

DUBUQUE CHORALE
growing musically since 1971

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A Message from Mark Niemer
Dubuque Chorale President

Route 66 is arguably one of the most famous highways in America. It was commissioned in 1926. Route 66 became the way many people traveled across the country. It starts in Chicago on Adams Street across from the Art Institute and extends all the way across the country to Santa Monica, CA. It became the setting for Jack Kerouak's *On The Road* and some of the events of John Steinbeck's *The Grapes of Wrath*. Route 66 earned the moniker "The Mother Road." It became a symbol of hope and adventure for those traveling from the Midwest to the west coast. With wide open vistas and stunning sunsets, Route 66 has become the basis of songs and legends and remains part of our history and culture even after its decommissioning in 1985.

Our program celebrates the centennial of Route 66. The music paints a picture of life on the open road and the thrill of a road trip, or even putting the pedal to the metal in the music from the movie *F1*. Join us as we go on the road again, chase some sunsets and get our kicks on Route 66!

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, Gronen, the National Endowment for the Arts, the Iowa Arts Council, the City of Dubuque, 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 thank DuRide for operational support. We also thank Bread of Life Presbyterian Church, Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, the Dubuque Community School District, the Greater Dubuque Development Corporation, and Grand View Methodist Church, for gifts in kind of rehearsal, performance, and office 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@dubuquechorale.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, Director of Programming and Vocal Studies at the Northeast Iowa School of Music, and founding director of the Galena Reprise Singers. As an advocate for vocal music making across the lifespan, she creates welcoming spaces for singers of every age and experience level through community choirs, intergenerational outreach initiatives, and masterworks collaborations. Collaborating partners include the Dubuque Symphony and Youth Orchestras, Julien Winds, Driftless Strings, and high school, collegiate, and community choirs across the tri-state area. In May 2027, she will guest conduct the Chicago Chorale in its spring concert, *When the Light Returns*.

As a full-time collegiate professional, Huntleigh is on faculty at Cornell College, conducting choirs and teaching courses in music education, music history, and music fundamentals. Previously she served on the faculties of Clarke University as Associate Professor of Music, Director of Choral Activities, and Music Program Director, and at Smith College as Assistant Director of Choral Activities. Huntleigh has led choirs touring in Chile, Latvia, Italy, and throughout the midwest. 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. Her research on the communicative power of conducting gesture draws on her certification in Laban/Bartenieff Movement Analysis. Earlier in her career, she taught choral, instrumental, and general music in Illinois, Virginia, and Delaware public schools.



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 35 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. What began as an unexpected opportunity has become a dream come true, and one she cannot imagine giving up. Working with young, eager musicians and creating music together brings her immense joy. In addition to directing the Staccati Singers, Bausman teaches K–5 General Music and Choir at Bellevue Elementary School. She received her Bachelor's degree in Music Education from Elmhurst College.

Bausman lives in Bellevue, Iowa, with her husband, Dylan; stepson, Harrison; stepdaughter, Brooklynn; and baby boy, Callaghan. Their household also includes two pets: Finn the cat and Penny the golden retriever. As a family, they enjoy exploring the

outdoors, watching movies, and playing games together.

Outside of her work as a director and music educator, Bausman is also a passionate singer. Although she is currently taking a break from singing with the Dubuque Chorale and Cadenza, she looks forward to returning to the choir when Callaghan is a little older!



Than Chesher is the Associate Director 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.

Than also brings over 30 years of professional musical experience performing for amusement parks, cruise ships, and onstage as a vocalist and bassist. His academic research includes student musician identity and teaching popular music in schools. Chesher has earned degrees from the University of Iowa and Morningside University.



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 the *Dame Myra Hess Memorial Concerts* broadcast by WFMT in Chicago, along with NPR's *Landmark Live* and *Sunday Afternoon 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 a musician and accompanist based in Dubuque, Iowa. She holds a Bachelor of Music in Vocal Performance from the University of Northern Colorado and a Master of Music from the University of Minnesota Duluth. Amanda has performed as a vocalist and pianist throughout the region.

She especially enjoys accompanying the Dubuque Chorale Children's Choirs and being part of the joy, energy, and musical growth of young singers. Outside of music, Amanda enjoys spending time with her husband and two sons and making music with the Julien Chamber Choir and Accordion Divas. She serves as Office Manager at Four Mounds Foundation, a local nonprofit dedicated to preserving, educating, and serving the community.



Dr. Benjamin Kunz is a licensed clinical psychologist who finds making music to be among his primary sources of coping and balance. He has been a church musician since before he should have been allowed and thanks all of those who have mentored him and endured the early years. He started playing the piano at age four at the American Suzuki Institute, later continuing instruction in Madison, Wisconsin. He is a product of quality public school music education, performing vocally and playing piano, bass, and percussion (selected initially to avoid having to haul any instruments back and forth to school). He continued his music involvements and training at Olivet Nazarene University, traveling extensively around the midwest singing in and accompanying various choirs, groups, and ensembles. Working as a Worship Arts Director for many years in the Chicagoland area, Ben has accompanied, arranged,

conducted, and served as a vocal and music director for many church and theater productions. Recent opportunities include collaborations with some wonderfully talented musicians and friends in church music, as well as the Kankakee Valley Symphony Chorus and the Kankakee Valley Theatre Association. In addition to Cadenza, he is currently a collaborative pianist at Dubuque Senior High School. Relatively new to Dubuque with his wife and four children, they are enjoying all that the Driftless area has to offer and he is grateful for this opportunity to be involved in making music with others in the community.

Embark on a Musical Road Trip with the Dubuque Chorale

By Sarah Slaughter

Don't touch that dial! No matter where you're heading, the Dubuque Chorale has you covered with a full slate of road trip favorites. Keep your radio tuned to this station as we embark on a musical adventure celebrating the 100th anniversary of Route 66! We're spinning tunes honoring the places we visit, the people we meet along the way and the experience of the journey. The Dubuque Chorale, Cadenza, and the Dubuque Chorale Children's Choirs are proud to present our first concert of the 2026-27 season, *On the Road Again*.

Route 66 was first established in 1926, winding its way through hills and forests, across prairies, farmland, and desert from Chicago to Los Angeles. Although the highway was decommissioned in 1985, its iconic status endures due to its significance in American history and popular culture. It has many nicknames, including the Main Street of America and the Mother Road. The latter was coined by John Steinbeck in his novel *The Grapes of Wrath*, as the highway was a major route taken by people traveling west during the dust bowl. Another of its nicknames is the Will Rogers Highway. Rogers was a world famous vaudeville performer, humorist, and actor. Route

66 was dedicated as the Will Rogers Memorial Highway after the entertainer's untimely death in 1935, as the Route symbolized Rogers' journey from his home state of Oklahoma to his career in Hollywood. Woody Guthrie's song "Will Rogers Highway," which will be performed by one of the children's choirs, pays tribute to this legacy.

In the years following WWII, automobile ownership surged and Americans were increasingly traveling Route 66 for tourism. Due to the businesses and roadside attractions that sprang up along the road, the experience of traveling the Route became its own tourism draw. This idea is immortalized in the song "Route 66," written by Bobby Troup and originally recorded by Nat King Cole. This song, which will be performed by the combined adult and children's choirs, provides a fitting closer for the concert.

In addition to Route 66, this concert celebrates travel and road trip experiences more broadly, with a variety of musical styles from country and rock and roll to contemporary choral music. Songs like Tom Cochrane's "Life is a Highway" and Willie Nelson's "On the Road Again" urge us to enjoy the journey as much as the destination. Robert Frost's poem "The Road Not Taken" reflects on the diverging paths we may choose through life. The Dubuque Chorale chamber choir, Cadenza, will join the children in a version of this poem set to music by Z. Randall Stroope. Norman Dello Joio's "Song of the Open Road" uses text from Walt Whitman's poem to take listeners on a musical journey, and bids us to travel together on the open road.

Route 66 holds a personal connection for two of our directors. Artistic Director Amanda Huntleigh grew up in Bloomington-Normal, IL which is on Route 66, not far from its origin in Chicago, and DCCC program director Karmella Sellers grew up near Santa Monica, CA where it ends. Both have memories of traveling on Route 66, sometimes listening to the songs you will hear in this concert. "Paired with the geography of my youthful experiences with the historic highway was Natalie Cole's album *Unforgettable . . . with Love*, which included the jazz standard 'Route 66' by Bobby Troup," says Huntleigh. "It remains one of the albums from my youth that I can largely still sing from memory, and I hear this selection always in Natalie Cole's voice."

We hope this concert will transport audience members to their own memories of traveling with family and friends, and the songs that kept them company on the journey.

On the Road Again

On the Road Again.....Willie Nelson
arr. Kyle Snook

Chorale

Drive.....Ed Sheeran, Blake Slatkin, and John Mayer
arr. Mac Huff

Chorale Tenor-Basses
Curt Zeimet and Michael Sivill, soloists

Travel Prayer.....Alan Bullard

Staccati Singers

To the Road.....Tom Shelton

Cadenza

Song of the Open Road.....Norman Dello Joio

Chorale
Joseph Alkhoury, trumpet

The Road Not Taken.....Z. Randall Stroope

Cadenza and *Legati Singers*
Nolan Risma, cello

Life Is a Highway*.....Tom Cochrane
arr. Alan Billingsley

Chorale

Ease on Down the Road from ***The Wiz***.....Charlie Smalls
arr. Mac Huff

Combined Children's Choirs

Will Rogers Highway.....Woodie Guthrie

Legati Singers

The Road Home.....Stephen Paulus

Cadenza

Thomas Taylor, Saturday soloist

Erin Beatty, Sunday soloist

Movin' Right Along.....Paul Williams and Kenneth L. Ascher

from ***The Muppet Movie*** arr. Cay Outebridge

Chorale Trebles

Route 66.....Bobby Troup

arr. Kirby Shaw

Combined Choirs

**Freewill donations gratefully accepted*

Lyrics available online at

dubuquechorale.org/road

Dubuque Chorale 2026-27 Season

Holiday Family Concert

Dubuque Chorale Children's Choirs join the DSO

Saturday, December 5, 1PM

Five Flags Theater

Holiday Concert

Dubuque Chorale joins the DSO

Saturday, December 5, 7:30PM

Sunday, December 6, 2PM

Five Flags Theater

SongFest

Dubuque Chorale hosts local community and collegiate choirs

Saturday, February 20, 7PM

Eleanor Roosevelt Middle School

Fauré's Requiem

Dubuque Chorale joins Dubuque's Driftless Strings

Saturday, March 13, 7PM

Church of the Nativity

A Lifetime — A Moment

Saturday, May 1, 7PM

Sunday, May 2, 2PM

Bread of Life Presbyterian Church

Follow us on Facebook and Instagram or visit dubuquechorale.org for updates.

Fall 2026 Roster

Dubuque Chorale Children's Choirs

Legati Singers

Violet Canon
Gianna Cullers
Abby Duba
William Dunn-Peroski
Kylie Duschner
Jameson Efken
Cammie Eigenberger
Josie Enzler
Marie Gruber
Hugo Hauta
Aramis Huntleigh
Iris Invergo
Anna Jedlicka
Louella Kaune Billmeyer
Cassie Kearney
Hazel Kelly
Leona Lansing
Ben Leach
Audrey Manemann
Jay Martin
Saylor May
Conor McDonald
Emsley McHugh
Lawrence Meyer
Jaina Moser
Kita Neuhaus
Clara Pennington
Felicity Schetgen
Rae Schmitt
Vivian Steppan
Dean Vize

Staccati Singers

Beatrice Bartels
Brooklynn Bausman
Violet Carroll
Skyler Copeland
Shion Cosley
Catalina Crispin de Jesus
Mila Curoe
Norah Dieringer
Ana Elenz
Abe Flood
Rosie Hrubienski
Van Jansen
Blythe Kenkel
Lauren Kruse
Hazel Milligan
Atticus Otting
Maggie Portzen
Olivia Rollins
Reecely Routley
Lucy Schetgen
Kate Schultz
Kairei Schaffer
Jack Smith
Kennedy Stoddard
Vincent Veneziano
Cora Wilson
Grace Woltkamp

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
Benjamin Kunz, Cadenza Accompanist
Julia Andresen, Children's Choirs Intern
Hailey Reichel, Children's Choirs Intern
Katey Theis, Children's Choirs Intern

Dubuque Chorale

Soprano
Jeannie Adams*
Emily Amato
Erin Beatty*
Mary Bryant*#
Julia Casella
Kaitlyn Engelken*
Amy Golm
Genevieve Gourley
Maci Helle
Joanne Hillery*
Sharon Jensen*
LaDonna Manternach
Anna Reed
Joy Reuter
Mary Jo Rooney
Sarah Slaughter
Susan Troy
Twyla Pereira*

Alto
Michelle Balek
Becky Bryant
Becky Canovan
Terry Eckhart*
Lorrie Etheredge*
Ann Gile
Melissa Jensen
Joyce Johnson
Roxanne Johnson
Mary Kelley
Cheri Kraske
Laura Marcy
Danielle Phillips#
Nicole Soer
Laura Southworth*
Katey Theis*
Rachelle Vize
Norah Webster

Tenor
Nicholas Anderson*
Kyle Augustin
Than Chesher*
Marty Corfman
Daniel Knepper
Danielle Phillips*
Michael Sivill*
Thomas Taylor*#

Bass
Joseph Amato
Asher Beermann
Kent Baumann
Carl Bobis
Phillip Bryant
Rich Corfman
Nick Glab
Mark Oppedahl*
Bill Riley*
Curt Zeimet*#

**Member of Cadenza* *#Section Coordinator*

Additional Concert Personnel

Lauren Schmitt, Stage Manager
Maya England, Sound Operator

Board of Directors

Mark Niemer, President
Tara Dunn, Vice President
Danielle Phillips, Secretary
Greg Orwoll, Treasurer
Macayla Albee
Emily Amato
Joe Amato
Nicholas Anderson
Doug Henry
Michael Sivill
Sarah Slaughter

History of the Dubuque Chorale

By Danielle Phillips

The Dubuque Chorale is a community choral organization composed of singers from Dubuque and its outlying regions. Dennis Williams founded the Chorale in 1971 for the initial purpose of studying and performing choral masterworks with orchestra; appropriately, the first concert season featured Handel's *Messiah* and Haydn's *The Creation*. Since its inception, the Chorale has performed over 60 major choral works and its mission has evolved to include great choral music from many genres. The group's 50+ years of performances, over 1,100 singer-alumni, and more than 40,000 audience members can all attest to the accomplishment of this mission.

The Chorale presents concerts every fall and spring as well as performing additional engagements throughout the year. In 1986, they began collaborating with the Dubuque Symphony Orchestra during *Holiday Concerts*. This relationship still endures today, with the Chorale continuing to join the DSO onstage for the holidays and often for another classical work during the symphony's season. Many European and North American venues have hosted the Dubuque Chorale since it started touring in 1994, and the group has performed on tour with distinguished singers from various locales.

In the 2010s the Chorale worked to increase its reach and impact, adding a chamber choir, Cadenza, in the fall of 2012. This smaller ensemble gives the Chorale more performance flexibility, increasing its exposure as a community arts leader and advocate, and Cadenza frequently sings at local events as well as at Chorale concerts. In 2013, the Chorale began hosting *SongFest*, an annual choral festival featuring numerous collegiate and community choirs that promotes cross-generational collaboration among singers in Dubuque and its surrounding areas to this day.

The 2014-15 season saw the launch of the Dubuque Chorale Children's Choir, a group of approximately 50 singers in third through sixth grades, and in 2022 a second Children's Choir was added. The purpose of these choirs is to provide the children of Dubuque and nearby communities with an extracurricular creative outlet, to expose students to music and performance opportunities they may not encounter in school, and to allow them to interact and form relationships with others who are dedicated to choral excellence.

The Dubuque Chorale continues to flourish today under Dr. Amanda Huntleigh, who began her tenure as Artistic Director in 2018. Since its founding, the organization has grown to include singers from a diverse array of occupations, ages, and socio-economic statuses, and its repertoire and artistic programming have expanded to include new collaborations and educational opportunities. The Chorale persists in realizing its mission under Huntleigh's inspired direction, seeking out innovative community partnerships and broadening its repertoire of classics and contemporary music.



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for engaging, educating, enriching, and inspiring our community with choral excellence.

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As a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, we are grateful for the support of these generous donors for our 2025-26 and 2026-27 operating funds.

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Director ($1,000+)
Anderson Family Fund
Anonymous
Jerry Heth, with Dennis & Sue Welkowick, in memory of Leona "Sandy" Heth

Chorale ($500 - $999)
Teresa Eckhart & Michael Gibson
John and Melissa Jensen
New Melleray Abbey
Mark Niemer & Yasyn Lee
The Butler Family Foundation

Accompanist ($250 - $499)
Dave and Ruth Assmus
Dubuque Morning Optimist Club
Jim & Lorrie Etheredge
Sharon Kress
Mount St Francis Sisters of St Francis
Susan H. Butler Ritts

Keyboard ($125 - $249)
Edwin & Barbara Blinks
Roy & Deborah Buol
Bob Crippes
Fr. Dan Knepper
Leroy & Cheri Kraske
Mark Liaboe & Gretchen Fuerste
Laurie Mattas
Jeff & Janet Mozena
James & Diane Sass
Chad & Laura Witthoeft

Baton ($75 - $124)
John & Laurie Allen
Julia Casella
Frank Cicciarelli
Wayne & Barbara Collins
Mary Ellyn Gibbs
Thomas & Paula Giese
Jim & Bernita Gilbertson
Mary C. Kelley
Deborah Labeau
Lisa Landgraf & Leanne Golinvaux
Suzanne Lange
Patricia Leamer, in memory of Del Johnson
Greg & Shirley Orwoll
Jim Pancratz
Reilly Judith Bene Rogan
Mary Jo Rooney

Friend ($25 - $74)
Lisa & Kevin Beatty
Janice Blaszczyk
Sue & Steve Bushman
Barbara Meloy Callahan
Becky Canovan
Ann & Frank Duchow
Paul Fuerst
Alan & Susan Hattel
Catherine Hess
Margaret & John Horn
James Kelly
Fr. Dan Knepper, in memory of Carol Baumann, Del Johnson
Ellen & Dennis Kremer
Bob Lehmann
Sally Madden
Carol McClenahan, in honor of M. Lee McClenahan
Lucille Nicholson
Sue Simon
Connie Sullivan
Mona Woodward
John & Jane Yoder

Endowment
Peter & Cynthia Alt
Mark Niemer & Yasyn Lee
Keith Nilles

We are grateful to our many volunteers for many hours of service! Special thanks to our in-kind contributors, particularly Bread of Life Presbyterian Church for the use of its beautiful sanctuary for this concert.

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 return it with your donation.**

I would love to receive concert information. ❑ Mail ❑ E-mail

❑ I love to sing and would like more information on becoming a member.

❑ Please let me know how I can volunteer to help the Chorale.

❑ I would like to support the mission of the Dubuque Chorale with a cash donation in the amount of $_____.

❑ I would like to make a donation to the endowment fund in the amount of $_____. (For more information on our fund, see below.)

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Optional: ❑ In Memory of : ❑ In Honor of: _____

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You can also scan the QR code here to make a donation on our website at **www.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) nonprofit 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 www.dbqfoundation.org.

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


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