

THE VALLEY VOICE

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Officers:

- President: Vickie Long
- Vice President: Fred Moyer
- Secretary: Jane Forry
- Treasurer: Lindee Fitting

Board of Directors:

- Elaine Vanluvance
- Yvonne Caputo
- LuJean Griffin-Young
- Peter Moyer
- Alexis Cuff
- Joan Russell
- Donna Taggart
- Matt Renz
- Molly Faust
- Bruce Markley

Staff:

- GM: Darcy McConahy
- Stage Manager: *open*
- Webmaster: Lew Phillips

35TH SEASON CONCLUDES WITH WORDS OF SOUL

Words have power which possess a palpable vitality in our lives and create the fabric of our being. In the conclusion of their 35th season, the Valley Choral Society will explore what shapes our existence; from beyond, from around us, and most importantly, from within us. All communication fuels a passion that starts with a song of inner strength, grows to a poem of communal inspiration, and ends with a higher calling of a deity, our God.

Valley Choral Society will present *Words of Soul* on Saturday May 18th at 7PM at St. John's Lutheran Church Spinnerstown. A second performance will be offered on Sunday May 19th at 4PM at Trinity Lutheran Church, Perkasie. A free-will offering



Valley Choral Society presents *Words of Soul* on May 18th & 19th

will be received. For more information, visit us online at

www.valchor.com or follow us on social media.

WELCOME ASSISTANT DIRECTOR MARY BETH PENJUKE!

Mary Beth Penjuka holds a Masters degree in Education from Cabrini University, a Bachelors degree in Music Education from Lebanon Valley College, and a Level 1 Orff Teaching certificate from the University of the Arts. She is a music teacher for the Pennridge Area School District where the music staff has been recognized as a "best community for music education" for three consecutive years by NAMM, a national music organization. Since 2008, she has taught instrumental, vocal, and general music classes to students in grades K-8 at

various elementary and middle schools in the district. In addition to her teaching duties, she has directed the elementary honors band, initiated a summer band program, and is a 2018 recipient of a Pennridge Community Education Foundation grant. Penjuka is a member of the Dutch Country Players (DCP) in Montgomery County where she was last seen as Joy, the lead in the regional premiere of Sean Grennan's "The Tin Woman." Other prominent roles include Janet McKenzie in "Witness for the Prosecution" and Joan Daly in

"The Snowball." At DCP she has served as an assistant director and a vocal coach for various Family Theatre productions including "The Lion, The Witch and the Wardrobe" and "The Best Christmas Pageant Ever." For the last three summers, she has served as a co-director for Camp Bravo at the Doylestown Conservatory of Music, directing, choreographing and staging "Aladdin Jr", "Suessical the Musical Jr" and "Broadway Now." Mary Beth lives in Telford with husband Tim Wolfe and their two year old twin boys.

FROM THE PRESIDENT’S DESK...

Here we are in 2019 and Valley Choral is in the middle of our 35th season – what a wonderful community choir and a community of singers! And how pleased we are to be able to continue producing

concerts of excellence and enjoyment for our audiences. We received many wonderful comments regarding our December Winter concerts.

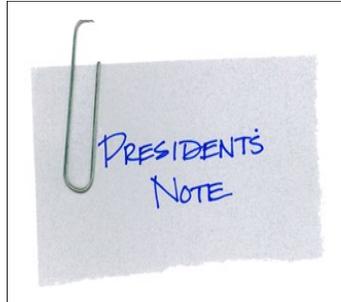
As always, we welcome new singers to join our merry band and hope to have new faces in our group when we present our Spring concerts in May; mark your calendars now for May 18 and 19.

The Board of Directors continues with our mission of bringing music to our communities and are pleased to be able to present our concerts on a freewill offering basis, enabling everyone to come and enjoy. And we thank our advertisers, patrons, our singers and other supporters who have made this possible with their financial support of the Choir again this year.

Until our next communication, I wish you all a harmonious and music-filled 2019!

Vickie

Vickie Long
Board President



AROUND THE COMMUNITY

“The group did not disappoint...”

Members of the Valley Choral Society kicked off the holiday season with its regular appearance at the Skippack Village Tree Lighting. This small group of choir members kicked off the festivities adding their own Christmas Cheer moments before the historic tree lighting. Their evening continued with a line-up of restaurants and frivolity sharing music from the upcoming concert and Christmas carols alike.

a long consistent on the Valley Choral calendar of events. Without fail, the choir took a capacity room on a musical journey of the holiday season excitement to come.



VCS Members sing carols and other pieces in the opening ceremonies

VCS next appeared at their yearly performance at Frederick Mennonite Living, a performance which has been

As a new patron of VCS, the Brick Tavern Inn of Quakertown requested a small ensemble to share carols with diners of the restaurant just over a week before the Christmas holiday. The group did not disappoint with several rounds of carols, immense joy from those listening, and an invitation to return for next year’s holiday celebration.

perform came through the VCS relationship with Living Branches and Dock Woods of Kulpsville. Having performed there twice in the most recent season, the performance is the last of the spring season as the choir looks ahead to their summer break.



Skippack Tree Lighting Carolers

In a scheduled spring appearance, the Valley Choral Society will present their 35th season closing concert “Words of Soul” at Souderton Mennonite Homes. As a first-time visit, the invitation to

BAG & BASKET BINGO FUNDRAISER

Every year, the Valley Choral Society relies heavily on its fundraising efforts to sustain the choir. For those whom have followed the choir for the last several years, you may remember “Kegs n’ Corks” which was the long time event held at the Green Lane Fire Company.

In 2016, VCS headed in a new direction, hosting a cabaret-style night of entertainment at Generations of Indian Valley. The night was a huge success featuring members and friends of the choir in performances throughout the evening in a variety of musical genres.

In 2018, Valley Choral Society expanded on that idea with “Vaudeville” hosted at the Palace Theatre at Proper Brewing Company in Quakertown. As an original Vaudeville theatre of the 1920s, the evening celebrated an expanded role of the members and friends of VCS.

Fast forward to Saturday, March 23, 2019 as VCS once again invites the community to join us for a fun evening in support of the choir; a Basket & Bag Bingo! Benner Hall in Richlandtown is set to host this family-friendly event. Further event



March 23, 2019—Benner Hall—6PM

details and ticket information can be found on www.valchor.com or catch the latest on our Facebook page! Tickets are limited!

NOW TRENDING ON SOCIAL MEDIA, ARE YOU WITH CONNECTED US?

Did you know there are 2.27 billion active users on Facebook? Are you one of the over 800 million users of Instagram? If you are a social media influencer and have not connected with Valley Choral Society, you are missing out on exclusive behind-the-scenes photos and

happenings of VCS. The choir has made a focused energy of posting relevant and engaging content that our followers want to see. We invite you join the conversation and stay connected with the latest from VCS. Like Valley Choral Society on Facebook or follow

us our handle on Instagram @valchorup.



“...winter concert reminiscing and spring concert hopefulness...”

VCS CELEBRATES THE HOLIDAYS

In its fourth year, members of Valley Choral Society gathered at Spinnerstown Hotel, a new location for their annual holiday celebration. A night filled with conversation and laughter, of winter concert reminiscing and spring concert hopefulness, VCS shared in the joys of the season with delicious appetizers from the

Perkiomen Valley restaurant with extraordinary, one-of-a-kind desserts prepared by none other than VCS Treasurer, Lindee Fitting.

A special word of gratitude to Darcy McConahy, VCS General Manager, for her work on organizing and preparing the 2018 holiday gathering.



Happy Holidays from Valley Choral Society!



Valley Choral Society

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We're on the web!
www.valchor.com

Upcoming 2019 Events:

January 8
First Spring Rehearsal

January 10
VCS Holiday Party
Spinnerstown Hotel

March 23 - 6PM
Bag & Basket Bingo
Benner Hall Richlandtown

May 18- 7PM
Words of Soul
St. John's Spinnerstown

May 19- 4PM
Words of Soul
Trinity Lutheran Perkasio

June 19
Make Music Upper Perk

September 3
New Season Begins
First Rehearsal

Connect with us...



ABOUT THE CHOIR

The choir performs music of all styles and genres in at least two major concerts a year in the late fall and in the spring. It has been accompanied by the Choral Arts Society Chamber Orchestra, and in collaborative efforts, by the Upper Perkiomen High School Choirs, the Red Hill Band, and the Bel Canto Children's Chorus. In addition to the full choir, the Ensemble is a select auditioned group of choir members that performs at concerts and is available to sing for various functions upon request.

The choir has performed at Longwood Gardens and the Pennsylvania State Capital Building, as well as for the Reading Express, Lehigh Valley Iron Pigs, and the Philadelphia Phillies. As part of its community outreach, the choir regularly performs at retirement homes throughout the area and at "Make Music Upper Perk."

In the summer of 2007, members of the choir went on a successful goodwill concert tour of Germany, Austria, and the Czech Republic. With renewed enthusiasm and dedication, Valley Choral Society has increased its performances in the Upper Perkiomen community and hopes to expand to surrounding counties and to continue to represent the United States internationally.

Valley Choral Society (formerly The Choral Arts Society of the Upper Perkiomen Valley) was founded by Richard F. Lampe in 1983. Prospective members are asked to sing a range test for placing in the volunteer choir. Ensemble members are asked to audition for the artistic director, singing sight reading examples.

A NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Happy New Year! Most important as we begin our second "semester" is a word of thanks. During this year of transition, we are thankful for your ongoing support and the spike in feedback we are receiving online and in our conversations. This is helpful and encouraging to us as a singing community, and we appreciate insight beyond just our side of the music stand. Personally, I extend deep gratitude to the board of VCS for their honesty, feedback, and support as we learn a new balance of what it is we gather to do. Finally, this is a chance to thank our singers for their time, energy, and willingness as we gather weekly. Especially leading up to our concert and in these early weeks of the spring



Caption describing picture or graphic.

semester, one of the biggest challenges is just getting ourselves to rehearsal while managing the dark, the cold, and sometimes the weather. The respect, understanding, and appreciation they show one another and towards VCS is a true gift, so if you know and/or see any of our singers, please join me in expressing

appreciation! We have more to share with you come May, and I hope you have already marked May 18/19 on your 2019 calendar! After sight-reading through some of our upcoming music, I can tell some faces already realizing the impact this concert will have as we journey through preparing our next concert. Finally, to hold you over until May, join us this March for our fundraiser to further bolster our budgeting and programming for VCS. Thank you to everyone who has the privilege to serve, support, and imagine for VCS! See you soon.

Drew

Andrew Lutz-Long
Artistic Director