

CHERRY CREEK
CHORALE

Presents

Spells, Spirits & Mariachis

October 10 - 11, 2025



Brian Patrick Leatherman
ARTISTIC DIRECTOR AND CONDUCTOR

William White
ASSOCIATE CONDUCTOR AND ACCOMPANIST

Debbie Johnson
PRINCIPAL ACCOMPANIST

Featuring guest artists from **Mariachi Las Dahlias**, **Alex Komodore**, Professor of Guitar at Metro State University, and **Chappell Kingsland** of the Wild Beautiful Orchestra

President's Welcome

Dear Friends,

Welcome to Spirits, Spells, and Mariachi! This evening, song animates falling leaves, Halloween mischief, and the spirits of Día de los Muertos. From Ola Gjeilo's haunting *Autumn* to the playful *Zombie Jamboree*, tonight promises chills and delight. We're especially thrilled to welcome Mariachi Las Dahlias, whose vibrant artistry expands this concert into a truly unforgettable evening.

This season is also a time of transformation for the Cherry Creek Chorale. Over the summer we collaborated with a professional grant writer and marketer—steps that allow us to tell our story more broadly, diversify funding, and expand our reach. We're modernizing ticketing, strengthening our branding, and laying the foundation for a redesigned website. These updates aren't just about technology; they're about hospitality, sustainability, and making every touchpoint—whether discovering us online, purchasing tickets, or sitting in this sanctuary—reflect the same artistry and care that our singers bring to every performance.

Amid tonight's variety of moods—mysterious, mischievous, and celebratory—there are also moments of profound beauty. One of these is *Noche de Lluvia* by Sid Robinovitch, set to the poetry of Juana de Ibarbouro. This piece conjures a rainy night alive with intimacy and imagination: raindrops tap at the window as two hearts weave a private world sheltered from the storm. It distills the essence of this concert—ordinary moments transformed into luminous connection through music.

As we celebrate our 46th anniversary season, we honor our history by investing in our future: strengthening our organization, deepening our impact, and widening the circle of those who experience the power of this music. Thank you for being here, for your support, and for joining us on this journey. Tonight, we raise our voices in harmony with the past, the present, and the future.

With gratitude and festive spirits,

Gia Viscardi,

Cherry Creek Chorale President, president@cherrycreekchorale.org

Program Notes

It's the Most Liminal Time of the Year!

Did I get your attention with the word "liminal"? It means "transitional" or "threshold." If you're like me, as the beautiful days of September have melted into mid-October, your feelings are kind of liminal too. On the one hand, the crisp days and cool nights are invigorating; on the other, there's an ache to the realization that this year is drawing to a close. Winter isn't far ahead, with its darkness and cold.

But we're going to celebrate this season as it is right now. We'll walk through a forest and watch the falling leaves. We'll enter the world of Jack Pumpkinhead. We'll celebrate love in all its phases—the beginning, full flower, and as it has ended. We'll face storms with courage and surrender to rhythm.

You'll note that our concert has a decidedly Spanish flavor, with around half of our selections sung in that language. Why would that be, you might ask? Because the twin of Halloween is the Day of the Dead—El Día de los Muertos. Both of these holidays have deep and ancient roots going well back to pre-Christian times. If you're interested in finding out a little more about the historical backgrounds for some of our selections, I'd encourage you to go to our home page, www.cherrycreekchorale.org, and scroll down to the "*Behind the Music*" banner where you can click on the button to read a variety of articles.

We have a number of visiting artists with us tonight, so be sure to look for information elsewhere in this program to read all about them. You'll hear violin, guitar, and percussion being played throughout the evening. Our small group the CherryTones has, for this concert, rebranded as the CherryBones. And I would point out especially, since "mariachis" are mentioned in the title of our concert, that our program includes the wonderful Mariachi Las Dahlias, which will join in with us and also perform a set of their own. They were a real find!

So sit back and drink it all in. We have had a ball working on these pieces, tongue-twisting Spanish lyrics and all. As I close these notes I want to leave you with the final words of the most recently published song on our program, "*Autumn*," with lyrics by one of America's greatest living poets (although I'm sure he's far too modest to describe himself that way), Charles Anthony Silvestri:

*Even when shadows lengthen,
I'm here where I belong.*

Debi Simons, www.debisimons.com

œ In Memoriam œ

Mike Freeland & Liz Barraud

We were saddened and a little stunned by the passing of two Chorale stalwarts, one current and one previous.

Liz Barraud was a fixture in our 1st Soprano section for years. Long-time chorale patrons will remember her singing the second verse of Silent Night in German while the Chorale hummed, often in the round. I particularly remember her singing it with the only lights in the room on her.

She was that kind of bright light. She had a particular lilt to her voice with a rather quick vibrato. She was also a quick wit with a sometimes ribald sense of humor and a sly smile. We could count on her for advice on our German and French pronunciation. She had moved to the Northwest to be near her daughter, and her failing health finally culminated in the sad news we received in August—not unexpected, but certainly not welcome news.

That same week, our beloved Mike Freeland, our Santa look-alike, passed after a prolonged battle with cancer. He called it the disease with no symptoms, and for many years he battled it with no apparent loss of energy or enthusiasm for the Chorale, for his recording work, and for all the IT details on which we depended upon him for years.

Mike and I had the kind of friendship where you picked up the phone and started mid-thought, mid-sentence, and the understanding was a given. He was a man of keen intellect, catholic tastes, and a tremendous avocational appetite for music of all kinds, especially choral. My single favorite moment with Mike was when we were walking through a mall (a rather strange place for the two of us to be, actually) and two boys, approximately 5 and 7, were walking in front of us, frequently turning to look at Mike with surprise and curiosity. Finally, Mike, the master of understatement, said, "As a matter of fact, I AM!" That sent the pair off at a run, squealing to their mother that they had found Santa Claus. He also delighted in telling children, in ear shot of their parents, "I will be sure that you get that pony you want for Christmas!"

His dedication to the Cherry Creek Chorale was unmatched, and while we will manage to get all the things done that he did for us, we will never replace him.

Rest in peace, friends -- Brian Leatherman

Cherry Creek Chorale

When October Goes (with Autumn Leaves)

Arranged by Paul Langford

AUTUMN LEAVES, *English lyric by Johnny Mercer, French lyric by Jacques Prevert,
Music by Joseph Kosma*

The falling leaves drift by the window
The autumn leaves of red and gold.
I see your lips, the summer kisses,
The sun-burned hands I used to hold.
Since you went away the days grow
long

And soon I'll hear old winter's song.
But I miss you most of all my darling
When autumn leaves start to fall.
But in your dreams, whatever they be,
Dream a little dream of me.

WHEN OCTOBER GOES, *Words by Johnny Mercer, Music by Barry Manilow*

And when October goes, the snow
begins to fly.
Above the smokey roofs I watch the
planes go by;
The children running home beneath a
twilight sky.
Oh, for the fun of them when I was one
of them.

And you are in my arms to share the
happy years.
I turn my head away to hide the
helpless tears.

Oh, how I hate to see October go.
I should be over it, now I know.
It doesn't matter much how old I grow.

And when October goes the same old
dream appears.

I hate to see October go.

Autumn

Music by Ola Gjeilo, Lyrics by Charles Anthony Silvestri

Feel the falling air,
The light becoming golden;
Trees their colors wear,
Deep and all-enfolding.

The autumn leaves embracing;
But soon they all must fall,
The summer green erasing,
To answer winter's call.

And here once again
Familiar paths I wander;
Through the westmark end
The living earth I ponder.
Though fading days are colder,
And soon the darkness long,
My spirit-fire grows bolder,
And in my heart a song.

Even when shadows lengthen,
I'm here where I belong.

Nightmare Before Christmas Medley

Music and Lyrics by Danny Elfman, Arranged by Alan Billingsley

Soloists: James Libbon, Tom Evert

THIS IS HALLOWEEN

Boys and girls of every age,
Wouldn't you like to see something
strange?
Come with us and you will see
This, our town of Halloween!

This is Halloween, this is Halloween!
Pumpkins scream in the dead of night!
This is Halloween, everybody make a
scene.
Trick or treat 'til the neighbors gonna
die of fright.
It's our town, everybody scream
In this town of Halloween!

I am the one hiding under your bed,
Teeth ground sharp and eyes glowing
red!

I am the one hiding under your stairs,
Fingers like snakes and spiders in my
hair!

This is Halloween, this is Halloween,
Halloween! Halloween! Halloween!
Halloween!

In this town, we call home,
Everyone, hail to the pumpkin song!
La la la la ...
Halloween! Whee!

WHAT'S THIS

What's this? What's this?
There's color everywhere.
What's this?
There's white things in the air.
What's this?
I can't believe my eyes. I must be
dreaming.
Wake up, Jack, this isn't fair!
What's this?

What's this? What's this?
There's something very wrong.
What's this?
There's people singing songs.
What's this?
The streets are lined with little
creatures laughing.
Everybody seems so happy.

Have I possibly gone daffy? What is
this?

What's this?

There're children throwing snowballs
instead of throwing heads.

They're busy building toys and
absolutely no one's dead.

There's frost on every window. Oh, I
can't believe my eyes.

And in my bones I feel the warmth
that's coming from inside.

The sights, the sounds,

They're everywhere and all around.

I've never felt so good before.

This empty place inside of me is filling
up.

I simply cannot get enough.
I want it, oh, I want it.
Oh, I want it for my own.

I've got to know. I've got to know.
What is this place that I have found?

WHAT IS THIS?!

KIDNAP THE SANDY CLAWS

Kidnap Mr. Sandy Claws?
I wanna do it! Let's draw straws.
Jack said we should work together.
Three of a kind,
Birds of a feather,
Now and forever!
Whee! La, la, la

Throw him in the ocean, then see if he
is sad.
Because Mr. Oogie Boogie is the
meanest guy around.
If I were on his boogie list, I'd get out
of town!

Kidnap the Sandy Claws,
Lock him up real tight.
Throw away the key and then turn off
all the lights.
Kidnap the Sandy Claws, tie him in a
bag.

OOGIE BOOGIE'S SONG

When Mr. Oogie Boogie says
There's trouble close at hand,
You'd better pay attention, now
'Cause I'm the Boogie Man.
And if you aren't shakin',
There's something very wrong.
'Cause this may be the last time you
hear the Boogie song.
Oh, Oh, Oh,
I'm the Oogie Boogie Man.

Well, if I'm feelin' antsy
And I've nothin' much to do,
I might just cook a special batch
Of snake and spider stew.
And don't ya know the one thing
That would make it work so nice?
A roly-poly Sandy Claws to add a little
spice
Oh, Oh, Oh,
I'm the Oogie Boogie Man.

Halloween! Halloween! Halloween!
Halloween!
In this town, we call home,
Everyone, hail to the pumpkin song!
La la la la ... Whee! ...Halloween!

I Put a Spell On You

From the motion picture Hocus Pocus

Words and music by Jay Hawkins, Arranged by Jacob Narverud

*Soloists: Randi Libbon, Margarita Piskunova, Katy Fink-Johnson, Lisa Blunck,
Christianna Reynolds, Jenee Stewart*

I put a spell on you,
And now you're mine.
You can't stop the things I do.
She ain't lyin'.
It's been three hundred years,
Right down to the day,
Now the witch is back!
And there's hell to pay.
I put a spell on you.
And now you're mine!

I put a spell on you,
And now you're gone
Gone, gone, so long!
My whammy fell on you
And it was strong
So strong, so strong, so strong!
Your wretched little lives
Have all been cursed,
'Cuz of all the witches working,
I'm the worst!
I put a spell on you,
And now you're gone.

I put a spell on you,
And now you're mine,
Mine, mine, mine, all mine!
My potion's well in you

And it's time,
It's time, it's time, it's time!
You don't have very long
Before you burst,
'Cuz you'll feel the potion working
And it hurts!
I put a spell on you,
And now you're mine.

Watch out! Watch out!
Watch out! Watch out!
She ain't lyin'.
If you don't believe,
You better get superstitious.
Ask my sisters!
She's vicious!
Uh! Eek!

I put a spell on you,
A wicked spell.
I put a spell on you!
Sisters:
Ah, say ento pi, alpha maybe upen di!
Ah, say ento pi, alpha maybe upen di!
In comma coriyama,
In comma coriyama
Hey, hi, say bye-bye!

Tipitin

Words and music by Maria Grever

English words and adaptation by Raymond Leveen and Horace Heidt

Arranged by Raul Dominguez

Translation:

Tin tipi tipiton tipi tipitin tipi tipton.

Ladrón de amores me llaman,
Por robarme su cariño,
Como un juguete que a un niño
Se le antojara al pasar.
Con el, me robe, tus besos
Y un rizo de tus cabellos,
Pero me he enredado en ellos
Y no me puedo zafar.

Tin tipi tipiton tipi tipitin tipi tipton.
Todas las mañanas bajo tu ventana,
Canto esta canción.

Tin tipi tipiton tipi tipitin tipi tipton.
Y es solo el sonido del fuerte latido,
De mi corazón.

Con mi guitarra en la mano,
Y en ella un ramo de flores,
Por las mañanas temprano,
Voy cantando mis amores.
Y en mi cantar voy diciendo,
Que nunca te he de olvidar,
Que aunque la vida me cueste,
El cantar no he de dejar.

Tin tipi tipiton tipi tipitin tipi tipton.

They call me a thief of love for having
stolen your love
Like a toy a child fancies
when walking by it
With it, I stole your kisses and a lock of
your hair,
But now I'm tangled in it and I can't set
myself free.

Tin tipi tipiton tipi tipitin tipi tipton.
Every morning below your window, I
sing this song.

Tin tipi tipiton tipi tipitin tipi tipton.
This is the sound of the strong beating
of my heart.

With my guitar in my hand, and in it a
bouquet of flowers,
I go out every morning, singing about
my love.
And in my song, I keep saying that I will
never forget you,
Even if I die, I will never stop singing.

Three Mexican Folk Songs

Traditional Mexican melodies, arranged by David Conte

English translations by Martha Rodriguez-Salazar

1. La Martiniana

Niña, cuando yo muera,
No llores sobre mi tumba.
Cántame un lindo son, ay mamá.
Cántame la Sandunga.

Lucero de la mañana
El rey de todos los sonos
Canta la Martiniana, ay mamá,
Que rompe los corazones.

No me llores, no, no me llores, no,
Porque si lloras yo peno.
En cambio, si tu me cantas
Yo siempre vivo y nunca muero,
En cambio si tu me cantas
Yo siempre vivo y nunca muero.

Si quieres que te recuerde,
Si quieres que no te olvide
Canta mis sonos del alma, ay mamá,
Música que no muere.

Translation:

Little girl, when I die
Don't cry over my grave.
Sing me a beautiful song, oh mother
Sing to me la Sandunga.

Star of the morning,
King of all songs,
Sings the Martiniana
Oh mother, that breaks hearts.

Do not cry for me, no, do not cry for me
because if you cry I will keep suffering.
On the contrary, if you sing to me
I will always live, I will never die.

If you want me to remember you,
If you want me to never forget you,
sing happy songs, oh mother
Music that will never die.



2. La Bruja (The Witch)

¡Ay! qué bonito es volar,
A las dos de la mañana,
A las dos de la mañana,
¡Ay! qué bonito es volar, ay mamá.

Subir y dejarse caer
En los brazos de una dama,
En los brazos de una dama.
Que hasta quisiera llorar, ay mamá.

Me agarra la bruja y me lleva a su casa,
Me vuelve maceta y una calabaza.
Me agarra la bruja y me lleva al cerrito,
Me vuelve maceta y un calabacito.

Que diga y que diga, que digame usted
Cuántas criaturitas se ha chupado ayer,
Ninguna, ninguna, ninguna, no sé,
yo ando en pretensiones de chuparme
a usted.

¡Ay!, me espantó una mujer,
En medio del mar salado,
En medio del mar salado,
Ay me espantó una mujer, ay mamá.

Por qué no quería creer
Lo que otros me habían contado
Lo de arriba era mujer
Y lo de abajo pescado, ay mamá.

Translation:

Oh how lovely it is to fly
At two in the morning,
At two in the morning.
How beautiful it is to fly, oh mother.

To fly and let yourself fall
Into the arms of a lady,
Into the arms of a lady,
I even want to weep, oh mother.

The witch grabs me and takes me to
her house,
She turns me into a flower pot and a
pumpkin.

The witch grabs me and takes me to
the hilltop.
She turns me into a flower pot and a
pumpkin.

Oh tell me, tell me, tell me you,
How many little ones have you sucked
on?
None, none, none, don't you see, I
mean to suck on you.

Oh, a woman scared me
In the middle of the salty ocean,
In the middle of the salty ocean.
Oh, a woman scared me, oh mother.

Because I could not believe
What others had told me
The upper part was a woman
And the bottom was a fish, oh mother.

3. La Llorona (The Weeping Woman)

Translation:

¡Salías del templo un día, llorona,
Cuando al pasar yo te vi.
Hermoso huipil llevabas, llorona,
Que la Virgen te creí.
Llorona de azul celeste.

You were going out of the temple,
llorona,
When I saw you passing by.
A beautiful huipil you were wearing,
llorona,
That I thought you were the Virgin.
Llorona of heaven's blue color.

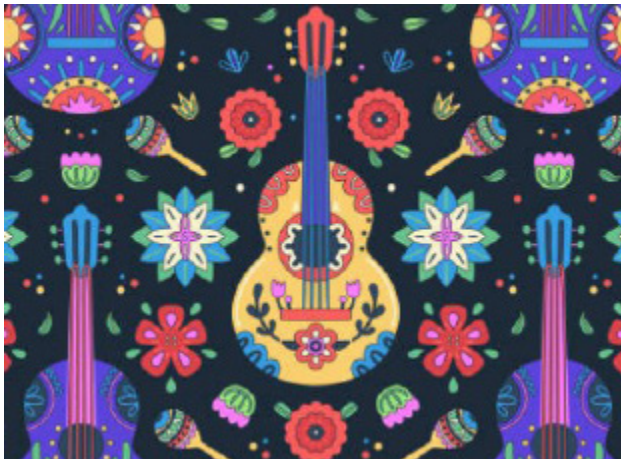
Dicen que no tengo duelo, llorona,
Porque no me ven llorar.
Hay muertos que no hacen ruido,
llorona,
Y es más grande su penar.
Llorona de azul celeste.

People say I'm not in mourning, llorona,
Because they don't see me cry.
There are dead ones that don't make
noise, llorona,
And whose suffering is so much
greater.
Llorona of heaven's blue color.

Mariachi Las Dahlias

(songs to be announced from the stage)

œIntermissionœ





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CherryBones

Zombie Jamboree

As performed by Rockapella, Arranged by James Libbon

It was a Zombie Jamboree,
Took place in the New York cemetery.
Oh, it was a zombie jamboree,
Took place in the New York cemetery.

Zombies from all parts of the island
Some of them are great Calypsonians.
Since the season was carnival, oh,
They got together in Bacchanal
And they were singing

Chorus

*Back to back, mon, belly to belly.
Well, I don't give a damn 'cause I'm
stone dead already.
Back to back, belly to belly.
It's a zombie jamboree.*

One female zombie she wouldn't
behave,

See how she's dancing out of the
grave.

In one hand she's holding a quart of
rum,

The other hand is knocking a conga
drum.

You know the lead singer starts to
make his rhyme

While the other zombie is rockin' in
time.

One bystander, he had this to say:
"It was a trip to see the zombies break
away"

Shah! And they were singing:

Chorus

Dos Oruguitas (Two Little Caterpillars)

Music and lyrics by Lin-Manuel Miranda, Arranged by Audrey Snyder

Soloist: Leslie Beahm

Translation:

Dos oruguitas enamoradas,
Pasan sus noches y madrugadas,
Llenas de hambre,
Siguen andando y navegando un
mundo
Que cambia y sigue cambiando
Navegando un mundo Que cambia y
sigue cambiando.

Two oruguitas in love and yearning,
Spend every evening and morning
learning
To hold each other,
Their hunger burning, to navigate a
world
That turns, and never stops turning.
Together in this world
That turns, and never stops turning.

Dos oruguitas paran el viento,
Mientras se abrazan con
sentimiento.
Siguen creciendo, no saben cuándo
Buscar algún rincón.
El tiempo sigue cambiando
Inseparables son,
El tiempo sigue cambiando.

Ay, oruguitas, no se aguanten más.
Hay que crecer aparte y volver,
Hacia adelante seguirás.
Vienen milagros, vienen crisálidas.
Hay que partir y construir su propio
futuro.

Dos oruguitas desorientadas,
En dos capullos bien abrigadas,
Con sueños nuevos.
Ya solo falta hacer lo necesario
En el mundo que sigue cambiando.
Tumbando sus paredes,
Ahí viene nuestro milagro,
Nuestro milagro,
Nuestro milagro,
Nuestro milagro.

Ay, mariposas, no se aguanten más.
Hay que crecer aparte y volver,
Hacia adelante seguirás.
Ya son milagros, rompiendo
crisálidas.
Hay que volar, hay que encontrar Su
propio futuro. Vienen milagros,
vienen crisálidas.
Hay que partir y construir su propio
futuro.

Two oruguitas against the weather.
The wind grows colder but they're
together. They hold each other, no
way of knowing They're all they have
for shelter, And something inside
them is growing. They long to stay
together, but something inside them
is growing.

Ay, oruguitas, don't you hold on too
tight. Both of you know it's your time
to grow, To fall apart, to reunite.
Wonders await you just on the other
side. Trust they'll be there and start
to prepare The way for tomorrow.

Two oruguitas cocooned and
waiting,
Each in their own world, anticipating
What happens after: the rearranging.
And so afraid of change,
In a world that never stops changing.
So let the walls come down,
The world will never stop changing.
Never stop changing,
Never stop changing,
Never stop changing.

Ay, mariposas (butterflies), don't you
hold on too tight. Both of you know
it's your time to go, To fly apart, to
reunite. Wonders surround you, Just
let the walls come down. Don't look
behind you, Fly till you find your way
toward tomorrow.

The Cherry Creek Chorale

Remember Me (Ernesto de la Cruz)

From COCO, Words and music by Kristen Anderson Lopez and Robert Lopez

Soloist: Bonnie Hackett

Remember me, though I have to say
goodbye.
Remember me, don't let it make you
cry.
For even if I'm far away, I hold you in
my heart.
I sing a secret song to you each night
we are apart.

Remember me, though I have to travel
far.
Remember me each time you hear a
sad guitar.
Know that I'm with you the only way
that I can be.
Until you're in my arms again,
remember me.

Un Poco Loco

From COCO, Lyrics by Adrian Molina, Arranged by Mark Brymer

Soloists: James and Randi Libbon

What color is the sky? Ay, mi amor, ay,
mi amor.
You tell me that it's red. Ay, mi amor,
ay, mi amor.
Where should I put my shoes? Ay, mi
amor, ay, mi amor.
You say, "Put them on your head!" Ay,
mi amor, ay, mi amor.

And you make me un poco loco, un
poquitito loco.
The way you keep me guessing, I'm
nodding and I'm yes-ing.

I'll count it as a blessing that I'm only
un poco loco.

The loco that you make me, it is just un
poco crazy.
The sense that you're not making, the
liberties you're taking,
Leaves my cabeza shaking.
You are just un poco loco.

He's just un poco crazy, leaves my
cabeza shaking.

Audience Sing-Along

(Guantanamera and La Bamba)

Guantanamera

Chorus:

Guantanamera

Guajira Guantanamera

Guantanamera

Guajira Guantanamera

Yo soy un hombre sincero

De donde crece la palma

Yo soy un hombre sincero

De donde crece la palma

Y antes de morir yo quiero

Echar mis versos del alma

Y antes de morir yo quiero

Echar mis versos del alma

Chorus

Trumpet solo

No me pongan en lo oscuro

A morir como un traidor

No me pongan en lo oscuro

A morir como un traidor

Yo soy bueno y como bueno

Moriré de cara al sol

Yo soy bueno y como bueno

Moriré de cara al sol

Chorus

La Bamba

Para bailar La Bamba, Para bailar La

Bamba se necesita una poca de gracia,

Una poca de gracia y otra cosita y

arriba y arriba

Ay arriba y arriba y arriba por ti seré

por ti seré, por ti seré

Chorus:

Bamba, Bamba

Bamba, Bamba

Bamba, Bamba

Bamba, Bamba

Para subir al cielo, Para subir al cielo

se necesita una escalera grande, una

escalera grande y otra cosita

Ay, arriba y arriba, Ay, arriba y arriba y

arriba iré

Yo no soy marinero, Yo no soy

marinero, soy capitán,

soy capitán, soy capitán

Chorus

Trumpet solo

Cuando canto la bamba, cuando canto
la bamba

yo estoy contento por que yo me

acompañó,

por que yo me acompañó, con mi

instrumento

y arriba y arriba, arriba, y arriba arriba

iré

yo no soy marinero, yo no soy marinero

por ti seré, por ti seré

Chorus

Ay cupido te pido, Ay Cupido te pido

por compasión que se acabe la Bamba.

Que se acabe La Bamba y venga otro

son

Ay arriba y arriba

Ay arriba, arriba

por ti seré, por ti seré, por ti seré

Bamba....

The Cherry Creek Chorale

Temporal

Traditional Puerto Rican Plena, Arranged by Diana V Saez and Suzzette Ortiz

Translation:

Allá viene, allá viene, el temporal.
Temporal, temporal,
Allá viene el temporal.
Que será de Puerto Rico
Cuando llegue el temporal?
Que será de mi Borinquen
Cuando llegue el temporal?
Se levanta del pueblo
Al son de los tambores
No nos tumba el viento
Ni diez mil temblores
Somos resilientes,
Somos luchadores
No nos tumba el viento
Ni diez mil temblores.

There comes, There comes the storm.
Storm, storm
There comes the storm.
What will become of Puerto Rico
when the storm arrives?
What will become of my Puerto Rico
when the storm arrives?
The people arise
to the rhythm of the drums
The wind cannot bring us down
nor ten thousand earthquakes.
We are resilient.
We are warriors.
The wind cannot bring us down
Nor ten thousand earthquakes.

Noche de Lluvia from Canciones Por Las Americas (*Rainy Night from Songs for the Americas*)

Music by Sid Robinovitch, Lyrics by Juana de Ibarbourou

Translation:

Espera, no te duermas.
Quédate atento a lo que dice el viento
Yo a lo que dice el agua que golpea
Con sus dedos menudos en los vidrios.

Wait, do not sleep.
Listen to what the wind is saying
And to what the water says tapping
With little fingers upon the window
panes.

Todo mi corazón se vuelve oídos
Para escuchar a la hechizada hermana,
Que ha dormido en el cielo,
Que ha visto el sol,

My heart is listening
To hear the enchanted sister
Who has slept in the sky,
Who has seen the sun,

Y baja ahora, elástica y alegre.

Escuchemos el ritmo de la lluvia.

Apoya entre mis senos

Tu frente taciturna.

Yo sentiré el latir de tus dos sienes,

Palpitantes y tibias.

Cómo estará de alegre el trigo
ondeante!

Con qué avidez se exponjará la hierba!

Cuántos diamantes colgarán ahora Del
ramaje profundo de los pinos!

Espera, no te duermas. Esta noche

Somos los dos un mundo,

Aislado por el viento y por la lluvia

Entre las cuencas tibias de una alcoba.

And now comes down, buoyant and
gay.

Let us listen to the rhythm of the rain.

Cradle between my breasts

Your silent forehead

I will feel the beating of your temples,
Throbbing and warm.

How gay the waving wheat will be!

How eagerly the grass will thrive!

What diamonds will cluster now
In the deep branches of the pines!

Wait, do not sleep. Tonight

The two of us are a world,

Isolated by wind and rain

In the warmth of a bedroom.

Oye Como Va

Words and music by Tito Puente, Arranged by Kirby Shaw

Bahm bah bah dah bah day ah.

Translation:

Oye cómo va,

Mi ritmo,

Bueno pa' gozar,

Mulatta.

Hear how my rhythm goes

Good to enjoy

Oye cómo va,

Mi ritmo,

Bueno pa' gozar,

Mulatto.

You can feel the rhythm.

You can feel it down in your soul.

You can feel the rhythm.

Mariachi Las Dahlias is Colorado's premier all-female mariachi ensemble, dedicated to celebrating Mexican and Hispanic heritage. Blending rich tradition with vibrant energy, they bring the spirit of mariachi to life while championing female representation in the arts. With dynamic performances at festivals, private events, and statewide celebrations, Las Dahlias deliver an unforgettable musical experience rooted in culture, passion, and authenticity.

Violinist Priscilla Arasaki and vocalist/vihuela player Marialuisa Meza-Burgos are core members and leaders of Las Dahlias. Both bring a wealth of performance experience as well as a shared commitment to expanding mariachi education and cultural preservation. Together, they also serve as Co-Executive Directors of the Cuerdas y Canciones Center for Mariachi Arts and Culture, an organization dedicated to promoting mariachi education and sustaining cultural traditions in schools and communities across Colorado.

Priscilla holds degrees in Music Education (M.M., University of Colorado Boulder) and Music Studies (B.A., University of Texas at Austin). As a former public school teacher, she established and expanded mariachi programs throughout the St. Vrain Valley School District.

Marialuisa brings over 20 years of experience as a mariachi artist. She earned her B.A. in Music from MSU Denver and an MFA in Theatre from Naropa University. In addition to performing, she teaches voice and armonía for the Colorado Youth Mariachi Program, inspiring the next generation of mariachi musicians.

Performers:

Marialuisa Meza-Burgos: vihuela and voice

Diana Lechuga: guitarrón

Priscilla Arasaki: violin

Angie Velazco Perez: violin and voice

Alice Hansen: trumpet

Rebecca Ortiz: trumpet



Alex Komodore is a Denver-based Master Classical Guitarist winning praise from critics, audiences, and many of the world's finest guitarists. He is a Professor of Music and has been with MSU Denver since 1985.



The Cherry Creek Chorale
Board Members and Staff
2025-2026 Season

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The Cherry Creek Chorale Artistic Staff



Artistic Director and Conductor, Brian Patrick Leatherman, has lead the Cherry Creek Chorale for more than 30 years, guiding the ensemble through unprecedented artistic, membership and collaborative growth. A retired music educator and very active choral conductor, Brian is also the Artistic Director and Co-Founder of the 5280+ Senior Chorales. He has appeared as soloist with numerous choirs and orchestras including the Robert Shaw Festival Singers and the Robert Shaw Festival Chorus. Prior posts include directorship of the Pueblo Choral Society and the Douglas County Children's Chorus.



Associate Conductor and Assistant Accompanist, William White, is a Minnesota native and the Director of Vocal Music and Tri-M Chapter Sponsor at D'Evelyn Jr./Sr. High School. William graduated magna cum laude with All-College Honors from St. John's University with a BA in Music – Piano Performancen and received his MM in Choral Conducting from the University of Kentucky. He has accompanied honor choirs, reading sessions, festivals, and musicals with ACDA-MN, Kentucky Music Educators Association, and the The Lexington Theatre Company. Most recently he directed D'Evelyn students and the Cherry Creek Chorale for Mozart's Coronation Mass at Carnegie Hall.



Principal Accompanist, Debbie Johnson, grew up playing Beethoven and Chopin and singing Rodgers & Hammerstein. She currently works in the Douglas County Library system and is a writer. She has taught music and drama in both Denver and Tucson. Previously, she worked with two non-profits in India and founded/directed DenverWorks, an inner-city jobs program. She did graduate work at the University of Denver and received her Masters in Music Education in Arkansas. She loves the artistry, excellence, and FUN of the Cherry Creek Chorale!



CherryTones Conductor, James Libbon, is happy to have been able to join the Chorale and the Tones and now in his position as musical director for the group. He has 20+ years of educational and professional choral performance experience, mostly vocal jazz and Rockapella, fifteen of which were leading, writing, and arranging for groups. When he's not singing, he works as a geriatric physician and, in his spare time, pursues hobbies including photography, videography, swimming, and spending time with his wife and daughters.

The CHERRYTONES

The CherryTones sing a cappella and accompanied jazz and pop standards. They perform at Chorale concerts, private parties, Rotary meetings, retirement centers, community events, and more. They could sing at your next event too! Mark a milestone hearing "Happy Birthday" sung to you by this group of outstanding voices! Let your meeting sparkle more with a performance by these smiling artists! Have a musical interlude at your wedding or next class reunion!

For more information, contact Manager@CherryTones.org
Visit our website at CherryTones.org or scan the QR Code



James Libbon, The CherryTones Conductor - Randi Libbon, Manager

Sopranos:

Nancy Henson
Jenee Stewart
Gia Viscardi
Jeannie Williams

Altos:

Leslie Beahm
Randi Libbon
Leah Lucas
Ruth Most

Tenors:

Nathan Bill
Tim Gesler
Jay Hartman
Albert Zagray

Bass:

John Buteyn
Peter Christian
Gordon Johnson
Wyatt Johnson



Soprano

Lisa Blunck
Kerry Cottingham
Rachel Cox
Susan Davenport
Liz Fallon
Katy Fink-Johnson

Nancy Henson
Nancy Lauth*
Cari Levy
Maura Mackintosh
Kathleen Meier
Julie Ann Millett
Sue Miranda

Colleen Parsley
Kristen Radebaugh
Deb Reeb
Christi Reynolds
Margaret Roberts
Ashley Rodgers
Karen Sandberg

Gareth Smith
Jeanene Smith
Gloria Srikijkarn*
Jenee Stewart
Gia Viscardi
Jeannie Williams

Alto

Karen Anderson
Madison Armstrong
Margaret Beardall
Judy Blake
Sally Bradley
Jann Folsom

Donna Frederickson
Kay Frevert
Megan Garvin
Carolyn Gentle*
Bonnie Hackett
Ellie Havens
Debbie Johnson
Jean Kelminson

Karen Kennedy
Randi Libbon
Leah Lucas
Felice Morel
Ruth Most
Tracy Newton
Hannah Nikkel
Margarita Piskunova

Corey Portofino
Paula Rokicki
Marsha Scheinhart
Amy Stanesco
Leslie Stevenson
Cindy Towle
Susan Warren

Tenor

Nathan Bill
Keith Emerson
Tim Gesler
Bob Hartley

Jay Hartman
Carole Hedrick
Tom Johnson
Kevin LaPrise
Justin Levy

Patrick McClaury***
John Morel
Mert Nason
Patrick Roney
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Debi Simons
Glen Stribling
Will White
Larry Young
Albert Zagray

Bass

John Buteyn
Tom Evert
Brad Folsom

Brian Frevert
Gordon Johnson
Wyatt Johnson
Scott Jorgenson

Dan Kullas*
Bob Larson
Brian Leatherman
Ron Lester*

James Libbon
Christopher Stille
Ralph Trenary
III John Wollan

* Section Leader

** Section Leader pro tem

***Choral Scholar

updated as of 9.30.2025

Ways to Support and Donate to the Cherry Creek Chorale

Purchase tickets to our concerts. We would not be here without you!

Visit CherryCreekChorale.org and click on **Support**. The drop-down menu includes:

- Make a donation through **Colorado Gives**. Thank you for your support this past year and continuing support.
- **Donate your vehicle**. Easy, safe, free, and tax-deductible. Our partner, Vehicles for Charity, will pick up your vehicle, take it away, provide you a receipt - all at no charge to you! Use the website tab or call 1-866-628-2277.
- **Mail a Check** to Cherry Creek Chorale, P.O. Box 3272, Greenwood Village, CO 80155.
- **Advertise** in our concert programs. A win-win for the Chorale and for you, your business, or your organization.
- Become a **Corporate Sponsor** by having your business sponsor the Chorale. This is a great method to raise the profile of your business in the community through the recognition given to sponsors.
- Use your **King Soopers or City Market Rewards Card**. To enroll, go to the King Soopers website and add the Chorale by name or the identifier MY680 as the beneficiary. There is no additional cost to you.
Scan the QR code to view a how-to video.
- Purchase **promotional gift cards**. Local businesses offer gift cards, from which a percentage of your purchase amount is donated back to the Chorale. Watch for announcements when they become available.
- **Volunteer**. There are many activities that are in need of your time and/or special talent. For example, concert nights need ushers, greeters and box office help, to name a few.
- Become a part of the **Cherry Creek Chorale Legacy Program**. Planned gifts are a beneficial strategy to help you meet your personal financial goals and your desire to support the Cherry Creek Chorale with gift options that are meaningful and practical. You can be an integral part of sustaining the Chorale's future by including a charitable gift in your estate and financial plans.



To use a phrase from Colorado Gives - ***"Give where you live"***

Please consider adding to your support of the Chorale.

Every amount, no matter how small, supports the continuing quality of this community.

The Cherry Creek Chorale is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.

To Acknowledge our Donors

from 9/15/2024 through 9/15/2025

Applause: up to \$249

Barbara Astuno	Robert Hartley	Michael O'Connell
Andrew & Margaret Beardall	Richard Haynes	Eric Oss
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Katy Fink-Johnson
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Leslie Stevenson
Nancy Ulrich

Devin Bateman & Gia
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William White

Standing Ovation : \$5,000 or more

Tom & Jane Johnson

***To all of our donors, no matter how large or small your donation,
your support is greatly appreciated!***

Our Wish List

December 12 & 13, 2025.....**Rejoice in the Season!**

Save the date! Our December concert begins with selections from Benjamin Britten's masterpiece *A CEREMONY OF CAROLS*, featuring guest harpist Hillary Schefter. After that we will present stunning new arrangements of familiar carols and a setting of familiar words in breathtaking new compositions by the most popular current choral composers. With our special guests, the Mesa Middle School choir under the direction of chorale member (and former student of Brian Leatherman) Maddie Armstrong and the Chamber Music Society of Greater Denver, we bring you a concert of seasonal favorites that will truly make you REJOICE!

Our Collaborative Artists:

Hilary Schefter, principal harpist of the Symphony of the Rockies and the Boulder Symphony. \$480
The Chamber Music Society of Greater Denver. \$2400
The Mesa Middle School Choir. \$250

Our Repertoire includes:

A CEREMONY OF CAROLS by Benjamin Britten. \$600
A holiday classic! Britten took medieval carols and clothed them in music that is at once brilliant, tender and dramatic!

ANGELS WE HAVE HEARD ON HIGH arranged by Dan Forrest. \$300
From sparkling joy to moments of tender awe, this setting transports this time-honored carol into a realm of wonder!

O NATA LUX by Thomas Tallis. \$100
A choral classic composed by Thomas Tallis about 1575 using the text from a 10th-century hymn.

HOPE FOR RESOLUTION by Caldwell & Ivory. \$250
A deeply moving juxtaposition of a European chant melody (Of the Father's Love Begotten) and a song from South Africa (Thula Sizwe [Nation, Do Not Cry]). An unforgettable musical offering in our December concert.

Our Wish List (continued)

THE WORLD FOR CHRISTMAS by Anders Edenroth \$375

Made famous by the Swedish vocal jazz ensemble The Real Group, this is a Christmas wish that all children will inherit the beautiful, healthy planet of their dreams.

GOD REST YE MERRY, GENTLEMEN arranged by Heather Sorenson. \$275

Our tenors and basses will rock this infectious pop-style setting by one of the hottest names in choral music.

O COME, EMMANUEL by Elaine Hagenberg \$200

Our beloved Elaine Hagenberg has created an entirely new setting of these familiar words for soprano and alto voices. Like all her music, it is lyrical, passionate, and utterly beautiful!

BASHANA HABA'AH by John Leavitt \$300

This Jewish prayer for peace for the next year is presented in music which unfolds in a sonorous outpouring supported by a rich accompaniment.

Yes, I'd like to help! My name is _____

Email _____

I am attaching a check in the amount of \$_____ for # _____

Please contact me via phone #_____ or via email.

Do you wish to have your gift acknowledged in concert programs.

Yes____ No____

The Cherry Creek Chorale is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.

Your contribution, payable to **Cherry Creek Chorale**, may be mailed to P.O. Box 3272 Greenwood Village, CO 80155-3272, donated via our website at **www.cherrycreekchorale.org**, or scan the QR code.



We thank you for your generous response to our ***Wish List***.

Sincerely,

Brian Leatherman, Artistic Director and Conductor

Donors and Sponsors

*We give our profound thanks to our audience
and Chorale members for your generous support!*

And thanks to your generosity, we've been able to plan for the future in sound financial shape.

We acknowledge the continuing support from:



Bethany Lutheran Church
Barbara Seaton, Director of The Festival of Faith and the Arts
(see <https://www.bethany-arts.org/> for other great upcoming shows!)
and all of our advertisers and generous volunteers!

A vibrant autumn display featuring pumpkins, gourds, corn cobs, and pansies. The background is filled with a variety of pumpkins in shades of orange, white, and green, along with several ears of corn. In the foreground, there are several pansies in purple, yellow, and white. The overall scene is a rich and colorful representation of fall.

Fall into the Spirit of Autumn

**All Things Fall | Pumpkins
Cornstalks | Gourds | Mums
Check our calendar for Fall & Holiday events!**

*Congratulations, Cherry Creek Chorale,
on 46 wonderful seasons!*

Tagawa  Gardens

7711 S Parker Rd Centennial, CO 80016 (303) 690-4722 TagawaGardens.com

PLEASE JOIN US FOR OUR OTHER GREAT CONCERTS THIS SEASON

December 12 & 13, 2025 7:00 pm at Bethany Lutheran Church

Get ready to kick off the holiday season with our concert, **"Rejoice in the Season."** We're thrilled to announce that the incredible Hillary Schefter, the principal harpist of the Symphony of the Rockies and the Boulder Symphony, will grace our stage, performing the enchanting ***Ceremony of Carols*** by Benjamin Britten. But that's not all! You'll also be treated to the delightful sounds of the Chamber Music Society of Greater Denver and the talented choral students from Mesa Middle School, led by our very own Madison Armstrong. With a lineup featuring exquisite holiday tunes by Dan Forrest, Heather Sorenson, Elaine Hagenberg, John Leavitt, and the dynamic duo Caldwell & Ivory, this is an event you won't want to miss! So grab your family and friends to join us in this magical musical experience that promises to warm your hearts and get you into the festive spirit.

March 6 & 7, 2026 7:00 pm at Bethany Lutheran Church

Join us on an unforgettable musical journey as we proudly present **"American Songbook VI: The Brill Building Lights Up Manhattan!"** This exhilarating concert will take you on a nostalgic trip through the heart of New York City, starting with the timeless melodies of Aaron Copland's ***Old American Songs*** and the enchanting ***Campion Songs*** by Virgil Thomson. But that's just the beginning! We'll shine a spotlight on the iconic Brill Building, the vibrant hub of creativity that gave rise to the unforgettable hits of the 50s and 60s. We're absolutely thrilled to welcome back the incredibly talented choir from Overland High School under the direction of Phil Drozda. This is more than just a concert; it's a celebration of the rich tapestry of American music that connects us all.

May 8 & 9, 2026 7:00 pm at Bethany Lutheran Church

"From Darkness into Light: The Soul's Journey," The Music of Elaine Hagenberg. Five years ago, the Cherry Creek Chorale premiered *Illuminare* (in Colorado and later at Carnegie Hall), Elaine Hagenberg's critically acclaimed work narrating a journey from beauty to darkness, culminating in a triumphant return to light. This award-winning composer is finishing a new work which we will perform in May as a sneak peek for Colorado. We will sing this new work again at the world premiere in June, and at Hagenberg's invitation! This new work was commissioned by a consortium, of which CCC is a member. Although her piece, as of yet, has no title, be assured that her style will not only pull at your heart strings, but will have universal appeal with audiences and choirs around the world. Be among the first to experience this extraordinary musical adventure!