These rehearsals offer prospective members a wonderful opportunity to experience who we are as a choir. You'll receive an information packet, meet our members, ask questions, and enjoy singing—all with no obligation to join.

We are a non-auditioned chorus. Our members have a wide range of musical experience. \*Singers ages 16–17 must have parental permission

As a community chorus, we welcome anyone who wants to sing and will commit to attending rehearsals regularly as well as learning the music.

We collect \$75 each term (fall and spring) every year to help pay for our director and accompanist salaries, printed music, rehearsal space, and other expenses. If this fee makes it difficult for you to join us, please let us know. [www.abgcivicchorus.org](http://www.abgcivicchorus.org)

## Don't miss our Spring Concert Bake Sale!



**Homemade goodies prepared  
by members of the chorus.**