

Artistic Director

Dr. Matthew Myers

The Palouse Choral Society's 26th season is off to a great start! After a busy summer including the life-changing opportunity for many of our singers to travel to New York to perform at Carnegie Hall, we've now welcomed 33 new members to our choir. It's been very enjoyable to bring these new singers into the fold and make some amazing music together. We kicked off the season with our potluck, then had a member retreat in September, and we've now successfully had our first performance at Sing for Unity, a community singing event featuring 10 Palouse area choirs.



We cannot wait to share our first full concert, **To Be Sung on the Water**, October 17 and 18.

Our fall concert features all types of music about water from all throughout music history. We have music dating back to the Renaissance,

including a motet by Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina and a madrigal by Maddalena Casulana, the first female composer ever to have a book of her works published. We'll sing a spiritual, a Bollywood arrangement, some folk tunes, and even a familiar Simon & Garfunkel tune.

We'll also premiere a brand-new piece, "Sing On," by MaryAnne Muglia, an Arizona-based composer, arranger, teacher, and jazz/a cappella performer. Muglia is the winner of PCS's 4th annual Composition Contest, which included submissions from composers across the world.

We hope to see you at our fall concerts – and the rest of our events throughout the season! **Choral music is alive and well here in the Palouse region, and we are excited share it with you.**

President Darcy Howser



This season, the Palouse Choral Society has something for everyone! The value of water and the danger of its scarcity, the love for the Earth that we call home, and the love that we share with that special someone.

We will take you on a journey through our music and open your horizons to things you might not have known before. We need music now more than ever, and I am incredibly honored to serve as the President of this organization. Together, we will spread our joy of music and messages that need to be heard for peace and betterment for all.

**Introducing
Executive
Director**

Amy Hedges



To the singers, patrons, and friends of the Palouse Choral Society, I am thrilled and honored to introduce myself as your new Executive Director!

As a longtime singer, and a newcomer to the Palouse – who found a vital source of community and light in PCS – I know firsthand that the arts connect, sustain, and heal. It feels as if all my paths have led me here.

I have spent my career reinforcing the operational health of mission-driven nonprofits that act as community builders and resource hubs in their respective sectors.

I am committed to ensuring the Palouse Choral Society remains an enduring cornerstone of the Palouse arts community. My focus will be on strengthening our financial foundation so our artistic programs can flourish, our audience can grow, and our voices can continue to inspire for generations to come.

I look forward to working with you all.

Warmly,
Amy Hedges



**Welcome
Children's
Choir
Director
Kobe Hagen**

It has been such a joy getting to work with the Children's Choir these past few weeks!

These kids have so much talent and have been working really hard in rehearsal to prepare for this upcoming concert.

Alongside working on our music, we've been having a lot of fun playing games and getting to know each other better, as we have lots of new young singers this year!

I sincerely hope you enjoy our performance at the concert this October!

**Heartfelt thanks to:
Stephanie Sant**

To Stephanie Sant, long time Children's Choir Director, thank you for all your dedication to the young voices that have sung as part of Palouse Choral Society.
(continued on next page)

Thanks, Especially, Stephanie Sant Former Children's Choir Director

Anya, children's choir member

Ms. Sant made choir fun, and she is very good at teaching. I looked forward to going to choir every single time. I felt like choir was a safe place to be myself.

Maggie Rhem, parent

Stephanie Sant created such a wonderful community in the children's choir and she has a marvelous ability to make each child feel valuable and full of potential.

When I got to sit in on rehearsals when my daughter was just beginning, I noticed how my own stress levels would just drop in the lovely calm, creative environment she would create for the singers.

My daughter felt welcomed, included, and seen. She also felt rigorously challenged and became a much better musician as a result of her involvement in the Children's Choir.

Stephanie has a ton of teaching know-how and has "kid magic". It was a delight to see how all the young singers would group around her, lighting up in her presence.

Rehearsals were fun, playful and positive, and jam-packed with learning, making use of every minute of time together. Even the games they played as "breaks" were music-related, whether intended to help the children learn rhythms or practice music theory. While they were learning music concepts, the children were always having fun. And they were frequently invited to contribute their own ideas, so they felt some ownership and creative responsibility for their performances, beyond simply memorizing music.

We are so grateful for all the time, effort, creativity, and kindness that Stephanie put into the Children's Choir.

Even though we miss her, we support her need to step down and are excited to hear her sing in the future.

We hope she knows how much she means to us, and we look forward to this new chapter with a new conductor.



We're proud to be partnering with **Friends of the Clearwater** for our October concerts.

Friends of the Clearwater is a science-based wildlands defense organization whose purpose is to protect and save the remaining wild nature of the Clearwater Basin and adjacent watersheds of north-central Idaho. It is our pleasure to raise their voice alongside ours as we celebrate the importance of water to our world with this concert program.

SING FOR UNITY: LOCAL AND GLOBAL



Sing for Unity was conceived by Vive Bregendahl in Denmark. She wanted to create an event where singers around the world could come together in peace, unity, community and equality. Each participating group was encouraged to sing for an hour at 2pm local time, ending with “What a Wonderful World”, sending a sound wave around the world. The event took place on Sunday, September 21, the UN International Day of Peace.

With over 10,000 voices in 176 cities participating, we are very proud that Palouse Choral Society took the lead to bring this event to the Palouse.

Ten local ensembles, including High School, University, Church and Community choirs, along with members of the community, made wonderful music together, contributing to the global sound wave.

Community Voices Rising Together

“It was so uplifting to participate in Sing for Unity and to imagine the thousands of voices joining together in song on the same day. **This was a perfect way to celebrate the International Day of Peace.** On a local level, the choirs were excellent and music selections varied and performed so well.”

- Linda Edwards, community member

“What a joyful, inclusive, and engaging event! **We loved the variety of music**, from the popular to the sacred, and especially enjoyed the sing-alongs with some well known tunes. I hope this is the beginning of an annual event!”

- Nancy Holmes, community member

“The event was a wonderful way to exhibit the robust vocal ensemble opportunities we have in the Palouse for both audiences and the singers involved in the event.

I'm glad singers in my choral ensembles had the opportunity to be a part of this welcoming community and see how their artistic performance was appreciated by both the general audience and fellow singers. The students and I are unanimous in our support of this collaboration, and we would love to make this an annual event for us!”

-Dr. Dean Luethi

Director of Choral Activities at WSU School of Music

SING FOR UNITY: LOCAL AND GLOBAL

“Sing for unity: it was a fantastic turnout...it was a joy to be part of it.

Sharing music with friends in such a relaxed environment is pure happiness.

I wish I'd joined PCS sooner – singing helps us feel good about the world and our place in it. I hope we were able to inspire new voices and maybe help some new people consider joining the choir in the future.”

– Kevin Watt, PCS member

“The event was really fun, just seeing all the groups get together and perform the pieces in a way that was meaningful to them and the way they could express it to the crowd full of other choir people and the public. It meant a lot because peace is a really important thing that people should strive for. Especially in the current environment that we live in just around the world. **We should do an event like this every year if we can.** It's really amazing what a world-wide event like this can do.”

– Kasey Craig, PCS member and
WSU choral member

“What I liked about Sing for Unity on the day about peace, was the fact that we are currently in a situation where people (especially immigrant people) want to have a family, want to have a union.

That moment of singing together felt like a safe space where we could be together and ask for peace.

I would definitely do it again! I think that it's very relevant, it's very important for the community and all singers to be together and sing for such an important cause in this moment in history”

– Patrick Brandl Suarez, PCS member

“I've been in PCS for a couple of weeks. I really enjoyed hearing all the different choirs.

Some of the solos were really fantastic, especially in the younger group.

It was definitely a cozy stage.

I would do it again, no problem.”

– Susan Hall, new PCS member

My favorite part was, while conducting members from UI, hearing a wave of voices from the audience singing with us on “Easy on the Earth” by Shawn Kirchner. It filled me with so much comfort! Sing for Unity shows how prevalent the singing community is here, and how there is a deep need for musicking as a form of connection and sharing with one another.

We would love to do this again. Starting off the school year with a reminder for me and my singers that choral singing is a form of connection. It is also a reminder to my students that **singing is a life-long activity and that the choral art is not just reserved for the concert hall**, but is often most appreciated in the informal and casual spaces where there is no “audience”. We all take part in creating the experience.

– Evan Stoor, PhD, Director of Choirs at
Lionel Hampton School of Music, University of Idaho

CARNEGIE: A NATIONAL STAGE



Holly McCollister and Leonard West

We had an absolutely amazing experience in NYC. Meeting new choristers from around the world, singing at Carnegie Hall, taking in an incredible Broadway show: **it was truly a once in a lifetime opportunity!** So proud of Dr. Matt for making it happen and honored to be a part of it! We would definitely do it again!

“Being at Carnegie was a stunning experience. I really enjoyed having other choirs join us.

Of particular fun was a choir from Dublin. Those folks were just and absolute blast to work with.

It was likely a once-in-a-lifetime experience and I certainly do cherish the ability that I was able to go. If I was given the opportunity to do it again, I certainly would. The venue is wonderful and working with Matt was absolutely great, he’s an excellent person to lead the choir.” - **Tim Prather**



Photo Credits Violagophoto.com



Kasey Craig

I’ve been in Palouse Choral Society since June 2024. My favorite part of the Carnegie trip was being able to experience the concert hall. **As a musician and a composer it was amazing to see the Hall in person.** It meant a lot because it also lead to me having a better understanding of concert music in professional settings. I would totally do this again!

CARNEGIE: A NATIONAL STAGE

Victoria Sundin

Though I joined the trip at the last minute, **everyone was so kind and accommodating!** Having the opportunity to sing challenging music in such an iconic space only made me appreciate choral singing and working together with my fellow choir members even more. It also gave me a chance to get to know PCS members better and to meet new friendly faces!



Photo Credit: Destiny Barker



Photo Credit: Kirsten Lapaglia

Lizzie Stedman, Secretary

Congratulations, again to you all and thank you, Matt Myers for steering the ship (both musically and literally!) that led us to perform in New York.

Alison Drennen

My favorite parts of the trip were a toss-up between splitting some excellent Chinese food with half a dozen other members of the choir, tearing around three different museums on the afternoons off, and getting to see a show on Broadway!

Plus the Carnegie performance, of course.

Maureen O'Callaghan

Not sure how long it'll take me to fully process this concert.

Truly the experience of a lifetime.

I'm incredibly proud of all of us, and so impressed with all our hard work that got us there.

Thank you, Matt, you've changed our lives in a myriad of ways but the evening of June 7 might take the cake!



to be

Sung

On the

Water

*A performance featuring a variety of choral
music about lakes, rivers, seas, and the importance of water.*

Fri, Oct 17
7:30pm

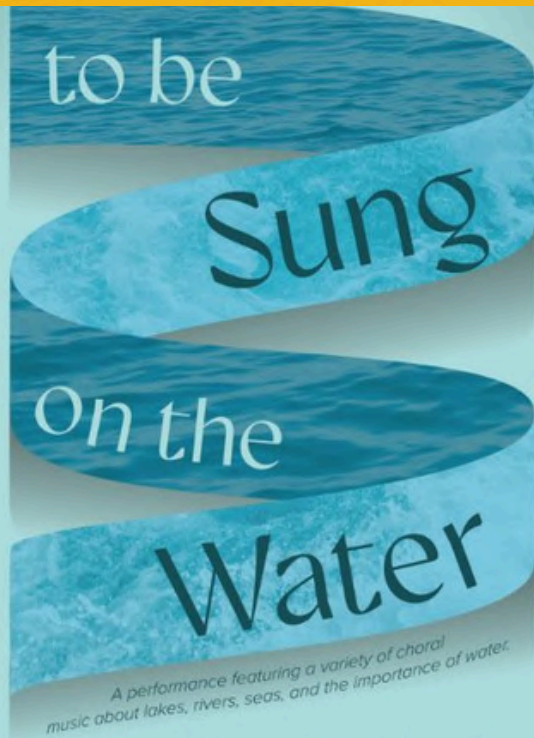
Sat, Oct 18
3:00pm

Chorale, Chamber Choir, Children's Choir
Simpson United Methodist Church, Pullman, WA

25-26
SEASON

TICKETS & INFO: 509.800.7905
PALOUSECHORALSOCIETY.ORG





A performance featuring a variety of choral music about lakes, rivers, seas, and the importance of water.

Fri, Oct 17
7:30pm

Sat, Oct 18
3:00pm

Chorale, Chamber Choir, Children's Choir
Simpson United Methodist Church, Pullman, WA

And on Earth, Peace

A concert of holiday music focused on peace, featuring Antonio Vivaldi's famous Gloria

Chorale, Children's Choir, Guest Orchestra



Friday
Dec 12
7:30 PM

Saturday
Dec 13
7:30 PM



Simpson United Methodist Church, Pullman, WA

CHOOSE LOVE



Featuring:
Chamber Choir,
Children's Choir,
and Solos/Ensembles
from all of PCS

TO CELEBRATE
VALENTINE'S DAY,
WE SING ALL ABOUT
LOVE, INCLUDING
CHORAL MUSIC AS
WELL AS A CABARET
OF SOLO ACTS BY OUR
CHOIR MEMBERS.

Feb. 13, 7:30 PM

First United Methodist Church,
Moscow, ID

Feb. 15, 4:00PM

LCSC Silverthorne Theater,
Lewiston, ID



Simpson United Methodist Church, Pullman, WA

Just after Earth Day, we show respect for the earth by singing selections dedicated to land and the environment.

MAY 1
7:30 PM

MAY 2
3:00 PM

Chorale, Chamber Choir
Simpson United Methodist Church, Pullman, WA