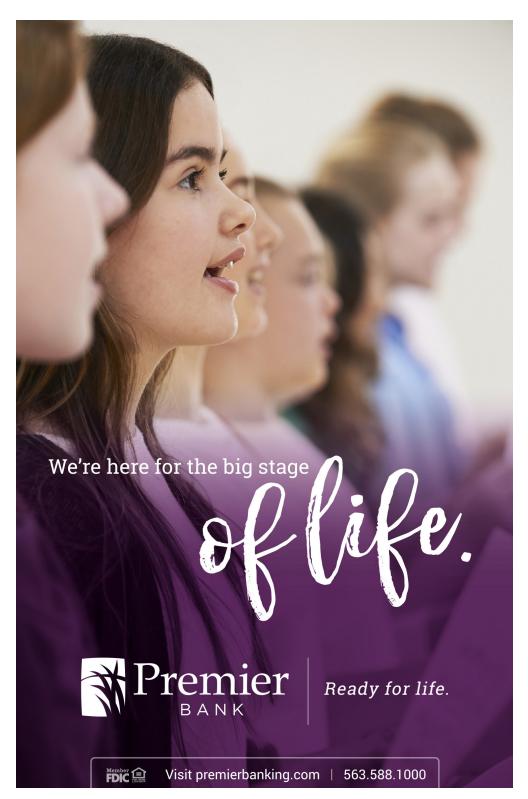


Books E Ballads

> Saturday, April 26, 2025 Sunday, April 27, 2025





# A Message from Mark Niemer Dubuque Chorale President

On November 10, 1975, the ore freighter *SS Edmund Fitzgerald* sank in Lake Superior during a ferocious storm, with the loss of all 29 crewmen. This all might have been forgotten if not for Canadian singer-songwriter Gordon Lightfoot. The next month he penned the lyrics of "The Wreck of the Edmund Fitzgerald" and matched them to an Irish folk melody, memorializing the event in our hearts and minds. The song topped the charts in both Canada and the US and remains remarkable today.

We share our lives through our stories. As means of communication, literature and music have a special bond. Poetry and music carry an extra emotional impact, which helps seal them into our memories. These can be haunting ballads, whimsical childhood favorites or stirring calls to action from great literature. Thank you for joining us as we look to our literary history for songs and ballads to share with you.

Our concerts, organizational growth and innovative programming would not be possible without the support of our corporate, government and foundation sponsors, and the many individuals who contribute to our operating and endowment funds every year. These gifts allow us to purchase music, rent venues, work with professional musicians, promote our events and keep admission prices low or free. Your contributions also allow us to cover tuition for young singers who are in need of financial assistance, making the Children's Choirs accessible to all who love to sing. By attending our concerts and showing your support, you have become part of the Chorale family too. We thank Premier Bank, Iowa Arts Council, the City of Dubuque, Dubuque Racing Association, the Sisters of Charity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Henry Family Foundation, the Wahlert Foundation and the Schoen Family Charitable Trust for their generous financial support. We also thank Grand View United Methodist Church, Westminster Presbyterian Church, and Holy Trinity Lutheran Church for gifts in kind of rehearsal and performance spaces.

If you have any questions about upcoming performances, wish to join the ensemble (no auditions), or wish to get booking information for the Dubuque Chorale Cadenza chamber ensemble for civic or private functions, please visit us at www.dubuquechorale.org or email president@dubuque chorale.org.

Thank you again for joining us for this wonderful performance. We look forward to seeing you again in the future.

# Dubuque Chorale Artistic Staff

Dr. Amanda Huntleigh is Artistic



Director of the Dubuque Chorale, and serves as Associate Professor of Music and Director of Choral Activities at Clarke University.

Huntleigh holds a Doctor of Musical Arts degree in choral conducting from the University of Washington, a Master of Music degree in conducting from George Mason University, and a Bachelor of Music Education degree from Wartburg College. In January 2016 she earned her certification as a Laban/ Bartenieff Movement Analyst through Integrated Movement Studies. She is thankful for her conducting mentors, Drs. Lisa A. Billingham, Geoffrey Boers, and Giselle Wyers, as well as her movement mentors, Colleen Wahl and the late Cadence Whittier. Huntleigh has conducted choirs touring in Chile, Iceland, Italy, and Latvia, and taught choral, instrumental, and general music in Illinois, Virginia, and Delaware public schools earlier in her career.

KARMELLA SELLERS is the Children's



Choirs Program Director for the Dubuque Chorale and conducts the Legati Singers, the more advanced of the two Children's Choirs.

Having been a music educator for over 34 years, she brings a wealth of experience with her to this position and firmly believes that music not only enriches lives, but also teaches discipline, teamwork, and responsibility. As a music specialist in the Dubuque Community School District since 2005, she has served the community through teaching elementary children about the wonders of music and choral singing.

Sellers is originally from Los Angeles, California. She received her Bachelor of Music Education from Grand Canyon University (Phoenix, Arizona) and her Masters in Elementary Education from Northern Arizona University. In 2009, Sellers achieved National Board Certification

When she is not sharing in music-making with children, Sellers likes to read, to travel with her husband, Rory, and to spend time with her grown children and not-so-grown grandchildren.

VICTORIA BAUSMAN is the director of



the Staccati Singers of the Dubuque Chorale Children's Choirs. In addition to directing the Staccati Singers, Bausman teaches K-5 General Music at Bel-

levue Elementary School. Apart from teaching and directing, Bausman enjoys singing with the Dubuque Chorale and Cadenza.

Bausman earned a Bachelor's degree in Music Education as well as a Vocal Performance Certificate at Elmhurst University in Elmhurst, IL. During her studies, Bausman had multiple opportunities to travel to other countries, such as Jamaica, Austria, and the Czech Republic, to widen her horizons as well as further her experience in music and teaching. Prior to teaching in Bellevue, Bausman was the general music teacher and choral director at Galena Middle School and Galena High School.

THAN CHESHER is the Associate Direc-



tor for the Dubuque Chorale. In addition to the Dubuque Chorale, Chesher directs the choirs of Dubuque Senior High School and teaches a

Modern Band class introducing students to contemporary instruments and recording techniques. He has directed choirs in Iowa and Minnesota, where students earned honors in conference, state, and national honor choirs.

Chesher comes to Dubuque with 28 years of professional musical experience performing for amusement parks, cruise ships, and onstage as a vocalist and bassist. His academic research includes individual well-being through music, student musician identity, and popular music in schools. Chesher received his Master of Arts in Music Education from the University of Iowa and his Bachelor of Music Education from Morningside College.

Dr. Sharon Jensen holds music degrees



from Calvin College, the University of Texas, and the University of Michigan. The recipient of a Rotary Fellowship, she studied at the Hochschule für

Musik in Vienna, Austria, where she received the Artist's Diploma.

She has performed with orchestras throughout the Midwest and at Carnegie's Weill Recital Hall for four consecutive years. In July 2016, she was a pianist for the Prague Choral Festival and performed with members of the Czech Philharmonic in Smetana Hall. Jensen has also been heard on Chicago's WFMT Dame Myra Hess series and NPR's Live from Landmark Center and Live from the Chazen.

Recently retired from a 35-year university teaching career, Jensen maintains a piano studio in Dubuque, IA. In 2015, she was honored as the Nationally Certified Teacher of the Year from the state of Iowa and in 2020 as the Iowa Foundation Fellow.

AMANDA HAUTA, MM, is an adjunct



professor at the University of Dubuque where she has taught World Music. She sings with

the Julien Chamber Choir and teaches piano and accordion lessons. She loves accompanying the Dubuque Chorale Children's Choirs. She completed a Bachelor of Music degree in vocal performance from the University of Northern Colorado and a Master of Music degree from the University of Minnesota Duluth. Hauta's current project is learning how to play bagpipes with the Dubuque Fire Pipes and Drums. She lives in Dubuque with her husband and two sons.

Brazilian pianist Dr. KEISY PEYERL XAVIER has established herself as a



distinguished solo and collaborative pianist. With a diverse artistic background and a robust foundation in Classical piano, Peyerl Xavier's journey culminated in the attainment

of a Doctor of Musical Arts degree in Piano Performance from the University of Southern Mississippi, complementing her earlier degrees obtained in her homeland. Peyerl Xavier's accomplishments include clinching First Prize in the MMTA Collegiate Competition and securing high positions in prestigious contests, like the "National Piano Competition from the Brazilian Academy of Music" in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. She has enriched her skills through masterclasses with eminent pianists globally, from École Normale de Musique de Paris, the San Francisco Opera Center, and Bayerische Staatsoper in Munich, Germany. Currently Assistant Professor of Music and Collaborative Pianist at Clarke University, Peyerl Xavier's achievements are amplified through her dynamic artistry and profound connection to music.

# Stories Inspire Connection

By Sarah Slaughter

Whether we read or listen, stories connect us to our history, our loved ones, and the deepest parts of ourselves. Stories allow us to escape into new worlds, experiences, and ways of seeing the world. Cognitive and behavioral science research has even demonstrated that reading fiction can increase our capacity for empathy. In celebration of the power of literature and music to move and connect us through storytelling, the Dubuque Chorale is proud to present their spring concert, *Books & Ballads*.

As a librarian myself, the connection between books and music hits home for me as well as for two of my fellow singers and library colleagues. We are all excited to participate in an event that brings together two mediums that hold such cultural, societal and personal significance. While poetry is frequently set to music, one goal of this concert is to highlight other modes of literary expression that aren't as commonly used to inspire choral music, including novels and ballads.

The ballad is a form of storytelling in verse that dates back to the Middle Ages, when stories were more often passed through speech or song than the written word. Many legendary characters we still know today, such as Robin Hood and Mulan, originated from the oral traditions of epic poetry and ballads. Audiences at *Books & Ballads* will hear the story of American folk hero John Henry performed by the Dubuque Chorale Children's Choirs (DCCC). "There are different tunes, and the lyrics change, as happens with ballads and folk songs, but all children should hear this story," says DCCC Program Director Karmella Sellers.

In addition to passing down folk tales, ballads can help preserve the memory of historical events for future generations. In November of 1975, the *SS Edmund Fitzgerald* sank on Lake Superior, with no survivors from the crew of 29 men. This story has endured for nearly 50 years, thanks in part to the song by Gordon Lightfoot, which was inspired by the tragedy. Lightfoot's modern ballad "The Wreck of the Edmund Fitzgerald" will be performed by the Dubuque Chorale bass, baritone, and tenor voices.

This concert also captures how certain stories are told and retold in different formats. Several songs come from film and stage adaptations of literature, such as the combined choir piece "Do You Hear the People Sing?" from the musical *Les Misérables*, based on the novel of the same name by Victor Hugo. Another example is "Hernando's Hideaway" from the musical *The Pajama Game*, based on the 1953 novel 7½ Cents by Richard Bissell. "Hernando's Hideaway" also has a special connection to the Dubuque area—the song describes a fictional nightclub, which was based on the real-life East Dubuque speakeasy The Hilltop.

Cadenza and the DCCC Legati Singers will perform "Double Trouble," which has two connections to literature—the piece was composed for the film adaptation of *Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban*, but the lyrics come from a scene in William Shakespeare's *Macbeth*, where the three witches add various ingredients to their cauldron. Dubuque Chorale Artistic Director Dr. Amanda Huntleigh also has multiple connections to the piece. In addition to conducting "Double Trouble," she has been sharing the *Harry Potter* series with her son, who also sings with one of the children's choirs. "My son and I have been on a three-year long journey reading the *Harry Potter* series, and we just started the seventh book," says Dr. Huntleigh. "Now he could actually read by himself, but he still wants me to read them with him."

Many of us have been shaped by our experiences with literature and music. The stories that were important to us as children stay with us even as our relationships with them grow and change. For DCCC Staccati Singers Director Victoria Bausman, the song "You'll Be in My Heart" from Disney's *Tarzan* carries this long-term significance. "As a kid, my mom got me the soundtrack and I listened to it all the time," recalls Bausman. "It's a beautiful thing to direct and teach this heartfelt song to the children's choirs and add that extra level of meaning."

We hope this concert inspires the Dubuque community to connect through stories. Revisit an old favorite, try something new at your local library, or share a story that was important to you with someone you love. When I was a kid, my dad always read me stories before bed. We read nursery rhymes, picture books, and eventually made our way to *The Lord of the Rings*. It took us a few months, but my dad read me the entire trilogy out loud. The stories are still some of my favorites, and they're especially memorable because of all the hours we spent reading together.

### Fall 2025 Roster

### Dubuque Chorale Children's Choirs

### Legati Singers

Spencer Kafer Mae Brimeyer Grace Revenig Sophia Crispin de Jesus Kate Klein Willow Rivera Alaina Downs Elyse Kutsch Lillian Rogers William Dunn-Peroski Junipar Routley Rori Leifker Lydia Scarborough Ouinn Eastman Clare McClure Gabby Hanske Vivian Steppan Arthur Miller Clara Heiderscheit Rosie Welsh Jaina Moser Kinley Henning Luna Wiemerslage Marcus Mullen **Aubrey Jones** Kita Neuhaus Lillian Winter

### Staccati Singers

Millie Breithaupt Sophie Kelley Emma Murphy
Philip Grommet Ben Leach Felicity Schetgen
Aramis Huntleigh Conor McDonald

### Artistic Staff

Dr. Amanda Huntleigh, Artistic Director
Karmella Sellers, Children's Choirs Program Director, Legati Singers Conductor
Victoria Bausman, Staccati Singers Conductor
Than Chesher, Associate Director
Dr. Sharon Jensen, Dubuque Chorale Accompanist
Amanda Hauta, Children's Choirs Accompanist
Dr. Keisy Peyerl Xavier, Cadenza Accompanist

### Board of Directors

Mark Niemer, President
Payton Bellings, Vice President
Daniel Knepper
Mia Scott, Secretary
Trisha Mullen
Joseph Amato, Treasurer
Jeannie Adams
Susan Tonn
Tara Dunn

### Dubuque Chorale

Soprano

Jeannie Adams\*
Macayla Albee\*
Emily Amato
Victoria Bausman\*
Payton Bellings\*
Mary Bryant\*
Julia Casella
Kaitlyn Engelken\*
Mary Beth Ferring\*#

Genevieve Gourley

Maci Helle Susan Hansen Sharon Jensen\* Karen Jones Lisa Landgraf Jennifer Mauss Twyla Pereira\* Mary Jo Rooney Sarah Slaughter Susan Tonn\* Alto

Elyse Acompanado Michelle Balek Becky Bryant Becky Canovan Teresa Eckhart\* Lorrie Etheredge\* Kall Hirsch Melissa Jensen Joyce Johnson Roxanne Johnson Mary Kelley Laura Marcy Danielle Phillips\*# Laura Southworth\* Katey Theis\*

Jessica Trosper Rachelle Vize Tenor

Nicholas Anderson\*#
Than Chesher\*
Daniel Knepper
Mia Scott
Michael Sivill\*
Vera Snodgrass
Thomas Taylor\*

**Bass** 

Joseph Amato Carl Bobis Charles Forster\* Mike Jozefowicz\*# Tom LeVoir Mark Niemer\* Mark Oppedahl\* Curt Zeimet\*

\*Member of Cadenza #Section Coordinator

The Chorale is hosting a donation drive for the Yonkofa Project, which addresses healthcare and education needs in Ghana. Donations will be used to support English language education initiatives at schools in Enchi, Ghana. If you would care to directly impact a classroom, please scan here to donate.



During today's free-will offering, we also welcome donations of new or gently used books for use by kindergarten through ninth grade students in Enchi. For more information about the Yonkofa project, visit yonkofa.org/enchischools.

### Books & Ballads

House at Pooh Corner			
Cadenza			
Nicholas Anderson, tenor			
Neliolas Miderson, telior			
The Wreck of the Edmund Fitzgerald			
Chorale Tenor-Basses			
Nolan Risma, cello			
Thomas Taylor, guitar			
Tom LeVoir, Curt Zeimet, and Mia Scott, vocal soloists			
,			
You'll Be in My Heart from Tarzan			
arr. Ed Lojeski			
DCCC Combined Choirs			
Froggie Went A Courtin' Traditional folk song			
Staccati Singers			
2			
Wuthering Heights			
arr. Kirstie Smith			
Chorale			
Sinci Mic			
John Henry Traditional folk song			
Legati Singers			
Mike Jozefowicz, banjo			
wince jozetowież, banjo			
<b>Double Trouble</b> from <i>Harry Potter</i> John Williams arr. Teena Chinn			
Cadenza and DCCC Combined Choirs			
<b>If I Only Had a Brain</b> from <i>The Wizard of Oz.</i> Harold Arlen arr. Sally K. Albrecht			
DCCC Combined Choirs			

**Hernando's Hideaway** from *The Pajama Game*...... Richard Adler, Jerry Ross arr. Mark Brymer

### Chorale

Jenna Smith and Thomas Taylor, dancers

Chorale

When I Grow Up ...... Tim Minchin arr. Roger Emerson

DCCC Combined Choirs

Cadenza

The Times They Are A-Changin'......Bob Dylan arr. Adam Podd

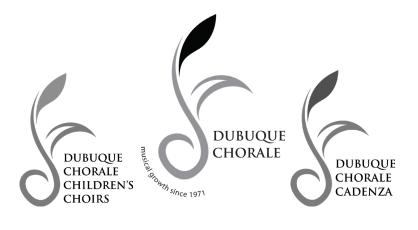
Chorale Trebles

Sarah Slaughter, Mary Bryant, Macayla Albee, Mary Beth Ferring, Twyla Pereira, Peyton Bellings, and Katey Theis, vocal soloists

**Do You Hear the People Sing?** from *Les Misérables* .... Claud-Michel Shönberg arr. Ed Lojeski

Combined Choirs

Carl Bobis (Saturday), Curt Zeimet (Sunday), Thomas Taylor, and Michael Sivill, vocal soloists



## Dubuque Chorale 2025-26 Season

#### FALL CONCERT

Saturday, October 25, 7PM Sunday, October 26, 2PM

#### HOLIDAY FAMILY CONCERT

Dubuque Chorale Children's Choirs join the DSO Saturday, December 6, 1PM

Five Flags Theater

#### HOLIDAY CONCERT

Dubuque Chorale joins the DSO Saturday, December 6, 7:30PM Sunday, December 7, 2PM Five Flags Theater

#### SONGFEST

Dubuque Chorale Choirs host local community and collegiate choirs February 2026

#### BEETHOVEN'S 9TH SYMPHONY

Dubuque Chorale joins the DSO Saturday, April 18, 2026, 7:30PM Sunday, April 19, 2026, 2PM Heritage Center, University of Dubuque

#### SPRING CONCERT

Cadenza and DCCC Saturday, May 2, 2026, 7PM Sunday, May 3, 2026, 2PM

# Remembering Garol Baumann March 27, 1953-February 22, 2025 Soprano with the Dubuque Chorale since 2010



We were shocked and saddened by the loss of Carol Baumann, who had been preparing with us for this concert. Carol was generous with her many gifts, always eager to support the Chorale's work. She warmly welcomed new members, created beautiful collages and slideshows for our concerts, and crafted clever puzzles to delight us at our annual meetings. We will miss her deeply.

# Join Us!

The Dubuque Chorale Children's Choirs are for students who will be in grades 3-6 and who are participating in their own school's music program. Rehearsals are Mondays 5:15-6:30 PM at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church. Voice placement interviews are on May 3 and May 10. Visit **dubuquechorale.org** for information on signing up.

Membership in the Dubuque Chorale is open to high school, college, and adult singers from the Tri-State area. The Dubuque Chorale rehearses on Thursdays 7-9 PM at Grand View United Methodist Church.



All ages are encouraged to participate in this nonprofit musical organization, which is dedicated to improving the musical skills of its singers and to providing quality musical entertainment for its audiences.

The choirs begin rehearsals for the 2025-26 season in August and September. Visit **dubuquechorale.org** for details on joining!

Lyrics are available online at <a href="https://dubuquechorale.org/concerts/books.pdf">dubuquechorale.org/concerts/books.pdf</a>



Lyrics available here!

# History of the Dubuque Chorale

The Dubuque Chorale is a community choral organization of singers from Dubuque and outlying communities. Dennis Williams founded the group in 1971. The chorale's initial purpose was to study and perform the great choral masterworks with orchestra; the first season featured Handel's Messiah and Haydn's Creation. Since then, the group has performed over 60 major choral works, and its mission has evolved to include all great choral music. The Chorale's 50+ years of performances, with over 1,100 singer alumni reaching more than 40,000 audience members, attests to the accomplishment of this mission.

In 1986, the Chorale began collaborating with the Dubuque Symphony Orchestra for the performance of that year's Holiday Concerts. The relationship continues today, with the Chorale joining the DSO for Holiday Pops and frequently for another featured work during the season as part of the symphony's subscription series. The Chorale also presents its own concerts in the fall and spring, and additional engagements as requested.

Since 1994, the Dubuque Chorale has toured to England and Wales, Germany, Austria, the Czech Republic, Norway, Sweden, Finland, Russia, Italy, Switzerland, New Zealand, and Australia. More recent tours included New York City, the British Isles, and Montreal, Canada. The Chorale toured and performed with singers from the Wisconsin communities of Platteville, Mt. Horeb, and Fond du Lac.

Upon Dennis Williams' retirement, Francis John Vogt served as artistic director from 2006 to 2009, with Dr. Bob Demaree in the position from 2009 to 2018.

In the fall of 2012, the Dubuque Chorale added a chamber choir, Cadenza. This mixed-voice group of 16-24 singers is designed to give the Chorale greater flexibility in booking performance engagements, increasing the Chorale's exposure as a community arts leader and advocate. The group makes presentations at community service organizations and other community events. It also performs pieces at regular Chorale concerts.

The beginning of the 2014-15 season included the launch of the Dubuque Chorale Children's Choir, a group of approximately 50 singers in third through sixth grades. In 2022, a second children's choir was added. The purpose of the Children's Choirs is to provide a creative outlet outside of the regular school day for children of Dubuque and surrounding areas, to expose students to new music and performance opportunities they may not have in school, and to give them the opportunity to interact and form relationships with other children and adults from their community who are dedicated to choral excellence.

The Chorale's current Artistic Director, Dr. Amanda Huntleigh, began her tenure in 2018. The Chorale has grown to include singers with a diverse array of occupations, ages, and socio-economic statuses. Since its founding, the Chorale's repertoire and artistic programming has also expanded to include new collaborations and community educational opportunities.

The Chorale continues its exciting programming under Huntleigh's inspired direction, seeking out new collaborations with community groups and expanding its repertoire of classics and new music.

# Friends of the Dubuque Chorale

As a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization, we are grateful for the support of these generous donors for our 2024-25 operating funds.

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### Director (\$1,000+)

Dubuque Obstetrics & Gynecology, PC Teresa Eckhart, in memory of Richard Rollefson

#### Chorale (\$500 to \$999)

Anonymous
Butler Family Foundation
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Optimists Club
Teresa Eckhart and Michael
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Michael Peroski and Tara
Dunn

## Accompanist (\$250 - \$499)

Michelle Anderson
Paula Connors and Paul
Opperman
Lorrie Etheredge
Mary Kelley
Sharon Kress
Laurie Mattas
Mount St. Francis
Ed and Susie Ritts
Sisters of St. Francis
Dennis and Susan Williams

### Keyboard (\$125 - \$249)

Edwin and Barbara Blinks Gretchen Fuerste and Mark Liaboe Daniel Knepper, in honor of Walt and Mary Knepper Leroy and Cheri Kraske Jeff and Janet Mozena

### Baton level (\$75 - \$124)

John and Laurie Allen Leanne Golinvaux and Lisa Landgraf Marilyn Bowers-Gorun Betty Hillary Home and Floor Show Deb Labeau Joann and Dave Mikelson Judith Reilly Mary Jo Rooney James and Diane Sass

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Ross A. Madden
Mary Moothart
Jean Peterson, in memory
of Mark Petsch
Sandralee Scott
Susan Troy

#### Endowment

Peter and Cynthia Alt Carol Bitter and James Purcell Daniel Knepper

We are very grateful to our many volunteers for your hours of dedication and service! Special thanks to **Macayla Albee** for designing our promotional artwork and program cover! Thank you to our capable stage manager, **Kayleese Thoma**, and to our lights and sound operator, **Kathryn Amato**.

We thank **Westminster Presbyterian Church** for the use of their beautiful sanctuary for performances and **Grand View United Methodist Church** and **Holy Trinity Lutheran Church** for the use of their spaces for rehearsals.

We also extend our gratitude to **DuRide** for in-kind donations of printing and postage, and **Jen Hermsen** for the donation of sheet music for "When I Grow Up."

## Looking Ahead...Dreaming Big!

If you would like to help secure the future of the Dubuque Chorale, there are many ways to get involved! **Please fill out this form and mail it back with your donation.** 

I would love to receive concert information.	☐ Mail	☐ E-mail	
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☐ Please let me know how I can volunteer to help the Chorale.			
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☐ I would like to make a donation to the endowment fund in the amount of \$ (For more information on our fund, see information below.)			
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You can also scan the QR code here to make a donation on our website at **dubuquechorale.org**, or send your check payable to: Dubuque Chorale, 900 Jackson Street, Suite LL5-2D, Dubuque, IA 52001.

The Dubuque Chorale is a 501(c)3 not-for-profit organization. Contributions are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law. Your donation supports the arts in Dubuque and helps us continue our mission of presenting fine choral works to the Tri-States.



### Dubuque Chorale Endowment Fund

We have established the Dubuque Chorale Endowment Fund to invest in the long-term future of the Chorale through the Community Foundation of Greater Dubuque. Donations are tax deductible and Iowa residents are also eligible for a 25% state tax credit. To learn more contact the Community Foundation at 563-588-2700 or go online to <a href="https://www.dbqfoundation.org">www.dbqfoundation.org</a>.

Thank you for considering a donation given through the Community Foundation of Greater Dubuque to support our endowment fund.



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We see something bigger.

The Gronen team is proud to be part of our community revitalization. For over 20 years, we have served as a catalyst for community, redeveloping over one million square feet in Dubuque's urban core, while collaborating with more than 20 nonprofit organizations. We believe that strong partnerships are essential in transforming vision into reality.

Thank you, Dubuque Racing Association! The Dubuque Chorale is grateful for the DRA's generous support of SongFest!









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Dubuque Chorale combined choirs, fall 2024



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