



The Harmony Herald

Albuquerque Civic Chorus Newsletter



JANUARY 2025

ISSUE 2

ALBUQUERQUE CIVIC CHORUS PRESENTS

SPRING 2025 A NEW SEMESTER



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

Spring Semester Starts Soon!

Rehearsals & Registration begin Tuesday, January 21st at 6:30 PM.

Potential members can now attend up to FOUR rehearsals before deciding to join. No auditions are required!

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	Heather Balas
Co-Treasurer	Ariana Hugdens
Librarian	Cindy Noe
Membership	Cody Wesner-Ellis
Publicity	Roxanne Cramer
Fundraising	Connie Bowin
Grant Writing	Cindy Sloan-Butts
Past President	Linda Walters
Members-at-Large	Diane Jacobi
Aurora Moffett	Sandra Spurlock
Caitlin Rottler	Rose-Marie Strach
Director	Jerrilyn Foster
Accompanist	Scott Jacobsen

The Albuquerque Civic Chorus would like to wish you a Happy New Year!

We will be sharing this newsletter with you four times a year, with the possibility of two additional updates featuring concert information. If you'd prefer not to receive these updates, please let us know by responding to this email—but we hope you'll give it a chance! **Thank you and Welcome to our community!**

Featured Board Member: Barb Morrison

A Warm Welcome from the President of the Albuquerque Civic Chorus

As the Albuquerque Civic Chorus gears up for its Spring 2025 semester, we'd like to introduce you to someone truly special: our President, Barb Morrison.

Barb's story is one of humility, initiative, and an inspiring love for community that serves as a beacon for both long-time members and those considering joining us for the first time.



Barb's journey to Albuquerque began in May 2020, right in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic. After retiring from a fulfilling career in Wichita, KS, Barb relocated to New Mexico with a hope for new beginnings. But like many of us, she faced the challenges of isolation brought on by the pandemic, which put a pause on many communal activities—including the Albuquerque Civic Chorus. It wasn't until the chorus was allowed to reopen in Fall 2021 that Barb joined, finding a group of fewer than 20 singers. Fast forward to Fall 2024, and we now boast an impressive 75 voices—a growth that Barb is very grateful to our members for.

Barb's relationship with music might surprise you. Unlike many choral enthusiasts, her background isn't rooted in years of formal vocal training. Instead, her musical journey began in fifth grade when she learned to play the viola, an instrument that introduced her to the world of music reading—albeit through the unique alto clef. Despite this modest start, she was fortunate to play with the Northland Symphony Orchestra in high school where she humbly recalls “just hanging on and trying to keep up” with seasoned musicians.

She has always had a love of singing, and though she wasn't part of a choir growing up, Barb found her sound as an adult in a church choir. After moving to Albuquerque, she sought to fill the void brought on by the pandemic; joining the Albuquerque Civic Chorus gave her that sense of community she missed. With no formal voice training, Barb readily admits she's still learning the ropes, praising our knowledgeable director, Jerrilyn Foster, for her guidance. Barb's honesty about her struggles with things like singing from her diaphragm or reading the treble clef makes her incredibly relatable to newcomers who might feel nervous about their own abilities.

Carol's CHORAL CORNER



WHO can join the Chorus?

Anyone who wants to share in the Joy of Singing! We don't hold auditions and we warmly welcome new members from any musical experience level or background.

WHERE do we rehearse?

Our rehearsals take place every Tuesday evening from 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM at First Christian Church here in Albuquerque, NM.

WHAT should I bring?

We recommend bringing water, a pencil, a 1-inch, black 3-ring binder (optional), and a positive attitude and your willingness to learn to every rehearsal.

WHEN do rehearsals begin?

The Spring 2025 Semester starts on Tuesday, January 21st at 7:00 PM.

HOW do I become a member?

Our first 4 rehearsals are open for you to learn more about our chorus. If we are a good fit for you, the participation fee for each term is \$75. This amount helps pay for our talented director & accompanist as well as music and rehearsal space. We value your participation, so if this fee makes it difficult to join, please let us know.

WHY should I join?

Joining a community chorus offers a unique opportunity to not only develop musical skills but also foster a strong sense of belonging, build meaningful connections with others, and experience the personal benefits of collective singing - making it a valuable addition to anyone's life, regardless of their prior musical experience.

Community & Social Benefits



Building Connections

Singing alongside others in a choir naturally creates a sense of community and shared purpose, allowing individuals to form close friendships and social networks beyond their usual circles.

Inclusivity

Community choruses are typically open to all levels of singers, providing a welcoming space for people from diverse backgrounds to come together and participate in music making.

Civic Engagement

Participating in a community chorus can foster a sense of belonging and connection to the wider community, potentially leading to increased civic involvement.



Personal Benefits

Mental Wellbeing

Singing alongside others in a choir naturally creates a sense of community and shared purpose, allowing individuals to form close friendships and social networks beyond their usual circles.

Cognitive Enhancement

Community choruses are typically open to all levels of singers, providing a welcoming space for people from diverse backgrounds to come together and participate in music making.

Physical Health

Participating in a community chorus can foster a sense of belonging and connection to the wider community, potentially leading to increased civic involvement.

As an Alto 2, Barb is the kind of singer who steps in wherever needed—even singing Tenor 1 in our most recent concert! But her contributions to the chorus extend far beyond her vocal range. With her natural leadership abilities and genuine desire to uplift others, Barb believes that “It isn’t hard to lead, not with so many people willing to help.”

Barb took on the role of President during a pivotal time for the chorus. Coming out of the pandemic, the organization faced financial struggles and a team that needed a resurgence of energy. Barb credits the previous president, Linda Walters, for her dedication and ability to keep the Chorus afloat during those challenging, uncertain years. There’s no telling where the Chorus would be without her invaluable contributions.

When asked about the chorus’s mission statement, “For the Joy of Singing,” Barb expressed that we all have things that make us happy—and singing is one of hers. What truly moves her is the impact our music has on others. Whether it’s friends, family, or strangers in the audience, Barb loves to make people smile and treasures the moments when someone goes out of their way to share how deeply they were touched by our singing.

Looking to the future, Barb has ambitious goals for the chorus. She envisions expanding our community outreach by organizing smaller ensembles to perform at various venues that might not accommodate our full group. Additionally, she’s helping bring the dream of an international tour in Spring or Summer of 2026 to life—sparked by our collaboration with the Taos Community Chorus in Spring 2023.

When it comes to favorite repertoire, Barb is drawn to two styles: classic choral works like our recent renditions of Vivaldi’s *Gloria* and Lauridsen’s *Lux Aeterna*—which she loves during the holiday season—and the lively Broadway pieces that bring a sense of fun to our spring performances. She admits learning new languages can be a challenge, joking that she can focus on either the words or the music—but not both at the same time! Her candidness reminds us all that making music is as much about the joy of the journey as it is about the final performance.

As we prepare to welcome new members this semester, Barb offers heartfelt advice for those who might be on the fence about joining. She acknowledges that stepping into any new organization can feel intimidating, especially when it’s something as personal as singing. But she assures prospective members that the Albuquerque Civic Chorus is a welcoming and supportive community, emphasizing the resources available to help everyone succeed, from sectional rehearsals to practice tracks. “It’s not fun if something you love to do is stressful—life’s too short for that—so we try to make everyone feel comfortable and welcome.” Barb hopes that newcomers will embrace the challenge, enjoy the process, and ultimately experience the gift that music is.

Barb Morrison’s story is one of a deep commitment to our choral community. As we embark on another semester, we hope her journey inspires you to take that first step—whether it’s joining us as a new member or simply reconnecting with the joy of singing. After all, as Barb reminds us, music has the power to touch lives in ways we may never fully realize.

Let’s make music together—For the Joy of Singing!



Musical Development Benefits

Skill Enhancement

Joining a chorus provides the opportunity to learn new vocal techniques, improve sight-reading abilities, and expand musical repertoire under the guidance of a conductor.

Artistic Expression

Choral singing allows individuals to contribute to the creation of beautiful music experiencing the joy of harmonizing with others to produce a unified sound.

Cultural Exploration

Community choruses often perform music from diverse cultures, providing exposure to different musical traditions and perspectives.

Joining a community chorus is not just about singing; it's a holistic experience that offers significant social, emotional, and musical benefits, making it a worthwhile pursuit for individuals seeking to enrich their lives through music and community engagement.

Join Us Today!



Special Thanks to the Harmony Herald Team

Publicity Coordinator
Newsletter Editor
Contributing Writer

Roxanne Cramer
Selena Delgado
Carol Kandl



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

SAVE THE DATE

**TUESDAY
JAN 21**

**Registration for the
Spring 2025 Semester
starts at 6:30 PM**