

Bravo!



Jacksonville
CHILDREN'S CHORUS

SPRING 2024 ISSUE

JACKSONVILLE CHILDREN'S CHORUS NEWSLETTER



Dear Friends of the Chorus,

I am delighted to welcome you to our spring newsletter. As spring breathes new life into the world, the JCC is inspiring children with the gift of song. This year marks a significant milestone for the Jacksonville Children's Chorus as we celebrated our first anniversary of moving into our Downtown headquarters this February. This move has not only provided our singers with a beautiful new home, but has also allowed us to expand our programs and reach even more young children in our community.

I would like to take this opportunity to express our deep gratitude to Vystar Credit Union, The Cultural Council of Greater Jacksonville, and all of our friends for their continued partnership and support. Your generosity has played a vital role in our success, and we are truly grateful for your commitment to the arts and the children of Jacksonville.

I am also pleased to share that we have expanded our reach with satellite rehearsal locations in Clay County and St. Johns County, making it more convenient for young singers from all parts of Northeast Florida to have access to music education. At the Jacksonville Children's Chorus, we believe that singing plays a crucial role in the development of children. Not only does it provide them with a creative outlet and a sense of accomplishment, but it also helps build confidence, discipline, and teamwork skills that will benefit them for a lifetime.

As we look ahead to the future, we are excited about the possibilities that lie ahead and appreciate the support of our community. Thank you for being a part of the Jacksonville Children's Chorus family, and we look forward to sharing many more musical moments with you in the years to come.

Sincerely,

Darren Dailey
President & Artistic Director



BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Susana Cruz, *Chair*
Allison Hollander, *Vice Chair*
Arend Dorsett, *Treasurer*
Ryan Hesser
Amanda Hegeman
Jesse Shimp
John Thompson

ADVISORY BOARD:

Richard Hadden, *Chair*
Jackie Cornelius
Dane Gray
Marsha Oliver
Craig Smith
Amanda Warford Videll

THE POWER OF CHORAL SINGING: A HARMONY OF HEALTH AND HAPPINESS

Choral singing is not just a musical activity, it's a transformative experience that touches millions of lives worldwide. According to Chorus America's Impact study, over 54 million adults participate in a choir¹, highlighting the widespread appeal and benefits of this communal art form.

One of the most compelling findings is that 75% of singers in choirs today started their musical journey in elementary, middle, or high school. This underscores the crucial role of music education during childhood, serving as the foundation for a lifelong love of singing.

Beyond the joy of music-making, choral singing has profound effects on mental health. As many as 73% of choir members report that group singing makes them feel less alone¹. Notably, choral singers are also less likely to report indicators of depression than the general public. This is especially relevant in today's society, where over 20% of teens have seriously considered suicide, according to a 2023 study by the American Psychological Association².

Additionally, the benefits extend beyond mental health. A remarkable 92% of participants in choirs found their lives to be meaningful, compared to 78% of the general population¹. This speaks to the deep sense of purpose and fulfillment that choral singing brings to individuals.

Moreover, choral singing has a positive impact on social skills, with 70% of singers reporting that it has helped them in other areas of their lives¹. This is particularly crucial at a time when social media and texting are contributing to increased anxiety and lower self-esteem among teens, as noted by the Child Mind Institute³. By engaging in activities they're interested in, such as choral singing, children and teens can build self-esteem based on their abilities rather than external factors, leading to greater happiness and well-being.

In conclusion, choral singing offers a harmonious blend of mental, emotional, and social benefits. It is a testament to the power of music to uplift, unite, and enrich lives, making it a valuable and rewarding pursuit for individuals of all ages.

1. Chorus America and Grunwald Associates. (2019). The Chorus Impact Study: Singing for a lifetime.
2. Pappas, S. (2023, July 1). More than 20% of teens have seriously considered suicide. Psychologists and communities can help tackle the problem. *Monitor on Psychology*, 54(5).
3. Steiner-Adair, C. Wick, D. How using social media affects teenagers. *Child Mind Institute*. (2023, August 10).



2024 SENIORS Our Veteran Singer Highlights



Katie Altman
Member of Touring Choir

- JCC member for 9 years
- Plans to attend Jacksonville University to triple minor in Sociology, Communication, and Education.

"I joined the JCC because I wanted a place outside of school where I could further my love of music. JCC has provided me with the opportunity to explore the world with different people and create friendships I know will last a lifetime. It allowed me to make beautiful art with people I adore and opened my eyes to a career path I never saw for myself. I am extremely grateful for the music education I received and the lessons I learned that will stick with me forever."



Zianna Curtis
Member of Touring Choir

- JCC member for 11 years
- Will attend Florida State University as a member of the Track and Field team. She also plans to major in Communication Science and Disorders to earn a Masters in Speech-Language Pathology.

"JCC has given me some of the most memorable and valuable experiences. From getting to travel the world to spread my love of music to going a few miles away to a nursing home to see the smiles on their faces from the songs we share. Some of my closest relationships have come from the JCC and I can't imagine what it would be like without them. I would like to thank the JCC for giving me the space to grow and learn not only musical qualities like reading music but also qualities that will help me outside of chorus such as discipline, responsibility, and genuine compassion for others."



Sarah Bernardo
Member of Touring Choir

- JCC member for 10 years
- Plans to attend college and double major in music and journalism.

"The Jacksonville Children's Chorus has given me the opportunity to travel the world and taught me an appreciation for cultural and global music. I am also fortunate to have met many lifelong friends along the way."



Christian Borne, Jr.
Member of Concert Choir

- JCC member for 8 years
- Plans to earn a degree in Music Therapy at Jacksonville University. He recently became a member of the Brooks Rehabilitation NoteAbles program, which is a music therapy ensemble created for people with special needs to share their love of music with others.

"Make a joyful noise unto the Lord all ye lands." Psalm 100:1.

I chose this verse because I want to use my God-given gifts to praise Him. I joined the JCC in 2013 because I wanted to learn to sing. Since joining the JCC, I have learned so much about music, including theory, different rhythms, musical styles and how to sing in several different languages. I have also realized that playing the piano as an accompanist is hard, but with help from Ms. Sachiko I have been able to learn and memorize several songs we sing in the JCC. It is something that brings me great joy and I hope to someday play the piano for a choir. I am so thankful for the opportunity I have been given to be a part of the JCC."

ARTISTIC STAFF:

Darren Dailey
President and Artistic Director

Melissa Barnes
Primary and Training Choir Conductor

Katherine "KT" Boling
Choreographer

Susanne Dailey
Primary and Training Choir Conductor

Marissa Dickerson
Virtual Preschool Conductor

Virginia Dickert
Primary and Training Choir Conductor

Sachiko Frampton
Collaborative Pianist

Roseanne George
Assistant Choreographer

Faith Powell
Primary and Training Choir Conductor

Jessye Russom
First Steps In Music Instructor

Dr. Julie Myung Ok Song
Cantate Choir Conductor

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF:

Kiera Bates
Marketing, Recruitment, and Special Events Assistant

Katherine "KT" Boling
Business and Development Manager

Joyanne Goronal
Business Coordinator

Dorothy Leitch
Program Manager

Daniel Lopez
Development Associate

Dale Patrick
Program and IT Coordinator



A HISTORICAL PERFORMANCE: JACKSONVILLE CHILDREN'S CHORUS SHINES AT ST. PATRICK'S CATHEDRAL

On a crisp December evening, the voices of the Jacksonville Children's Chorus Touring Choir resonated through the majestic halls of St. Patrick's Cathedral, marking a historic moment in the choir's journey. This was a momentous event for these children as they were the first non-New York City chorus to be invited to perform at the St. Patrick's Cathedral's annual "A City Singing at Christmas" concert.

For the young singers, the opportunity to perform at St. Patrick's Cathedral was nothing short of transformative. As they took center stage in the Cathedral, the magnitude of the moment was not lost on these children, who embraced the opportunity with a blend of excitement and reverence.

Beyond the musical performance, the Jacksonville Children's Chorus served as cultural ambassadors for their city. Their songs conveyed the vibrancy and diversity of Jacksonville's cultural landscape to a captivated audience in New York City. Their performance was a testament to the city's commitment to nurturing young talent and promoting the arts.

"It was a great pleasure to host the Jacksonville Children's Chorus and Voices of Jacksonville at St. Patrick's Cathedral during our annual A City Singing of Christmas concert this past December. Under the direction of my friend, Darren Dailey, they gave a spectacular performance that put everyone present and watching on the livestream into the Christmas spirit. Having grown up in Jacksonville, it was like the JCC brought a little bit of home to me and that was very special. Darren and the JCC are welcome back to St. Patrick's Cathedral anytime!"

- Jennifer Pascual, D.M.A., DSG, Director of Music at St. Patrick's Cathedral (2nd picture, top left)



Scan the QR code to watch the St. Patrick's Cathedral performance.

CELEBRATING ONE YEAR IN OUR NEW HOME

One of the most memorable milestones in a child's life is their first birthday. It's a joyous celebration, not only marking the passage of a year since their birth but also symbolizing the beginning of an incredible journey ahead.

While we have been serving children since 1995, this February, we celebrated the first anniversary of our moving into our downtown headquarters. This milestone was made possible by the generosity of our friends and supporters. Thanks to you, we have experienced a significant increase in enrollment, enabling us to extend the transformative power of music to more children in Northeast Florida.

For the children who participate in our program, our headquarters is more than just a building; it's a place they can call home. They feel a sense of belonging and are more inspired than ever to sing their hearts out.



The space provides opportunities for personal growth and development. Children learn important life skills such as teamwork, discipline, and perseverance through their involvement in the chorus. Additionally, the headquarters serves as a gathering place for children from diverse backgrounds to come together, fostering a sense of community and friendship. It's where lifelong bonds are formed through shared experiences and a love for music.

Moreover, our headquarters serves as a versatile venue, available for rental to host parties, meetings, classes, or recitals. It has become a hub for artistic and community gatherings, enriching the cultural fabric of our city.

DONOR PERSPECTIVE

Jack and Sharon Myers' Interview



How did you get involved with the JCC?

"Jack was introduced to the Jacksonville Children's Chorus at Clay County's Concert on the Green and was captivated by The Chorus' performance, which left a lasting impression on him. After the performance, he met the President and Artistic Director, Darren Dailey, and was impressed by his energy and enthusiasm. From that moment on, a deep connection was forged, and their friendship began—a partnership rooted in a shared admiration for the choral arts and a commitment to nurturing young singers."

Why is music education important to you?

"Music education holds a special place in our hearts because we believe it is essential for holistic development. Beyond nurturing artistic skills, the choral experience encourages creative expression and teamwork skills, crucial qualities for success in any endeavor. Research also suggests a strong link between music education and business acumen, highlighting its role in shaping well-rounded individuals."

Why do you give to the JCC?

"We give to the Jacksonville Children's Chorus because we deeply believe in the transformative power of music in children's lives. Darren is intentional about building important life skills beyond music - confidence, poise, and leadership - as well as the ability to read music, which provides each chorus member with expertise that will serve them well throughout their life. The JCC's leadership and staff have impressed us with their dedication and skill in nurturing young musicians and future leaders. Additionally, we are inspired by the JCC's commitment to serving children from diverse backgrounds, ensuring that all young people have access to the life-changing benefits of music education."

What are your hopes and dreams for choral music in our region?

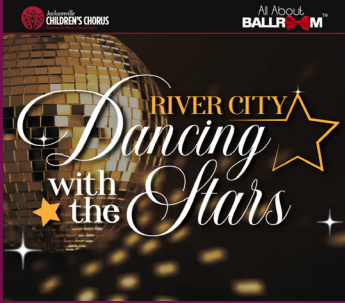
"Our dream is for Northeast Florida to emerge as a premier hub for choral music, renowned for its exceptional performances and educational programs. We envision the Jacksonville Children's Chorus continuing to serve as a beacon of musical excellence, enabling children to travel and sing globally. These experiences are not just about music; they are about fostering cultural understanding and empathy. By exposing young singers to diverse cultures, landscapes, and people, the JCC cultivates a generation that appreciates our shared humanity, transcending perceived differences to embrace our commonalities."

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS & SUPPORTERS



UPCOMING EVENTS

SATURDAY, APRIL 13, 2024



UNF LAZZARA PERFORMANCE HALL | 6:30PM

Local celebrity dancers are partnering with professional ballroom instructors to learn to dance, compete for the mirror ball trophy and raise money for the children of the JCC.

SATURDAY, MAY 11, 2024



**ST. JOHN'S CATHEDRAL
10:00AM - 5:00PM**

This full-day festival will include 50-minute concerts from The Jacksonville Children's Chorus and other choral ensembles from around Jacksonville.

JUNE 3 - 7 • JULY 8 - 12, 2024



**SING! JAX SUMMER CAMP
JCC HEADQUARTERS**

Enjoy a fun-filled week of music, choral singing, and dance workshops! On the final day, all singers will perform in a concert showcasing what they have learned and experienced during the camp.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2024



**TBA
10:00AM - 5:00PM**

One-day festival to honor students across Northeast Florida who have been recognized by their music educators for their singing ability, musical aptitude, and strong work ethic.

The singers spend the day rehearsing with a nationally recognized clinician and conductor. The event culminates in a performance of the newly-formed Honors Choir.

FOR FULL CALENDAR OF EVENTS AND TICKET INFORMATION, PLEASE VISIT WWW.JAXCHILDRENSCHORUS.ORG.



WWW.JAXCHILDRENSCHORUS.ORG

904.353.1636



JACKSONVILLE CHILDREN'S CHORUS
62 N MAIN STREET
JACKSONVILLE, FL 32202

