

History of The River City Chorale

Beginnings

When Bob and Mary Balkow moved to Sacramento, they wanted to sing in a choir, but they couldn't find one whose style suited them exactly, so they gathered together a director, a pianist and some friends who also wanted to make music. They started a new group called the River City Choral Society. The first auditions were held in October and November of 1976. and the first concert was held at Northminster Presbyterian Church on March 13, 1977. The word Society was dropped in 1979.

The 31 Original members

Mary Balkow, Helene Chamberlain, Beverly Coyne, Janet Fransham, Barbara Kreun, Debby Mitchell, Mary Tasker, Jill Wing, Donna Bales, Nadeene Donner, Cathy Duncan, Judi Eidam, Merri Sue Goff (Brown), Gail Hauser, Linda Somerville, Joan Wood (Reibson-Conklin), Mary Young, Donna Youngreen,

Bob Balkow, Stan Burket, Tom Carter, Gene Chamberlain, Bob Donner, John Gibson, Les Landers, Phil Mishler, George Robles, Dave Jahnsen, Gail Leatherwood, Steven Sprekelmeyer, and Alan Stroppini. None of these continue to sing with us.

While not quite an original member, Pat Junod joined in September of 1977 and has been very active in the chorale for 40 years.

Directors

Jack Carey: 1976 - 1978 and 1979 - 1986

Richard Hull: 1978-1979

Walter Kerfoot: 1986 - 1994

Mel Olson: 1994 - 2001

Richard Morrissey: 2001 to the present

Highlights

During its forty years of existence, River City Chorale has presented over 400 concerts in the Sacramento area, Canada, Brazil and many of the major cities of continental Europe and England, Scotland and Wales. In July of this year, the group will take a concert tour of Ireland.

Director's Notes

Richard Morrissey

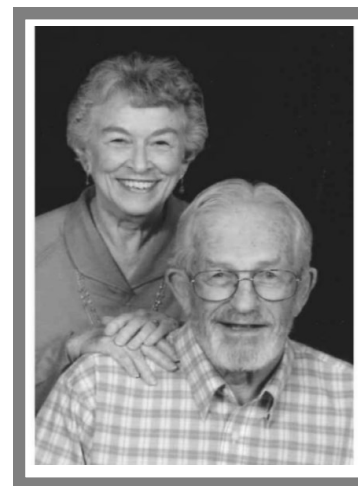


Just imagine, River City Chorale has been making beautiful music in the Sacramento area for 40 years! And our wonderful audiences have supported us all that time.

We are like a family. We rejoice with each other in good times and weep with each other when bad things happen. We celebrate our birthdays together. Several happily married couples met in the choir, and we sang at their weddings.

The music in our performance this afternoon was chosen from past concerts. We went through our programs and picked our most loved songs to sing today. We had to pick and choose, because we found over 50 "most loved" songs! If we tried to sing them all today, the concert would be three hours long! If you have attended our performances before, you will probably hear some of your favorites. So, sit back, relax, and be prepared to enjoy the music.

**We are pleased to dedicate this concert to
OUR FOUNDERS**



BOB AND MARY BALKOW

**Please join us following the concert for our
40th ANNIVERSARY RECEPTION**



Richard Morrissey, Director

Dean Mora, Accompanist

River City Chorale

Rise and Shine **Todd Jolly**

Gloria **Mark Hayes**

I Lift Up Mine Eyes **Richard Morrissey**

Best of the Beach Boys **Arr. Ed Lojeski**

Galway Bay **Arr. Richard Morrissey**

Let it Shine **Norman Morris**

The Water is Wide with Shenandoah
Grier & Everson

I Got Rhythm **George & Ira Gershwin**

Intermission

River City Chamber Choir

A Portrait of Cole Porter

Arr. Kirby Shaw

Three Folksongs

Johannes Brahms

Sunny Side of the Street

Fields & McHugh
Arr. Mac Huff

River City Chorale

Amazing Grace

Arr. Tom Mitchell

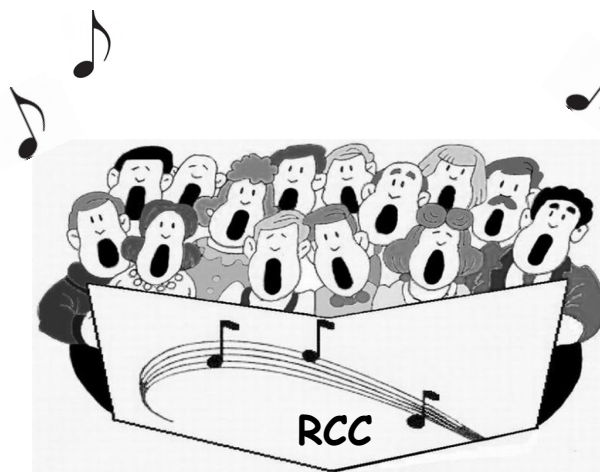
John Denver, A Legacy of Song **Arr. Ed Lojeski**

Let Us Break Bread Together **Arr. Tom Mitchell**

Swingin' With the Saints **Arr. Mark Hayes**

River City Chorale & Former Members

The Lord Bless You and Keep You **Peter Lutkin**



is still goin' strong!