

Blue Ridge Chorale

Newsletter

CONCERT INFORMATION

Saturday, May 18th
Open Door Baptist Church
754 Germanna Highway
Culpeper, VA
7:00 PM

Sunday, May 19th
Culpeper Baptist Church
318 S. West Street
Culpeper, VA
3:00 PM

Wow! We are five weeks away from our concerts. What a great start we have had to our spring concert season. We have been hard at work learning our music and our voice parts.

We had an amazingly successful fundraiser in March, our 2nd annual Shamrock Shuffle 5K. Kudos to Katie Hutchins for her time and effort in orchestrating the successful event, and to her team of volunteers and donors who contributed. We also had a wonderful Meet and Greet Potluck Social spearheaded by our Social Committee. Many thanks to Peggy Carpenter and all those who helped! As usual, you outdid yourselves and we appreciate all your hard work!

In this newsletter you will find some words of wisdom from our director, important upcoming dates, and information from your Board of Directors about the Board. Please let us know if there is anything you would like to see in the next newsletter edition, or any suggestions you might have to improve it, or if you have any pictures to share. Of course, praise is always welcome, too. ☺



The Director's Corner

Mr. C. Alexander Smith



Hello Blue Ridge Chorale,

Allow me to start by saying that I am so proud of each and every one of you. I couldn't ask for a more dedicated and committed group of singers. You all consistently come to rehearsal each week prepared with your music, pencil, and water. These are three of the essential things you need in order to make it through the rehearsal. Thank you all for not talking during the rehearsals and for staying

focused on making the music. Granted, we still have a lot of work to do, but if we remain focused, we will be able to have a spectacular concert and just blow the audience away! Make sure you are listening and practicing to the practice tracks and the performance playlist. It is not enough to just show up on Monday to sing. You must spend time outside of rehearsal practicing, practicing, and more practicing. Please start working on your expressions and your "show face". It's not too early to singing with some expression even during the learning process.

As a reminder, for those interested in the solos, I will be listening to those on April 29th. Make sure you are practicing the solos so you will be ready!

If you need to miss a rehearsal make sure you let your section leader know. I know who is missing on a weekly basis and it doesn't help if I don't know where you are. I just like to make sure everyone is doing well and staying well. Take care of your voices.

Let's continue to stay focused on making the music and having a great concert. Let's continue to bring our music, water, and pencils to rehearsals. Let's continue to bring our positive attitudes and good vibes to rehearsals. Let's continue if nothing else to bring lots and lots and lots and lots of ENERGY!!!! We are on our way!

Easter Blessings, Peace, and Happiness,

Alex

Remember.....

NO Saturday Rehearsal on April 13th

Rehearsal time 6:30-8:45 beginning April 15th

Practice, Practice, Practice

Review, Review, Review

Expression, Expression, Expression



Tips for Singers



Here are some recommendations for keeping your voice strong and healthy.

3. Take vocal naps. Your voice needs a rest, just like you do. So, find quiet time every day.

4. Get adequate sleep. Sounds like common sense—and it is. The more sleep you get, the more you will be awake and have more energy for the performance.

1. Drink up to 8-10 glasses of pure water every day (any caffeinated drink does not count). Water thins your mucus and lubricates your vocal cords like oil lubricates a car engine. Thick mucus causes friction and trauma to vocal cords. More water, less friction, less trauma, better voice.

2. Warm up your voice regularly. Simple warm ups are recommended, especially for auditions and performances (just as runners warm up for a marathon). Better yet, take a classical music approach: do glissandos (descending scales) and staccatos (punctuated breathing exercises) and messadivoce (controlling intensity of volume).



“The only thing better than singing is more singing.”

Ella Fitzgerald



Meet the Assistant Director Melanie Bolas



First, I would like to say how much I have enjoyed working with you all in the role as the assistant Director. I look forward to rehearsals every week! Since we do not get a chance to talk much on Mondays, I thought I'd share a little about me, as well as my family.

I was first inspired to do music in middle school. My band director pushed us to be the best we could be, both as a musician and as a person. My love for music grew even more in high school. I was heavily involved in different ensembles, as well as the marching band. My director there had very high expectations and had a way of making you want to reach them and far beyond. I knew then, that I wanted to be a music teacher.

I went to Virginia Commonwealth University in the Fall of 1998 and graduated in 2001 (yes, early). There, I met my husband, who was also a Music Education major. We were in several performing groups together, including a brass quintet, which is how we got to know each other better. He is the reason I graduated early! Ha-ha! After college, Steven went into the United States Navy as a tuba instrumentalist and sound engineer. We were stationed in Newport, RI and I absolutely loved it there! I taught Middle School, which is how I got my start in teaching chorus. When he got out of the Navy, we came back home to Spotsylvania, where I landed a job at Chancellor Elementary and he at Locust Grove Middle School.

We have two sons, Sean, who will be 14 in May, and Daniel, who is 12. They are both heavily involved in music. Sean takes after his dad and is a great tuba player. Daniel plays the piano. They both take after their mom and sing- Sean sings bass and Daniel sings Tenor! Aside from music, they are active in sports. Sean is big time into soccer and plays on his school team and a travel team. He is a goalie and striker. Daniel loves to run and cannot wait to run cross country in high school. He also loves playing basketball and you will either find him sitting at the piano playing or out in our driveway shooting hoops...even in the dark! He hopes to make the school team next year as a 7th grader, but for now plays on a rec team as a point guard.

When I am not with you all or in my classroom, you will find me at Tabernacle United Methodist working with my Adult Chancel Choir, Youth Chancel Choir, or my Adult Handbell Choir. I have been the music director there for almost 10 years now. I attend Mass on Saturday nights at my home church, St. Matthew Catholic Church, and often cantor, something I absolutely love. I also teach Religious Education to 5th graders once a week.

Again, I am thrilled to be here with you all! You work hard and like to have a good time and make directing you a pleasure. Here's to an amazing concert in May!



April 6—Althea Schottman

April 9—Melanie Bolas

April 16—Tammy Smith

April 17—Peggy Carpenter

April 22—Martha Smith

News from the Board of Directors

Questions????

Email the Board at

President@brcsings.com

or

Message us on Facebook

*Music is to the mind as
air is to the body.
~Plato*

Did you know?????

*Practice tracks and other information are available on the member's page on our website. Be sure to check it out!

*You can support the chorus by selecting The Blue Ridge Chorale on **AmazonSmile**. Amazon will donate a portion of your purchase to the chorus.

Save the Dates

May 7th-- Give Local Piedmont Midnight to Midnight

This is the area's one day, online giving event. Every dollar donated from midnight to midnight on MAY 7th will be increased with additional "bonus" dollars generously donated by PATH Foundation. Ask your family and friends to DONATE to the Blue Ridge Chorale!

MAY 20th—Annual Member Meeting and Social

Interested in being on the Board? This is your chance! We will be electing new officers at this meeting. Please let Beth Aitcheson or Geniene Zinn know if you are interested in a position. Family members are invited to this social which will be catered.

2019 Blue Ridge Chorale

Board of Directors

President:	Patti Christie
Vice-President:	Jodi Stone
Secretary:	Geniene Zinn
Treasurer:	Wanda Osborn
Concert Master:	Kathy Flanagan
Communication/ Social Media:	Katie Hutchins
Fundraising:	Patti Christie
Librarian:	Diana Cmeyla
Programs:	Lisa Zinn
Publicity:	Beth Aitcheson
Social Affairs:	Peggy Carpenter
Production:	James Jones
	Cary Oien
Music Director:	C. Alexander Smith
Assistant Director:	Melanie Bolas
Accompanist:	Brittany Bache

Section Leaders

Soprano:	Erin Shafferman
Alto:	Annette Richards
Tenor:	Lori Costello
Bass:	Jonathan Brick



www.brcsings.com

<https://www.facebook.com/BlueRidgeChorale/>

SHAMROCK SHUFFLE

The second annual Shamrock Shuffle 5k was a roaring success this Saint Patrick's Day weekend at Verdun Adventure Bound. A large crowd of runners and walkers showed up in their fanciest green finery to celebrate fitness, nature, and music. Members of the Chorale, along with their spirited and supportive friends and family, turned out in their finest emerald garb as well, to help the runners and walkers have a successful race day. Participants were greeted by smiling faces of volunteers as they checked in at the registration table, made their way along the course, crossed the finish line, and came to pick up a snack at the kitchen afterwards. From the littlest leprechauns in the kids 1K to the wisest of leprechauns in the 5K, every finisher's arrival at the finish line was celebrated with whistles, clapping, and encouraging cheers.

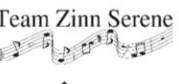
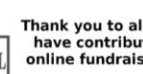
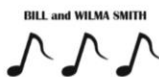
By the numbers, this year's Shamrock Shuffle was an even bigger success than last year. Twenty-five finishers crossed the line last March; this year, we greeted 75 proud finishers at the line. Twenty-five little leprechauns claimed their golden medals at the end of the "rainbow" 1K. Participants in the 5k ranged in age from 9 to 86, and came from as far away as Virginia Beach, New Jersey, and even Japan! Congratulations to all the age group award winners! They received custom 3D printed keychain medals on green lanyards, to remind them of their success throughout the year.

Tim and Johncie Carlson of Studio C Photography captured lots of exciting moments of the event and are offering digital images for participants to use online; finish line photos make great social media profile pictures! High quality prints are also available to purchase.

Thank you to all of the sponsors, volunteers, runners, walkers, and families that made this event possible! We are excited to continue to improve and offer an even more fun and exciting race next year!

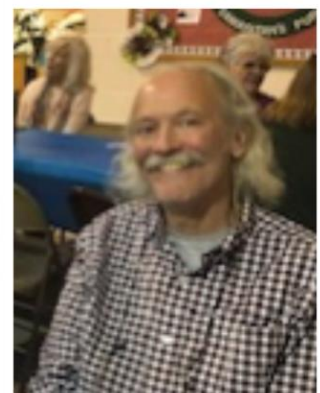


Thank you to all of our generous sponsors!



Studio C Photography

Potluck Social March 2019



Many thanks to the social committee for a fun evening!!!

UPCOMING EVENTS

Tuesday, May 7th

Give Local Piedmont

Midnight to Midnight

www.givelocalpiedmont.org/BLUERIDGECHORALE

Please donate!!!!

Monday, May 20th

Annual Board of Directors

Meeting/Social

6:30 PM

Open Door Baptist Church

Dinner \$10 per person **OR**

\$25 per family

**“I don’t
sing
because
I’m happy;
I’m happy
because I
sing.”**

**~ William
James**



The Blue Ridge Chorale of Culpeper, Inc.

P.O. Box 1871

Culpeper, Virginia, 22701

540-219-8837



If you know of someone who likes to sing, please have them contact:

info@brcsings.com

