



History of the Alamance Chorale



Alamance Chorale began in 1974 when a group of area singers were brought together to present quality sacred and secular music to the community. Elizabeth Wood, music director for the Bethany Presbyterian Church, was the founder and first director. The next year, under the direction of Dr. Walter Westafer of Elon College, the first officers were elected, by-laws established, and the name was changed from *The Alamance Choral Society* to The Alamance Chorale. Since its inception, the Chorale has grown in number and in community recognition. The group is performing its 50th consecutive season this year.

While many area residents make the Alamance Chorale Christmas Concert part of their holiday traditions, the Chorale has also staged more than 40 Dinner Shows over the years. The Dinner Shows were started by Artistic Director Dale Caldwell in 1983 as a fundraiser and Dinner Show programs have featured Broadway, pop, jazz, gospel, Disney tunes, and patriotic music. Spring concerts have featured cantatas, masses, folk music, and performances devoted to the works of individual composers or composing teams.

In 1982, more than 40 Chorale singers made the trip to the World's Fair in Knoxville, Tennessee performing patriotic music and folk songs. In addition, members of the Chorale have performed at Duke Chapel in Durham, Meymandi Hall and the North Carolina Senate Chamber in Raleigh, and with other choirs in concerts at Lincoln Center (2015), Carnegie Hall (2018) and Southwark Cathedral, London (2023).

Alamance Chorale is going strong at 50 and ready for 50 more years of making and sharing music with the Alamance County community.

Directors	Years
Elizabeth Wood	1974–1975
Walter Westafer	1975–1978
Dale Caldwell	1978–1984
Jeannette Hassell	1984–1985
Stephen TenEyck	1985–1986
Sam Doyle	1986–1992
Jonathan Green	1992–1994
Randy Brittain	1994–1995
Timothy Hill	1995–1997
Ronnie Jones	1997–1998
Michael Parker	1998–2003
George Black	2003–2008
Daniel Privette	2008–2017
Arleen Wideman	2017–present

Accompanists	Years
Barbara Bennett Byrd	1979, 1984–1986, 1991–1994
Carol Link	1987–1989
Benita McFarland	1990
Cathy West	1990
Gay Trotter	1994–2002
Haidee Dollak	2002
Nancy McMillan	2003–present



This is why we Sing!

Presented by

Alamance Chorale

CELEBRATING 50 YEARS
1974 – 2024

50th Anniversary Program

May 21, 2024 at 7:30 pm

St. Mark's Community Church, 1230 St. Marks Church Rd, Burlington, NC 27215

Featuring Guest Artists:

- The Burlington Boys Choir directed by Bill Allred
 - Linda Cykert, flute
 - Karl Ronnevik, cello
- Erin Studstill Lopp and Jim Brandt, percussion
- Alumni Singers, Directors, and Accompanists are invited to join us for selected pieces



ALAMANCE ARTS



North Carolina Arts Council



About Alamance Chorale

Organized in 1974, Alamance Chorale celebrates its 50th season of singing and fellowship this year. The Chorale specializes in sacred and classical music, but its repertoire includes selections from Broadway musicals and popular composers. Membership is open to anyone who enjoys singing choral music. No auditions are required.

The Chorale’s artistic director is Arleen Widerman, a Burlington native who has been involved in the musical life of the community for most of her life. She received her bachelor’s degree in Music Education from Elon College (now Elon University) and her master’s in Vocal Pedagogy and Music Education from UNC-G. She retired in 2017 from the Alamance Burlington School System after working for more than 30 years, mostly in Elementary music education. She served many years as Minister of Music at First Reformed United Church of Christ. She began directing Alamance Chorale in the fall of 2017.

The Chorale’s accompanist is Nancy McMillan. She is a native of Mebane and received her Bachelor of Music degree in piano from UNC-G. From 1993 to 2005 she was an accompanist for voice students at Elon University. In 2023, she retired from 45 years of teaching piano. She is currently pianist at Grove Park Baptist Church and began accompanying the Chorale in September of 2003.

About Burlington Boys Choir

The Burlington Boys Choir was founded in 1959 by Miss Eva Wiseman. During their 64-year history, hundreds of boys have been educated in great sacred and classical music, and in etiquette and discipline. The choristers range in age from eight to eighteen years old and are drawn from the private and public schools in the Burlington area. The choir has traveled extensively both at home and abroad including numerous trips to Europe and four invitations to the White House.

Dr. William Allred, Director of The Burlington Boys Choir, holds a Doctorate of Musical Arts in Choral music from UNC-G and a Master’s Degree in Orchestral Conducting from the North Carolina School of the Arts. As part of his assistantship at NCSA, he served as Assistant Director of the Winston-Salem Youth Symphony from 1995-1996. Mr. Allred also holds a Bachelor’s Degree from Westminster Choir College, Princeton, New Jersey where he studied organ, church music, choral conducting, and sang with the Princeton Singers. Under his direction the Boys Choir has sung at the White House and made several appearances with the Greensboro Symphony, Winston-Salem Piedmont Triad Symphony, and the EMF Orchestra.

Woodson E. Faulkner, II has served as Accompanist, Assistant Director, and Vocal Coach for the Burlington Boys Choir since 1999, touring with the Choir to New York, Atlanta, Williamsburg, Toronto, Mexico and Vienna. He is currently Choir Director/Organist at First Christian United Church of Christ, Greensboro. Mr. Faulkner is a graduate of Greensboro College with a Bachelor of Music degree. He also attended UNC-G for post-graduate study in choral conducting, voice training and music education.



Become a Supporter of Alamance Chorale

Consider becoming a supporter of Alamance Chorale by making a donation which will be used to offset the costs associated with our performances. Funding for the Chorale is entirely dependent on participant dues and donations from our supporters.

You may choose to be listed as an Anonymous Donor or honor someone with a donation in their name or in their memory. A list of donors will be included in the programs at each concert. We appreciate your continued support as we strive to enrich our community with quality musical presentations.



Giving Level	Giving Amount	Benefits
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Complete the information below and enclose it with a check made out to “**Alamance Chorale**” and mail to **Treasurer c/o Alamance Chorale, PO Box 2571, Burlington, NC 27216-2571**. Online donations can be made on the Chorale website at **www.alamancechorale.org**.

Donation Amount \$ _____

Name (as it will appear in the program) _____

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The Curious Peddler



Alamance Chorale

Musical Director: Arleen Widerman **Accompanist:** Nancy McMillan

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The Alamance Chorale wishes to acknowledge and thank
 Front Street United Methodist Church for providing
 rehearsal space to us for many years and St. Mark's
 Community Church for hosting our performance.

Program designed by Becky Hunter





This is why we Sing!

Alamance Chorale 50th Anniversary Concert

May 21, 2024 at 7:30 pm

Welcome Cathy Johnson, Alamance Chorale President
The Star-Spangled Banner (Please stand) Francis Scott Key / John Stafford Smith
The Call of Music Joseph Martin
Recognition of Past Directors, Accompanists and Alumni Sheila Gibson
I Will Joyfully Sing Alamance Chorale joined by Alumni Mary McDonald
God Gives the Song with cello Craig Courtney
And So I Sing Treble Voices with flute Christy Jones
It Don't Mean a Thing If It Ain't Got That Sing, Sing, Sing with percussion Duke Ellington / arr. Tom Anderson
How Can I Keep From Singing Tenor and Bass Voices arr. Stephen Caracciolo
All Creatures of Our God and King with Flute and Cello interlude replacing v. 4 arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams
The Audience is invited to stand and sing! Please see the hymn on page 7.
For the Beauty of the Earth Alamance Chorale is joined by Burlington Boys Choir John Rutter
The Singing Burlington Boys Choir Woodson Faulkner
Singing, Bring Me with percussion Ryan Main
Fill the World with Music David Waggoner
Recognition of Dearly Departed – Mark Thomas (A Moment of Silence)
Sing You Home Murphy & Ennis, arr. Forrest & Hillman
The Power of a Song (Feel free to join in singing the Refrain) Roslyn Sieh
Final Comments Arleen Widerman
Why We Sing with All Performers Greg Gilpin

Guest Instrumentalists

Linda Cykert – Flute Karl Ronnevik – Cello
Erin Studstill Lopp and James Brandt – Percussion

RECEPTION TO FOLLOW IN THE ATRIUM



Patrons (Donations of \$100–\$199)

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	Doris White
	Jenni Zima—in loving memory of Pastor Bill Zima



Thank You To Our Supporters!

The Chorale appreciates the support and generosity of all its donors for the 2023–24 season.

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the Chorale's 50th anniversary
and our friends who
love to sing



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of Julie Walker
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Lyrics and Music Notes

The Call of Music..... Joseph Martin

Answer the call of music!
Singers, arise and sing. Let every valley ring. Set free your
joyous Alleluias!
I will rejoice with wonderful music. Lift up my voice and
celebrate life.
Make joyful noise with glorious singing, I will sing
jubilant songs with all of my heart.
I will rejoice with wonderful music. I will rejoice with
timbrel and dance.
I will rise up with singing, my music ringing,
bringing my praise.
Joining all of creation, with celebration, all of my days.
On this day of celebration let our voices soar above.
Singing healing to the nations with a song of love.
Answer the call to sing a new song! Rejoice! Alleluia!
Answer the call of music!

I Will Joyfully Sing.....Mary McDonald

I will joyfully sing in the morning;
I will joyfully sing all the day;
I'll sing praises to Thee in the morning,
for the Lord is the strength of my day.
I will lift up my eyes in the morning,
for the Lord will not turn me away;
I'll sing praises to Thee in the morning,
for the Lord is the strength of my day.

God Gives the Song..... Susan Bentall Boersma

When time sweeps yesterday away,
it leaves behind an empty heart,
Weeping through the night so dark and long.
When words are lost among the tears,
when sadness steals another day,
God hears our cries and turns our sighs into a song.
Sing to the One who mends our broken hearts with music.
Sing to the One who fills our empty hearts with love.
Sing to the One who gives us light to step into the darkest night.
Sing to the God who turns our sighs into a song.
From heaven falls a mercy sweet,
the time for weeping now is gone;
God hears our sighs and gives us His eternal song.

And So I Sing..... James Weldon Johnson

Sometimes the mist overhangs my path,
and blackening clouds about me cling,
But oh, I have a magic way to turn the gloom
into a cheerful day. I softly sing.
And if the way grows darker still,
shadowed by sorrow's somber wing,
With glad defiance in my throat,
I pierce the darkness with a single note. And so I sing!
I brood not o'er the broken past,
nor dread whatever time may bring.
No nights are dark, no days are long,
while in my heart there swells a song. And I can sing!

How Can I Keep From Singing? 19th-century Revival Hymn

My life flows on in endless song; above earth's lamentation,
I hear the clear, though far-off hymn that hails a new creation.
Through all the tumult and the strife, I hear the music ringing.
It sounds an echo in my soul. How can I keep from singing?
While though the tempest loudly roars, I hear the truth, it liveth.
And though the darkness 'round me close, songs in the night
it giveth.
No storm can shake my inmost calm, while to that rock I'm
clinging.
Since love is Lord of heaven and earth,
how can I keep from singing?

For the Beauty of the Earth..... F.S.Pierpoint

For the beauty of the earth, for the beauty of the skies,
For the love which from our birth over and around us lies:
Lord of all, to Thee we raise this our joyful hymn of praise.
For the beauty of each hour of the day and of the night,
Hill and vale and tree and flower,
sun and moon and stars of light:
Lord of all, to Thee we raise this our joyful hymn of praise.
For the joy of human love, brother, sister, parent, child,
Friends on earth and friends above,
for all gentle thoughts and mild:
Lord of all, to Thee we raise this our joyful hymn of praise.
For each perfect gift of Thine to our world so freely given,
Graces human and divine, flowers of earth and buds of heaven:
Lord of all, to Thee we raise this our joyful hymn of praise.



The Singing Ronald Blythe

This piece was commissioned by The Burlington Boys Choir for their 60th anniversary. It was composed by their accompanist, Woodson Faulkner

The singing.

There was so much singing then, and this was my pleasure too.

We all sang,

The boys in the fields, the chapels were full of singing, always singing.

Here I lie. I have had pleasure enough.

I have had singing.

Singing, Bring Me.....Robert Bode

The lyrics of this song are a plea for Singing to bring all the emotions of life!

Fill the World with Music.....David Waggoner

Just one voice, just one song, singing proud and singing strong.

Through the day and through the night,

echoing through dark and light.

Growing louder, ringing true, beckoning to me and you.

Hear my voice, hear my song, to the world may it belong.

Through the days and through the years,

through my laughter and my tears.

Fill the world with music. Paint the world with sound.

Let it ring from sea to sea, and rise up from the ground.

Fill the world with music, with voices loud and strong.

We'll join together in the song.

Sing You HomeMark Murphy & Maureen Ennis

Too soon to leave this earth. How could all your work be done?

Ash to ash and dust to dust, seems to me you'd just begun.

When grief invades my soul there's comfort in a prayer I find.

Though these candles honor you, they burn for those you left behind.

Know that you will live on the lips of those who knew

What it was you had to give, and what it was they learned from you.

This is our prayer for you: Maybe someday we will know

If it helped your journey home or if it helped me let you go.

We're born unto this earth, generations one by one.

Ash to ash and dust to dust. There is nothing left undone.

I'll sing for you because I need to. Right now this is all I know.

I'll sing so we will not forget you. I will sing you home,

I will sing you home.

The Power of a Song Roslyn K. Sieh

REFRAIN: *I believe, I believe in music.*

It crosses every border, breaks down every wall.

I believe, I believe in music. I believe in the power of a song.

I may not know you; I may not know your name.

The language we speak may not be the same.

But the music can bring us together as one.

I believe in the power of a song. REFRAIN

*Life can be hard and full of uncertainties, each day come,
new trouble we may see.*

We need the music to heal our wounded souls.

I believe in the power of a song. REFRAIN

*Where would we be without a melody to lift us up when
the road is hard?*

To bring us together, join our hearts as one.

I believe in the power of a song. REFRAIN



Why We Sing.....Greg Gilpin

*A sound of hope, a sound of peace, a sound that celebrates
and speaks what we believe.*

*A sound of love, a sound so strong. It's amazing what is given
when we share a song.*

REFRAIN: *This is why we sing, why we lift our voice,
why we stand as one in harmony.*

This is why we sing, why we lift our voice.

Take my hand and sing with me.

*Soothe a soul, mend a heart, bring together lives that have
been torn apart.*

*Share the joy, find a friend. It's a never-ending gift that circles
back again. REFRAIN*

*Music builds a bridge. It can tear down a wall. Music is a
language that can speak to one and all! REFRAIN*

All Creatures of Our God and King

Text: St. Francis of Assisi (1182-1226);

tr. William H. Draper (1855-1933), alt.

Tune: Geistliche Kirchengesänge, Cologne, 1623

arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)



LM Alleluias

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

www.hymnary.org/text/all_creatures_of_our_god_and_king

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