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The Alexandria Singers



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**Congratulations to Bill Colosimo on
18 inspiring years of musical
leadership—thank you for the music!**

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Bill Colosimo, Music Director

Bill Colosimo is a passionate and experienced vocal music performer, educator, leadership consultant, coach, clinician, and choral director with over 50 years of active professional engagement in the vocal arts. As only the third Music Director in the 50-year history of The Alexandria Singers, Bill joined the organization's creative leadership team in January of 2007.



Trained at Cranbrook School, Brandeis University, and Georgetown University in vocal music and choral direction, Bill has produced, performed in or directed over 300 vocal music performances and educational workshops all over the East Coast, particularly in the Washington, DC area, including such venues as the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, Constitution Hall, Lisner Auditorium, Philadelphia's Academy of Music, the National Mall, Georgetown and Salisbury Universities, and countless places of worship. He's also conducted performances at major concert venues like Nationals Park, RFK Stadium, Camden Yards, the Patriot Center, Verizon Center and convention centers nationwide. Internationally, he has conducted ensemble performances with tours in Austria, Canada, France, Ireland, Italy, and the Czech Republic.

A sought-after clinician, workshop leader and ensemble coach, Bill's passion for music education and vocal performance for children and teenagers prompted his establishment of the Choral Foundation of Northern Virginia, providing vocal music education and advocacy for young people, in 2005. He is currently the Foundation's Founder and Artistic Director. He is also co-founder of pARTners, an organizational leadership and growth consultancy actively serving arts organizations in North America.

From 1991 to 2017, Bill was Music Director of the award-winning a cappella ensemble, The Singing Capital Chorus. He serves (or has served) on numerous boards and advisory committees dedicated to vocal music activity and other performing arts. He is currently Chair of the Leadership Development Committees for both the Barbershop Harmony Society and BHS's Mid-Atlantic District. He serves on Harmony, Incorporated's President's Advisory Council, as an Affiliate member of Harmony, Inc. Bill has served on the Board of the Mixed Barbershop Harmony Association since 2017, and currently serves as the Association's Treasurer. He also is a member of the board of Acaville, an organization committed to radio, tv, and internet proliferation of a cappella music. Bill and his wife, Linda, are proud Charter Members of Harmony Foundation International's Presidents Council since its establishment in 2004. He previously served on the Alexandria Arts Alliance Board, the Arlington Arts Commission, and the Curriculum Committee for the Diocese of Arlington school system.

Bill taught music for twelve years in the Diocese of Arlington school system. He maintains a private vocal instruction practice, both in person and online. He is a member of Chorus America, ACDA, and numerous other nationwide vocal music organizations. He is a Dean of the Mid-Atlantic District's "Harmony College-East" at McDaniel College and has instructed at BHS's Harmony University. Bill served as President of the Barbershop Harmony Society's Mid-Atlantic District in 2013-14 and was Moderator of the Society's District Presidents Council. He is privileged to have been inducted into the prestigious Mid-Atlantic District Hall of Honor in 2010.

He currently keeps his own singing voice active as a regular soloist and cantor in the area and by serving Saint Luke Catholic Church as a cantor and Festival Choir Section Leader. Bill and his family live in Fredericksburg, Virginia. He can be reached by email at billcatps@aol.com or by phone at 571-213-7376. You can review his most recent activity on Facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/billcolosimo>.



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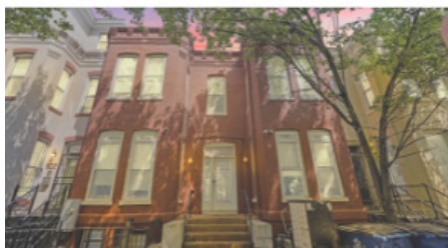
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The Alexandria Singers: A Journey Through Time



1975

Founding of the Alexandria Singers



October 1975

First rehearsal



December 1975

Debut performance under
the Direction of Barry Hemphill



January 1978

We welcomed Roger Oliver



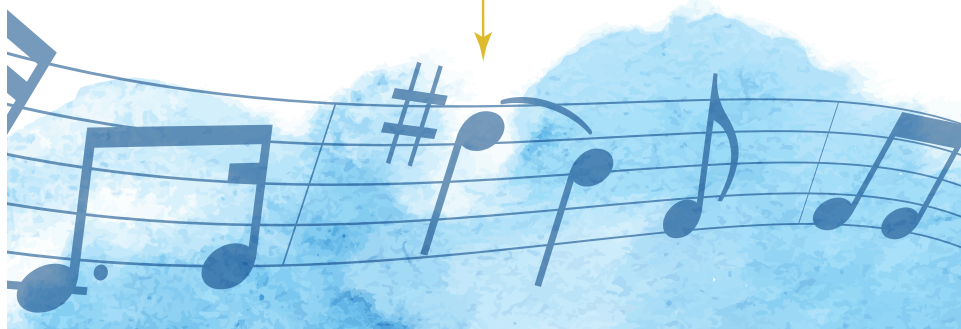
January 2007

We welcomed Bill Colosimo



2025

Over 100 members



Grassroots History

The Alexandria Singers was founded in 1975 by 16 Alexandria residents who dreamed of a chorus distinguishing itself with a pops repertoire, which was then and still is a unique set aside from the many traditional choral organizations in our region. Interim Music Director Nancy Reid was succeeded by Barry Hemphill (1975), then by Roger Oliver (1978 to 2006). Les Cameron became Interim Director in 2006 and Bill Colosimo became Music Director in 2007. The Alexandria Singers have come a long way in their nearly 50 years of performing!

The first rehearsal of the Alexandria Singers was held at the home of one of the sixteen founding members in October 1975. Originally called the Alexandria Community Singers, they shared a love of singing popular music and the desire to combine a concert series with a mobile repertoire for the community. Nancy Reid was hired as temporary conductor.

Their season debut took place under the direction of Barry Hemphill in December 1975 for the senior residents at the Woodbine Nursing Home. They also performed for a general audience at the Alexandria Christmas Tree Lighting. City funding for the Singers followed shortly thereafter.

Mr. Hemphill continued as conductor until January 1978, when Roger Oliver was hired. Nancy Reid returned as accompanist in September 1978. Under the direction of Roger Oliver, the Singers have continued to expand the depth of their musical mission and the scope of their repertoire.

As membership grew, rehearsals were moved to Westminster Presbyterian Church in Alexandria, where they remained for several years before moving to the Lincolnia Senior Center in Alexandria in 1990.

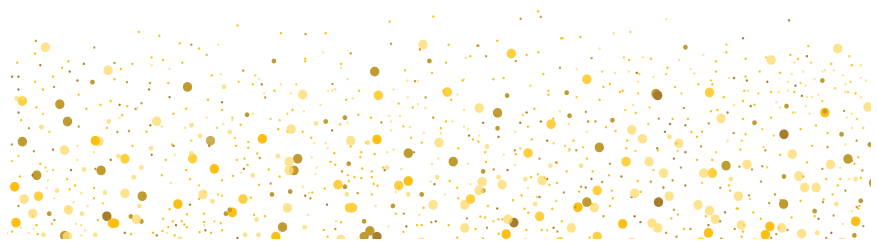
In January of 2007, Bill Colosimo joined the Singer's creative team and today, eighteen years later, the Alexandria Singers comprises over 100 auditioned volunteer voices working towards a mission of Artistry, Education, & Service.



Our Logo Through the Years



The Alexandria Singers





Thank you!

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(Source: The Alexandria Singers concert program, June 2025)

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The Alexandria Singers Present

“Thank You for the Music”

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Leadership	The Alexandria Singers Board
Ensemble Instrumentalists	Brooks Ferrett (Drums)
.	Jean Finstad (Bass)

Special Thanks

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Singers' Corporate Sponsors, Advertisers, & Patrons
Singers' Membership, Families, & Friends
Speakers: Mayor Alyia Gaskins, City of Alexandria;
Arthur Brill; Dave Chase; Catherine Colosimo

Act I

“Thank You for the Music”

Bjorn Ulvaeus and Benny Andersson ; Arr. Jerry Estes

“California Dreamin” (Medley)

Arr. Kirby Shaw

“In His Eyes”

Leslie Bricusse, Frank Wildhorn

Heather Hemphill, Erin Rinker

“Easy On Me”

Adele Adkins, Greg Kurstin; Arr. Mac Huff

“A Million Dreams”

Benj Pasek and Justin Paul; Arr. Mac Huff

“Go the Distance”

Alan Menken, David Zippel

Grace Hart

“Encanto (Choral Highlights)”

Lin-Manuel Miranda; Arr. Roger Emerson

Soloists: Holly Hogan, Stephanie Loden, Amy Louviere

“You’ll Be in My Heart”

Phil Collins; Arr. Mac Huff

“The Song That Goes Like This”

John du Prez, Eric Idle

Missy Frederick, Michael Santos Sandoval

“I’d Like to Teach the World to Sing”

Bill Backer, Roquel Davis, Roger Cook, Roger Greenway;

Arr. Mark Hayes

“The Temptations (Songs from AIN’T TOO PROUD)”

Arr. Mark Brymer

INTERMISSION

Act II

“Wicked (Choral Highlights)”

Stephen Schwartz; Arr. Mark Brymer

“(Where Do I Begin?) Love Story”

Francis Lai, Carl Sigman

Ham Suffety

“What Was I Made For?”

Billie Eilish O’Connell, Finneas O’Connell;

Arr. Jennifer Lucy Cook

“Actor, Singer, Dancer”

Adam Overett

Paul Caffrey, Jessica Jellish, Brittany Momeni

“Nothing Else Matters”

(Metallica) J. Hetfield, L. Ulrich; Arr. P.v. Lonkhuijsen

“With a Song in My Heart”

Richard Rodgers, Lorenz Hart

Ilana Kowarski

“Do You Hear The People Sing”

Claude-Michel Schonberg, Alain Boublil, Jean-Marc Natel,

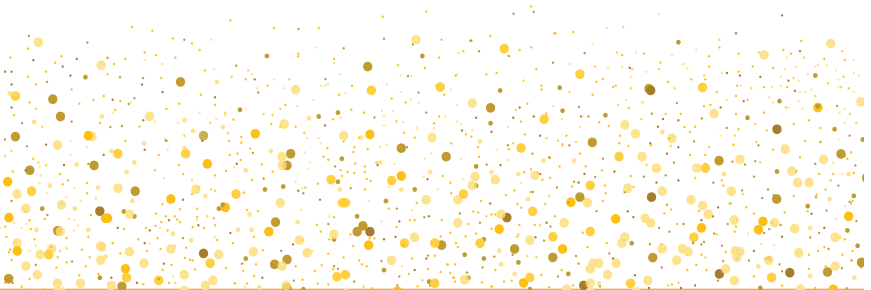
Herbert Kretzmer; Arr. Ed Lojeski

“SING, SING, SING”

Louis Prima; Arr. Philip Kern

“Why We Sing”

Greg Gilpin






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*indicates serving on our Board of Directors

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Badger, Cindy - - - - -	<i>Soprano</i>	Donaghy, Cassidy - - - -	<i>Soprano</i>
Berry, Lara - - - - -	<i>Soprano</i>	Downey, Janie - - - - -	<i>Alto</i>
Berstis, Hilary - - - - -	<i>Alto</i>	Dunne, Matt - - - - -	<i>Tenor</i>
Boate, Ruth - - - - -	<i>Soprano</i>	Eckert, Daniela - - - - -	<i>Soprano</i>
Brill, Art - - - - -	<i>Bass</i>	Frederick, Missy - - - -	<i>Alto</i>
Brown, Sarah * - - - - -	<i>Soprano</i>	Ganel, Orri- - - - -	<i>Bass</i>
Brymer, Pam - - - - -	<i>Soprano</i>	Gelabert, Gloria * - - - -	<i>Tenor</i>
Burdick, Laura - - - - -	<i>Alto</i>	Ghazarian, Taleen - - - -	<i>Soprano</i>
Caffrey, Paul - - - - -	<i>Bass</i>	Gold, Taryn - - - - -	<i>Tenor</i>
Capella, Joan - - - - -	<i>Soprano</i>	Golding, Madeline - - - -	<i>Soprano</i>
Caputo, Deanna - - - - -	<i>Soprano</i>	Greenberg, Eileen - - - -	<i>Alto</i>
Carroll, Valerie * - - - - -	<i>Alto</i>	Gregory, Debbie - - - - -	<i>Alto</i>
Carter, April - - - - -	<i>Alto</i>	Gullotta, Elaine - - - - -	<i>Soprano</i>
Castellucci, Patrick - - - -	<i>Bass</i>	Haman, Lauren * - - - - -	<i>Tenor</i>
Chapin, John - - - - -	<i>Bass</i>	Hamon, Elissa - - - - -	<i>Alto</i>
Chase, Dave * - - - - -	<i>Bass</i>	Hart, Grace - - - - -	<i>Soprano</i>
Cherniak, Hanja - - - - -	<i>Alto</i>	Hatcher, Tatiana - - - - -	<i>Alto</i>
Choi, Jessica - - - - -	<i>Alto</i>	Hemphill, Heather - - - -	<i>Alto</i>
Cohen, Wendy - - - - -	<i>Alto</i>	Hicks, Katie Beth * - - - -	<i>Soprano</i>
Coley, Kadira - - - - -	<i>Soprano</i>	Hogan, Holly - - - - -	<i>Alto</i>
Collier, Julie - - - - -	<i>Alto</i>	Howell, Marla * - - - - -	<i>Soprano</i>
Colosimo, Catherine * - - - -	<i>Alto</i>	Huck, Eileen * - - - - -	<i>Soprano</i>
Cooney, Maureen - - - -	<i>Soprano</i>	Hurwitz, Suzy - - - - -	<i>Soprano</i>
Cooper, Juli - - - - -	<i>Soprano</i>	Ivey, Loren - - - - -	<i>Soprano</i>
Cuibano, Simone - - - - -	<i>Soprano</i>	Jacobs, Jan - - - - -	<i>Alto</i>
D'Alois, Lydia * - - - - -	<i>Alto</i>	Jellish, Jessica - - - - -	<i>Soprano</i>

Jordan, Douglas- - - - - <i>Bass</i>	Platt, Lee * - - - - - <i>Alto</i>
Jovin-Bernstein, Jen * - - <i>Soprano</i>	Priestman, Sarah - - - - <i>Alto</i>
Joyner, Eileen - - - - - <i>Alto</i>	Ramsey, Rona * - - - - - <i>Soprano</i>
Klein, Roberta- - - - - <i>Soprano</i>	Redifer, Laure - - - - - <i>Alto</i>
Korin, Patti- - - - - <i>Soprano</i>	Rhodes, Joanna - - - - - <i>Soprano</i>
Korona, MaryAnn - - - - <i>Alto</i>	Rinker, Erin-Caitlin * - <i>Alto</i>
Kowarski, Ilana - - - - - <i>Soprano</i>	Rosato, Dasha - - - - - <i>Soprano</i>
Latussek, Elizabeth - - - <i>Soprano</i>	Salem, Nour - - - - - <i>Soprano</i>
Leersnyder, Deanna - - - <i>Soprano</i>	Sandoval, Michael - - - - <i>Tenor</i>
Leis, Eric - - - - - <i>Tenor</i>	Schmehl, Allison - - - - <i>Soprano</i>
Lewis, Terry - - - - - <i>Bass</i>	Sconiers, Sonya - - - - - <i>Soprano</i>
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Lloyd, Rebecca - - - - - <i>Soprano</i>	Smith, Diane - - - - - <i>Soprano</i>
Loden, Stephanie- - - - - <i>Alto</i>	Snyder, Danielle - - - - - <i>Alto</i>
Louviere, Amy- - - - - <i>Alto</i>	Spivey, Elena- - - - - <i>Soprano</i>
Macri, Christopher * - - <i>Bass</i>	St. Cyr, Bari - - - - - <i>Tenor</i>
Mallampalli, Durga - - - <i>Soprano</i>	Suffety, Hamed - - - - - <i>Bass</i>
Maloney, Denise - - - - - <i>Alto</i>	Sweeney, Ron - - - - - <i>Tenor</i>
Marcum, Gregory - - - - <i>Bass</i>	Thakur, Anu - - - - - <i>Alto</i>
McClure, Peggy- - - - - <i>Alto</i>	Traub, Julia- - - - - <i>Alto</i>
McVey Pasakarnis, Danielle *	Unigovskaya, Anna - - - <i>Alto</i>
- - - - - <i>Soprano</i>	Vadera, Jules - - - - - <i>Alto</i>
Miller, Jim - - - - - <i>Tenor</i>	Voegtlin, Betsy - - - - - <i>Alto</i>
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Panaro, Susan - - - - - <i>Alto</i>	Wintermeyer, Michael - <i>Bass</i>
Paulding, Margit - - - - - <i>Alto</i>	Wooster, Dana * - - - - - <i>Alto</i>
Phillips, Dan * - - - - - <i>Bass</i>	Wright, Susan * - - - - - <i>Alto</i>



When the Singers were in Salzburg participating in the Sound of Music Festival in 2015, we came across a bridge over the Charles River that had personalized padlocks locked to it. Chris Cunningham got a Singers Blue padlock engraved with the group's name and clipped it to the bridge as proof that "now that we're in here, you'll know we've been here"!



Where We've Been

1993—Russia and Estonia (Moscow and Saint Petersburg)

Our First International Trip! Fifty Singers, spouses, and friends went on a Goodwill tour bringing medical supplies to selected children's hospitals and performing our repertoire. The musical highlight was a full performance of the June 1993 Show before a live audience on Russia's #1 TV station that went nationwide. The concert was taped & shown several times to the entire country. Roger Oliver led the group at that time!

2015—Salzburg, Austria

This Singer's trip was designed to help commemorate the 50th anniversary of the filming of The Sound of Music and those who went will long remember singing Climb Every Mountain a capella on Untersberg mountain in a driving wind, rain, snow and fog. Thankfully, we did have a pitch pipe. Another musical highlight from this trip was performing a joint concert of Rogers & Hammerstein music with 151 voices from several American groups in the famed Mozarteum in Salzburg. Billed as The Sound of Music 50th Anniversary Festival, the famed venue was jammed. The other groups hailed from San Diego, Phoenix, Eugene, OR. Parker CO and Ridgefield, CT. Under the helm of Bill Colosimo, only the Alexandria Singers performed without music.

2018—Ireland

The Singers, under Bill Colosimo, enjoyed a joyous concert tour of Ireland. We saw much of the country first arriving in Cork, spending an overnight in Waterford, and performing in Killarney, the Kilkenny area and the Dublin suburbs.

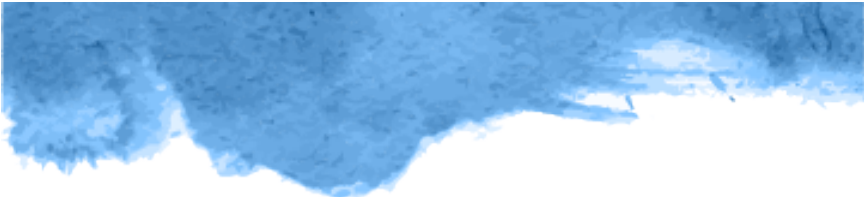
2024—Prague and Vienna

Though COVID forced the Singers to cancel a planned trip to Spain, in 2024 the group under Bill Colosimo, took a concert tour of Prague and Vienna. The lone concert in Prague was filled almost to capacity with a warm and enthusiastic audience. The final of two concerts in Vienna took place at MuTh, the home of the famed The Vienna Boys Choir. The acoustics will be long remembered.

Linda Hemphill

I was born into the Singers! Literally! My Mom, Linda Hemphill was pregnant with me while she was president of the group in 1979. In fact, my joining the group was inevitable as my Dad, Barry Hemphill, was the first musical conductor. I don't remember much from when I was a baby, obviously, but I know I was at the Saturday rehearsals at Westminster Presbyterian Church and Mom would set up my crib in the kitchen adjacent to the rehearsal room. When I got older, I remember having my activities bag to keep myself occupied. And then I remember learning the music and choreo right along with everyone and performing it from the audience. I just had to be where Mom could see me. When the shows were at Minnie Howard, TC Williams or Fort Ward Park, I was on the floor in the front. I even remember (vaguely) learning the sign language to a Whitney Houston song! I even used to do the raffle drawings at intermission! Anything to keep me busy.





One of the highlights of my childhood is from the 1989 June Show. Mom and I auditioned as a specialty act for Uncle Roger with “It’s So Easy” from Pete’s Dragon. We made it! A while ago, we had the recording converted electronically and it’s a treasured memory! Once I could reach a keyboard, I became the official page turner. It was often my favorite seat in the house! After I graduated college, I joined officially and made so many friends! I have many treasured memories from concerts, to playing the flute for many concerts, to the unforgettable Austria trip, to turning pages for Aunt Nancy, Lisa, or Mom (among others). I know that the Alexandria Singers have truly shaped my entire being.

—*Lindsay Hemphill*



Fam Jam

When I joined the Alexandria Singers, I never imagined that several years after I had to quit for school my parents would follow in my footsteps and become members themselves! It has been so amazing watching them flourish musically and socially in the same group that had always supported my musical and personal growth.

—*Lewis Family*



Our April 1999 wedding. Nancy Reid was our beautiful accompanist, and Roger Oliver conducted the Alexandria Singers in “Feels Like Home.” We couldn’t have had our wedding any other way!

—*Staci Vincent*





Singing with the Alexandria Singers became a family affair for us. Mom, Dad, and daughter all singing together. It was great fun, but even more it created a deep bond between us that I will be forever grateful for. I loved being an Alexandria Singer!

—*Jackson Family*





A rap song "Thank you" we sang in 1997 or so. One of those songs we didn't think we could do and eventually loved it! Spread our singing wings!
—Julie Collier



"People won't remember the words you sang, they will remember how you made them feel."
—Jessica Choi



1988

Staci Adelman Vincent

Art Brill Jr

1989

Marla Howell

1994

Tina (Carnathan) D'Souza

Julie Collier

Joan Marie Capella

1996

Jessica Choi

2000

Valerie Carroll

Bari St.Cyr

2001

Elaine M Gullotta

2004

Deanna D Caputo

2005

MaryAnn Korona

Jim Miller

Catherine Colosimo

2007

Susan Wright

2008

Danielle McVey Pasakarnis

2010

Dr. Sonya M. Sconiers

Gloria Gelabert

2011

Lee Platt

Rona Ramsey

2013

Eileen Greenberg

Jessica Jellish

Beth Warfield

Ed Walker

2014

Debbie Gregory

Doug Jordan

Michael Santos Sandoval

Dave Chase

Taleen Ghazarian

2015

2016

Betsy Voegtlin
Sarah Priestman
Stephanie Loden
Eileen Huck
Carol Ames

2017

Diane Smith
Suzy Hurwitz

2018

2019

Amy Louviere

Hamed Suffety III
Anonymous Singer

2020

2021

Christopher Macri
Joanne Rhodes

2022

2023

Heather Hemphill
Laura Burdick
Tatiana
Sarah Brown
Dan Phillips

2024

2025

Holly Hogan
Lisa Littman
Elissa Hamon
Katie Sikorski
Eileen Joyner
Dana Wooster
Anna Unigovskaya
Juliann Vadera
George E. Willis
Jan Jacobs
Susan Panaro
Roberta S. Klein
Lauren Haman
Michael Littman

Erin-Caitlin Rinker
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*Note: The quotes, pictures, notes on favorite songs & memories, and the snapshot of membership years in this program are based on voluntary survey responses and may not capture every Singer. Our gratitude extends to all who've shared their voices with us over the decades!

Keys to Harmony

My life with the ‘Singer’s’ has spanned quite a few years. In 1975, I was accompanist for the Alexandria Choral Society, with conductor, Frank A’rujo. With the Choral Society performing mostly classical and serious music, a small group of members ask my opinion about forming a show choir with a much more diversified repertoire; top 40’s, music from Broadway shows, and just overall pop style music. I liked the idea. Having accompanied all styles of music from the classics to Broadway and loving it all, this got to me!! So, I helped them get started by directing mostly from the piano until I needed to return to my other accompanying job with a choral group that met in MD. They got Barry Hemphill to direct and had several accompanists during that time. In 1978 they found themselves looking for a new conductor and found the amazingly, talented Roger Oliver. He needed an accompanist and my name came up. Well, needless to say, I was getting tired of traveling to MD and when he called me and ask if he could audition me, I jumped at the chance. My audition took place in the Lounge of the Marriot Hotel where I had a 2 week stint playing for a vocal trio. I was thrilled that he hired me on the spot and the rest is history.



The 22 years serving as the ‘Singer’s’ accompanist, and working with Roger, Les Cameron, assistant director, and our beloved and missed Linda Hemphill has been a great highlight in my life. Not many accompanists can boast the large “Family” that has enriched my life all these years.

What an honor to be here for the 50th Anniversary celebration. The only one that is not with me is my loving husband Bill who was my right arm and supporter in all things music for 62 years. I quote one of his favorite sayings: “Music is love in search of expression.” It truly is and the ‘Singer’s’ have it!!

With love and continued success.

—*Nancy Reid*

36 Years and Counting

The Alexandria Singers is the ultimate test for Alzheimer's. Mastering 30 songs and hundreds of dance moves in ten months says something about cognitive skills.



This is my 36th year with the Singers. We vets have it easy compared to our new Singers. Unlike the “newbies,” we know half the repertoire. The learning part is no picnic. Our new Singers always come through, and frankly, our male sound has never been better. The joy audiences see onstage is real. We have such fun up there! It was that way in 1989 when I joined and it hasn't stopped.

Roger Oliver was in year 12 of his 30 years as director of the Singers. I was the lone auditioner that September evening. In those days, we changed rehearsal venues often. Roger took me into a barely lit closet. He softly talked and patiently heard “Take Me Out to the Ball Game,” my audition number. “Welcome aboard, Marine,” he said. “You're a bass.”

Being a bass has its advantages. We're normally positioned between the sopranos and altos. When we're listening and the women sing, it's like being in heaven. For years, my kid sister, Debbie Brill Murphy, attended every Holiday and June show. We lost her in 2023 to dementia.

On stage, I pick a vacant seat and sing to her. She's always smiling back. Retiring director, Bill Colosimo, always allowed Debbie to attend our dress rehearsals. While many musical groups didn't survive the pandemic, Bill's leadership kept the Singers together. *Semper Fi*, Bill.

Finally, Catherine Cleary Brill was a music teacher in Yonkers, New York. She started all this. Thank you for the music, Grandma!

— *Arthur P. Brill Jr.*

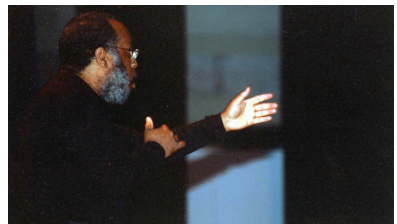


I love the joy of singing with the Alexandria Singers—a diverse, musical family that brings harmony, connection, and artistry to the greater DC community.

—Beth Warfield



Ask Me to Sing!
—Dr. Sonya M. Sconiers



Paint the Town Singers Blue!
—Gloria Gelabert

A Message from the 50th Anniversary Co-Chairs

What a milestone—50 years in perfect harmony! This golden anniversary is a true testament to the tireless efforts of our incredible volunteers, devoted Singers, generous Patrons, and steadfast Sponsors. Your unwavering dedication over the decades has made every note, every performance, every moment possible.

A heartfelt bravo to our Singers—both current and lifelong—our visionary Board, the tireless 50th Anniversary Committee, and our show-stopping Sponsors and Donators who believe in the transformative power of the arts. Your support helps us hit the right notes and keep the music alive.

From the bottom of our hearts (and our diaphragms): thank you. You're the reason we've stayed in tune for 50 wonderful years—and we're just getting warmed up!

—Ms. Jessica Jellish & Ms. Danielle McVey Pasakarnis





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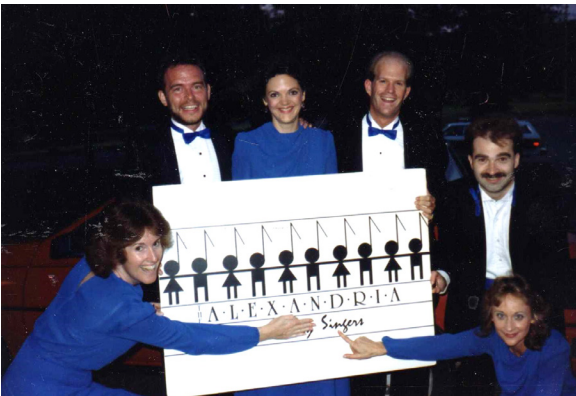
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A Parting Blessing - (an Irish Blessing - that was my Dad's favorite poem and every time I sing it, I can see him smiling)
—Betsy Voegtlin

Why We Sing is like an anthem for us. I ALWAYS get choked up whenever we sing this song.
—George E. Willis



Bill saying "Do something" when it comes to how we emote our musicality.
—Denise Maloney

Julie A. Collier, P.T., CIE, CSCS, PFT

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My first season with the Singers our repertoire included a selection of Disney favorites and I think there was no better way to be introduced to the power of music and community than performing and seeing children singing along and dancing in the aisles at the Masonic Temple.

—Dana Wooster

"Nothing Else Matters" was one of the songs that I suggested for the group to sing and I didn't know how it'd go over. I'm super happy that it's been such a hit! We all sound awesome singing it. It makes me glad to know that I helped contribute this awesome piece to our repertoire.

—Heather Hemphill





Singers have been rocking royal blue for years, and now I've accidentally turned my closet into a backstage pass—apparently, it's my wardrobe's new anthem!

—Jessica Jellish

When the phrase "once a Singer, Always a Singer" was incorporated, I felt it embodied the groups culture perfectly.

—Susan Wright



When I think of the Alexandria Singers, I think of friendship and community. When I joined the Singers, I was looking to find a group that could provide two things: a chance to sing and friends. I have thankfully found both within the organization!

I now have friendships that span multiple continents.

—Cassidy Donaghy



Singer's Blue

—Holly Hogan

I am dating myself, but I heard about the Singers through an ad in the Washington Post - on paper even! I was new to the area and wanted a way to meet people and bring some music back to my life. I have been able to challenge myself musically in a community of people who are way more talented than me. I have seen people come and go, but there is a special something that is a constant, no matter who walks through the door. The old saying "the whole is greater than the sum of its parts" really does apply.

—Marla Howell



I started as a way to find some balance because my military life was so stressed. I returned in 2014 after retiring and trying to recover from PTSD and again in 2023 after healing as a way to celebrate recovering and to express joy.

—Elaine M Gullotta



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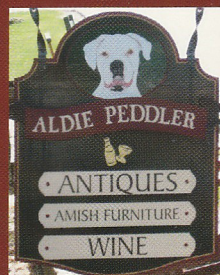
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A Message from the Board

As we celebrate our 50th Anniversary Season, we reflect with gratitude on five decades of Artistry, Education, and Service. Our mission lives through the passionate voices of our volunteer singers—who not only perform but lead, inspire, and serve. Music is our joy, our gift, and our calling. We remain deeply committed to growing as artists, lifting hearts through performance, and enriching our community through outreach and education. Thank you for supporting our journey. Together, we sing not just for today, but for a brighter, more harmonious tomorrow.



Learn more about the Alexandria Singers including auditions and upcoming performance information online at **www.alexandriasingers.com**

50th Anniversary Gala

The Alexandria Singers hit a high note as we celebrated our 50th Anniversary fortissimo at our 50th Anniversary Gala on March 1, 2025, at the stunning Belle Haven Country Club. Guests came dressed to impressario, and the evening was nothing short of a showstopper—complete with delicious food, joyful dancing, stellar singing, and plenty of harmonic celebration!

Thanks to everyone who joined us for this major milestone. Our hearts (and vocal cords) are still singing!





This group helps me to escape for a while, each time we meet. It's something relaxing and joyful. I look forward the the rehearsals!
—Debbie Gregory



I became involved with the Alexandria Singers through Sing for Your Life. I loved the workshop and the people and knew I wanted to be a part of this group.
—Taleen Ghazarian



Being part of Alexandria Singers has given me a community of shining stars
—Jan Jacobs



I've been singing most of life, but this has been the most fun and, maybe surprisingly!, the most I've advanced as a singer.
—Michael Littman



Being in the Singers has not only fulfilled my love of music and joy in singing, but has provided me with an enriching circle of dear friends who are a "family," with shared interests and social activities.
—Valerie Carroll

The Alexandria Singers is the activity, really the home, I go to get away from the stress of life! A few years after I started, I was dating this guy who also liked to sing and asked about coming. He was a tenor and a great singer, which is always hard to find enough of, so I said sure. After a couple of rehearsals it was clear how much Bill wanted him to join and liked having another tenor with such a small male voice section. I remember specifically approaching Bill and telling him that the Singers was my place and if we broke up, he would have to go and not me! Bill said with a wink, absolutely. A couple years after he joined, I married that guy Jason. He sang with us until our son turned about 2 and was too busy to have at rehearsals anymore. Jason and our 2 Singers Babies Gavin and Cora are at every single show since they were born :)

—Deanna D Caputo



I attended the 2023 Holiday Concert, and it was love at first sight! We Music Director Bill Colosimo said that there would be auditions in January 2025 to become a member, I immediately put the dates into my calendar. The group always lifts me up!

—Lydia D'Alois





Thank you!

50th Anniversary Gala Donors

The Alexandria Singers 50th Anniversary Season is the result of the unwavering efforts of our volunteers, Singers, Patrons, and Sponsors.

With special thanks to:

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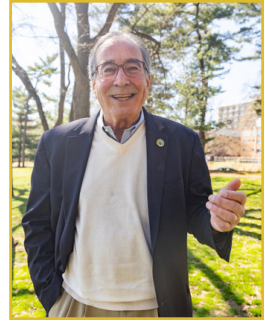
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Many thanks to our Donors, named and unnamed, and the tireless work of our Singers Community including the Auction Committee and Lauren Haman, Auction Chair!

Thank You, Bill!

From the first downbeat in 2007 to the final note in our 50th anniversary season, your passion, humor, and perfect pitch (well, most of the time!) have lifted us higher than any high C. You've turned rehearsals into family gatherings and performances into unforgettable celebrations.



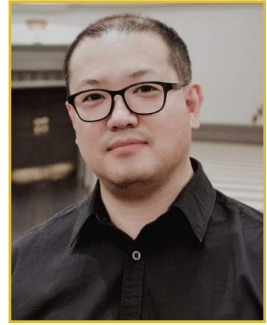
Your tagline, “Do something,” reminded us to step up, sing (with quality), and shine—and under your direction, we did. Thank you for 18 years of harmony, heart, and hilarity.

Wishing you standing ovations in all the chapters yet to come!

With love and gratitude,
The Alexandria Singers

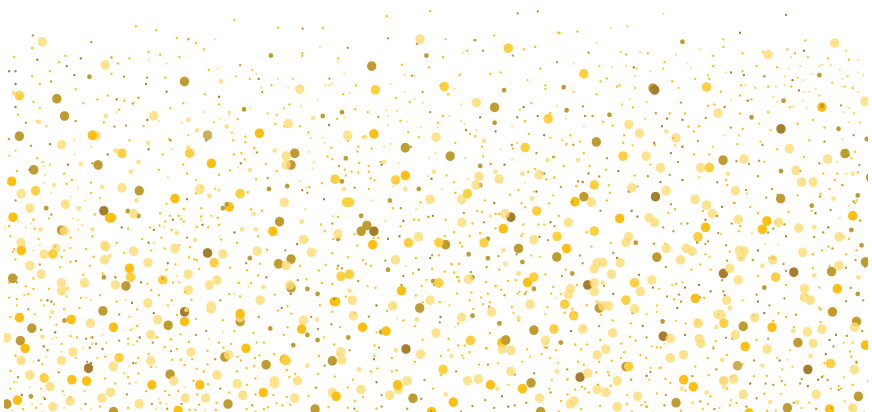


Dr. Janghyo Yoo, Collaborative Pianist

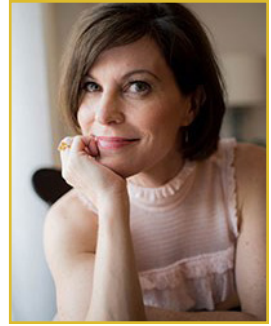


Dr. Janghyo Yoo was born in Suwon, South Korea, and earned a Bachelors of Music from Suwon University and Kookmin University. He studied Piano Performance with Dr. Ivo Kaltchev, earned Masters and Doctoral degrees at The Catholic University of America. He has performed in numerous chamber and solo recitals and his chamber group “Eclat Trio” recently won 1st place in the American Protégé International String Competition. Not only a classical pianist, Dr. Yoo is also an accomplished jazz and rock pianist. Dr. Yoo is an active accompanist throughout the DC area in events such as the Youth Orchestra competition and the Music Theater Workshops.

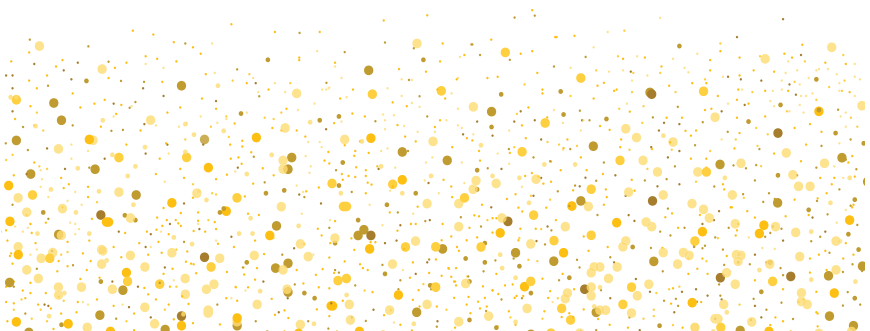
He has been playing for 10 years as a pianist for CUA Music Theater as a rehearsal pianist and comusical assistant director for shows such as Finian’s Rainbow, Drowsy Chaperone, Sweet Charity, Carousel, Most Happy Fella, Pippin, Little Women, City of Angels, and Kiss Me Kate. Dr. Yoo is currently an artistic advisor/collaborative pianist at Young Musicians Inspiring Challenge and a music director at Messiah Presbyterian Church of Washington. In 2022, Dr. Yoo began playing with The Alexandria Singers.



Karen Reedy, Creative Director



Karen Reedy is a choreographer, dancer and dance educator. As a dancer, she performed locally with D.C. Dance Theater and Eric Hampton Dance, before moving to New York where she worked with Robert Battle, Sue Bernhard, Louis Johnson, Patricia Kenny, and the Mark Morris Dance Group. As a choreographer and director, she presented her first full evening of dance in October 1997. In 2007 she founded Karen Reedy Dance (KRD), a professional contemporary dance company named “best in dance” by Sarah Kaufman in 2011. KRD is devoted to nurturing artists through the exploration of new work and collaboration with other art forms. The company performs in both traditional and sitespecific venues, and has been enthusiastically received throughout the country, in venues including The Kennedy Center, Dance Place, ODC, Black Rock Arts Center, The 92nd Street Y, The Torpedo Factory and Joyce SoHo. Ms. Reedy was a 2008 recipient of the Kennedy Center Millennium Stage Local Dance Commissioning Grant for the creation of Sleepwalking. During the 20122013 season, Reedy was a Metro Arts Incubator Artist at the American Dance Institute, where the company had its premiere of Albatross. Ms. Reedy holds an M.F.A in Dance from George Mason University, where she is an Assistant Professor of Dance.



Kristin Walega, Executive Director



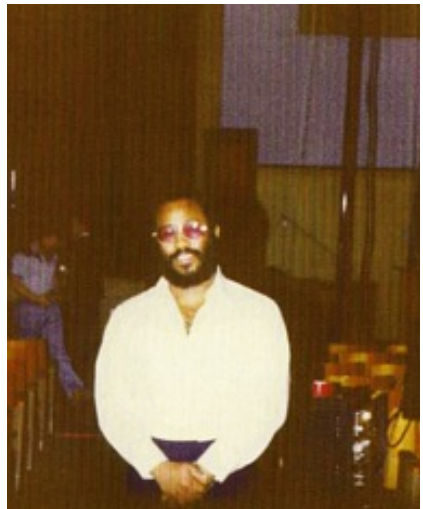
Kristin is a seasoned nonprofit leader with over two decades of experience driving growth, strengthening teams, and building systems that support long-term impact. She has led teams at high-impact organizations including City Year and the National Breast Cancer Coalition. As the founder of Unstoppable Strategies LLC, a boutique nonprofit consulting practice, Kristin partners with mission-driven organizations to provide strategic and operational support across HR, program execution, fundraising, and communications.

Kristin joined The Alexandria Singers in January 2024 as an Alto, returning to her love of choral music from her high school and college glee club days. In October 2024, she became Executive Director, combining her nonprofit experience with her passion for community arts and music accessibility. Throughout her career, Kristin has been committed to building inclusive, diverse communities and expanding access to meaningful opportunities for connection, creativity, and engagement. Since stepping into the role, she's been working closely with the Board and Singers to support operations, strengthen fundraising efforts, and lead the chorus through the transition to a new Music Director. Kristin is committed to growing the Singers' reach, deepening our connection to the community, and helping ensure the group's next 50 years are as vibrant as the first.

She holds a B.A. in Political Science from Villanova University and an M.P.A. in Public Administration, with a focus on Nonprofit Management, from The George Washington University. Outside of work, Kristin enjoys traveling, exploring new restaurants, attending concerts and theater performances, and spending time with her very cute Havanese dog, Lola. She also serves on the board of Humanity Corps, an organization that supports students and families in Ecuador through education, health, and community development programs.

I found the singers when I wanted to do something fun in the community. It has been wonderful meeting new people and getting to make beautiful music with such a talented group!

—Denise Maloney



Once a Singer, always a Singer.

—Art Brill Jr



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It took me a long time to get the courage to audition for the Singers: I took singing classes at the Little Theatre of Alexandria, I was conscripted into a friend's church choir, I joined a summer school choir in England, and I attended two Alexandria Singer community sing-alongs. Finally I felt brave enough to audition. I chose "I Dreamed a Dream" from Les Miz, and while I didn't equal Susan Boyle's performance, I did get admitted to the Alexandria Singers!

Thank you, Bill!

—Roberta S. Klein



I was new to the area, a little lonely and hadn't sung pops music in a group in a long, long time. Life can be stressful but the music we rehearsed and performed and the choreography was so much fun and added so much joy. I made some amazing friends and loved having Bill as a director.

—Lisa Littman



I found the Singers during my older child's senior year in high school. I always loved singing and participated in choirs and musicals when I was in school, but as an adult, life got in the way. As my kids were getting ready to leave the nest, I decided it was time to find something for me. Singing -- and the Singers -- were the answer.

—Eileen Huck



Funny Story, about 20 years ago my husband took me on a date to see a singing group perform at TC Williams HS in Alexandria. I loved the show and turned to him and said I could do that. Fast forward, I was getting ready to retire from teaching at FCPS and looking forward to what would come next. My friend Eileen said she sang with the Alexandria Singers. I remembered seeing you all perform years before. So I gathered my courage and auditioned and was welcomed in. Thank you so much for the opportunity and friendship that I have received.

—Joanne Rhodes





We saw highs without question. The goodwill trip to Russia was extraordinary. I believe it was the first international trip the Singers ever took. It was incredible. The group was very cohesive when I first joined. Everyone worked together for a common cause. The year we left was the year that TC Williams double-booked and our group ended up doing a "mini" concert at Bishop Ireton. It wasn't how I wanted to go out but it was what it was. Geri left. The group got a lot smaller. After that, we became visitors. We appreciated always being welcomed back to the group that was the starting point for our lives together. For that I will always be grateful. Especially when Bill kindly let us "win" the weekend stay at the Willard. That was momentous. We will always be grateful to him and Catherine and Marla and Art and Brian for always welcoming us "home."

—Staci Adelman Vincent

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I joined during the pandemic.
I needed a place to sing and
connect. Bill offered me a
community when I needed it
most. I am forever grateful to
the Singers for welcoming me.
—Anonymous Singer



I've lived in the DC area for 14 years and,
because I worked so hard, been pretty isolated.
The Singers has the best energy of any group I've
found to build connections with other members,
to work together on something fun and chal-
lenging, to pull off something audacious together
and build amazing friends in the process.

—John Chapin



I was inspired by my husband's jazz
piano classes to add music back into my
life. So I auditioned for the Singers. It
was this or saxophone lessons - I made
the better choice!
—Katie Sikorski





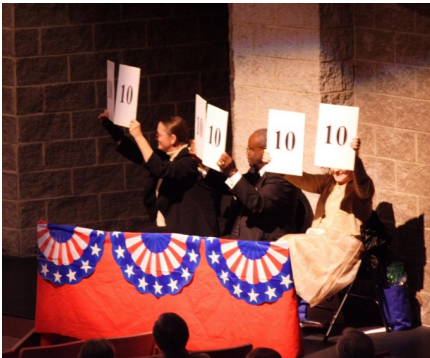
My daughter saw a face book post and suggested I check it out. I almost backed out because of the audition but I am so glad I auditioned and joined the group.

—Carol Ames



I love being a part of this organization! Singing w/this group calms me down from the chaos & current political turmoil. Music soothes the soul especially w/this friendly organization!

—Kathy Opitz



The Alexandria Singers reconnected me to the joy of singing again and brought back a confidence I didn't know I had lost.

—Sarah Brown





I joined the Alexandria Singers at the urging of a friend after mentioning I was looking for a community-focused hobby that combined service and creativity. It turned out to be the perfect blend of purpose, artistry, and connection.

—Lauren Haman



Any excuse for singing or adding music to life brightens my day. So lovely to have a group that puts music on my calendar, and where I can do it surrounded by others who feels similarly

—Michael Wintermeyer



Thanks for your many years of friendship and contributions, Rodney (aka Cecil B).
—A Friend

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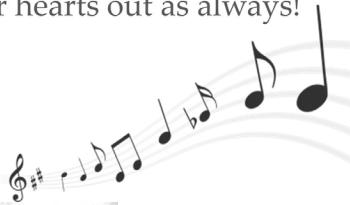
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Our very best wishes to MaryAnn,
Peggy, and all of The Alexandria Singers.
May you sing your hearts out as always!



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Being in the Singers has not only fulfilled my love of music and joy in singing, but has provided me with an enriching circle of dear friends who are a "family," with shared interests and social activities.

—Valerie Carroll

Many voices raised as one in Music brightens my world.

—Christopher Macri



When I was asked to be a part of a small group specialty act I first met many life long friends. Performing that song was so much fun and kept me coming back to the singers each year.

—Suzy Hurwitz



Thank You for the Music

The Alexandria Singers' "Pay What You Wish" model is made possible by the generous support of Avening Management and Technical Services, Coalition Properties Group, and the City of Alexandria - Arts Program Grant.

Their contributions help remove economic barriers and ensure our music reaches the widest possible audience—because everyone deserves the joy of live performance.



JIM NICOPoulos
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If you had told me pre-2019 that I'd be part of a pops ensemble or even capable singing a solo not in my shower or car but in front of a live audience, I wouldn't have believed you. Music is absolutely transformative.

—Amy Louviere



Brittany Momeni and I should not sit next to each other.

—Erin-Caitlin Rinker





I really enjoy specialty act audition nights. What I like most about them is how positive and affirming the group is. Everyone who performs is greeted with warmth and enthusiasm. We're a family and we support each other no matter what. That's a big part of what makes the organization so special.

—Rona Ramsey

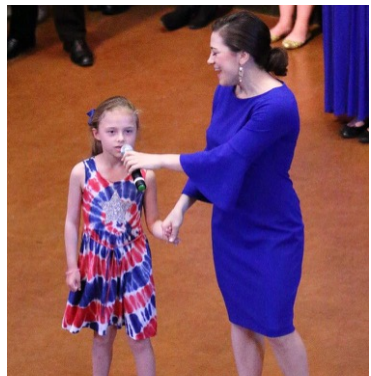


So many changes! When I joined, there were only about 35 Singers; now we are at about 125. Back then, rehearsals were devoted to teaching folks their parts. Our online learning media now provides each Singer with the means to practice his/her part at home; rehearsals are much more productive and satisfying. Back then, fundraising focused on car washes and plant sales. Now we are raising funds doing what we do best – singing! – and online fundraising has revolutionized our ability to reach donors efficiently and profitably.

—MaryAnn Korona



Probably my first concert.
I was so nervous and
afraid I would forget my
lyrics or choreo but the
other singers were very
encouraging and every-
thing was fine in the end.
I loved it!
—Laura Burdick



When I first moved to the area, I was looking for a chorus to join as I have sung all of my life. I joined one but their focus was more classical, with usually one concert a year that contained some operetta and Broadway-style music. It was ok but not really what I was looking for. Then I heard about the Singers, and was so happy to find a group that sang my kind of popular and Broadway music. And I am still here singing after 29 years!

—Joan Marie Capella



Being part of the Alexandria Singers group has been an unforgettable experience.

It's not just about hitting the right notes or perfecting choreography—though those are definitely challenges we tackle head-on—but it's also about the laughter, the bonding, and the incredible camaraderie that comes from rehearsing, dancing, and occasionally breaking into spontaneous karaoke sessions. This group has shown me the magic of teamwork, the joy of shared creativity, and the art of laughing at ourselves when dance moves don't go quite as planned. It's been a journey of growth, friendship, and finding harmony—not just in music, but in the connections we've built. I wouldn't trade it for anything!

—Tatiana



When I joined the Alexandria Singers in 1996, we were a group of well over 100 singers. The spring shows were major productions with multiple costume changes and many moving parts. Back then, we had "Sounds Select" (singers) and "Front Row" (dancers) and there were many opportunities to stretch one's musical muscles.

Director Roger Oliver and Assistant Director Les Cameron brought us beautiful, interesting, and varied pieces of music for both the spring and holiday shows. It was a wonderful time! :)

—Tina (Carnathan) D'Souza



It brought the gift of music back into my world. Life events had imposed a six year hiatus on me and my involvement in music and performing. Being a part of the Singers returned me to that beautiful community.

—Elissa Hamon



Not sure what category this falls into, but one memorable event, which thankfully had a happy ending, was when I ran over Catherine's foot with my car while we were representing the group in a parade.

—Lee Platt





dancing with Sonya in Waterford,
Ireland in 2018
—Doug Jordan

Singing at Belle Haven is always a treat
—Michael Santos Sandoval.

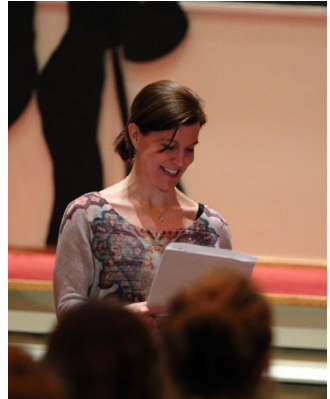


When we've finished singing at the matinee we have
a couple hours to kill. We while away the time by
grabbing a guitar and singing.
—Eileen Joyner



The color blue and the
Christmas pickle.

—Jim Miller



The Bellas
—Sarah Priestman



Singing Spring Concerts at the George Washington Masonic Temple, during intermissions we'd kibbutz with each other, share stories and laugh lots in our "private performers space"
—Eileen Greenberg



one of the most powerful experiences for me was when we were able to perform together in person for the first time after Covid. I can only describe that experience as magical.
—Hamed Suffety III





I love that sometimes, when we are away from our chairs to rehearse our dance moved, someone puts something fun on our seats like candy canes, stickers, or even squeaky pig toys! Brightens my day every time! :D
—Deanna Leersnyder



I was welcomed into the singers with open arms. This group is full of talented, wonderful people who have pushed me outside of my comfort zone in the best way.
—Pam Brymer



The Singers have given me a happy space to be and good friends to share in hard times
—Diane Smith

Trip to Austria in 2015. People don't know what talent there is in our organization.
—Bari St.Cyr

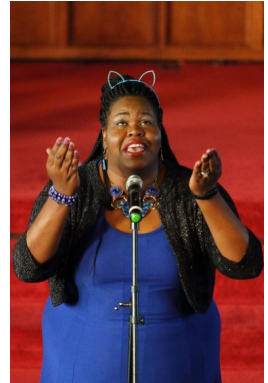


I moved to the DMV in 2022 for school and the only person I knew was my roommate. When I joined the Singers in 2024, I found the community that I had been missing since I left home.
—Grace Hart





Diversity, Inclusion, and
Equity has come into clearer
focus. Spreading the joy
of music to ALL of our
community is our aim.
—Dave Chase





I had some challenges in my life over the past 2 years, but singing lift my spirits and supported me in difficult times. I always will be grateful to have this creative outlet in my life.

—Anna Vnigorskaya





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The Alexandria Singers

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