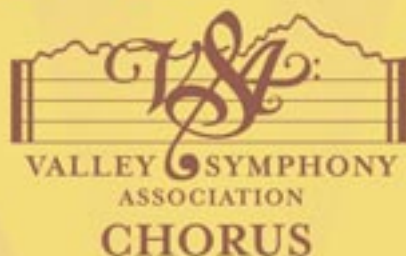


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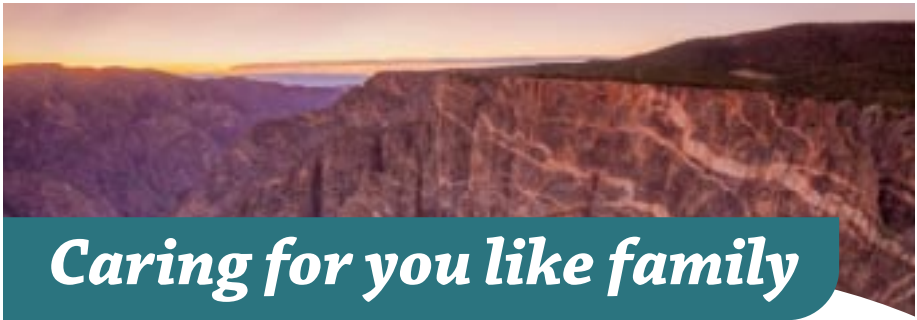


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SUN APR 24, 2022 | 3PM
ORCHESTRA



MIKE KERN **Orchestra Conductor**

Michael Kern has conducted the VSA Orchestra since 1993. He is a graduate of Butler University (located in Indianapolis, IN) with a bachelor's degree in music education and a master's degree in music composition. At Butler, he studied jazz string bass with David Baker, nationally-known jazz educator and head of the Indiana University School of Jazz.

Kern played string bass and electric bass guitar professionally for many years in all genres, from polka bands to jazz ensembles to symphony orchestras. He has performed with with Marvin Gaye, Freddie Hubbard, Wes Montgomery, Doc Severinson, and Buddy DeFranco.

During the summer of 2001, Kern attended the prestigious International Workshop for Conductors in Kromeriz, Czech Republic. Formed by Dr. Harry Hurwitz of the University of Toronto and Artistic Director Maestro Kirk Trevor, the workshop offers musicians opportunities to gain experience rehearsing and conducting professional full orchestras. During an intensive two-week period, attendees prepare six major orchestral works for performance with the Bohuslov Martinu Philharmonic of Zlin, Czech Republic, which partnered with the workshop.

Kern is currently the regular bassist with Take Five, a Western Slope jazz and blues group, and plays in other small ensembles as opportunities arise. He is retired from teaching instrumental and vocal music in public schools.



KATY KRISTOFFERSEN **Chorus Conductor**

Katy Kristoffersen's 20 years of experience in coaching and teaching are backed by undergraduate and master's degrees in music education. Since 2010, Kristoffersen has expanded her practice into mindfulness coaching and loves to incorporate these techniques into all areas of teaching. "Mindfulness is a multi-faceted, dynamic practice that can elevate every part of our day-to-day life."

She's been pleasantly surprised to discover how effectively she's been able to integrate a mindfulness practice into her experiences as musician, director, and collaborator. Her intuitive approach for composing, arranging, playing piano, and singing, facilitate her desire to make music accessible and fun for all. "Music is fundamentally about joy, and I look forward to being a part of the joy the VSA brings to our communities."

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Soprano 1

Diane Balk (Montrose)
Aspen Bue (Montrose)
Kaitlynn Hurford (Montrose)
Mary Redmond (Montrose)

Soprano 2

Christine Bloss (Montrose)
Kathy Foglesong (Montrose)
Ann Holmes (Montrose)
Julie Laube (Montrose)
Sarah Morales (Montrose)
Amiee Rawlings (Montrose)
† *Hendrika (Ricky) Cegielski*

Alto 1

Sara Jenlink (Cedaredge)
Lorchin Pulsipher (Delta)
Sue Warren (Montrose)

Alto 2

Cheryl Harshman (Montrose)
Chris Munday (Montrose)
Anna H. Strong (Montrose)
Marka Wellington (Cedaredge)
† *Sprague Mayger & Priscilla Fry*

Tenor 1

Sam Kevan (Austin)
Bonnie Koehler (Delta)
Kevin Pulsipher (Delta)
† *Ruthanna B. Strong Foundation*

Tenor 2

Nathan Howe (Montrose)
Judy Lokey (Montrose)
Vince Snowbarger (Ridgway)
† *Dr. Sam and Lana Kevan*

Bass 1

Keith Laube (Montrose)
Bob McCormac (Cedaredge)
Seth Ryan (Montrose)
† *The George Miller Family*

Bass 2

Rod Bunyard (Montrose)
Hartland Clubb, Jr. (Delta)
Robin Nicholoff (Hotchkiss)
John Thrasher (Delta)
† *In Memory of Aron Cegielski*

Instrumentalists

Guitar: Matt Cotham ✿ Contrabass: Mike Kristoffersen ✿ Percussion: Pat Olson

† *Denotes section underwriter*

VSA Chorus Conductors

Kelly Neill	2002-2004	Season 31 - 33
Chris Davis	12/2004	Season 34
Aleta Jupille	03/2005	Season 34
Chris Davis	2005-2007	Season 35 - 36
Bethany Ward	12/2007	Season 37
Mary Anne Rathburn	4/2008	Season 37
Bethany Ward	2008-2010	Season 38 - 39
Lenore Hample	2010-2013	Season 40 - 42
Jan Tuin	2013-2017	Season 43 - 46
Allyson Connelly	2017-2019	Season 47 - 49
Katy Kristoffersen	2021-present	Season 50

**Note: Seasons run from fall to spring*





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OUR HISTORY: BRINGING CLASSICAL MUSIC TO LIFE!

In 1970 a small group of classical musicians met in the parlor of Wilma and Charles Lowell's Eckert home. By 1982, there were 30 musicians practicing once a week in Delta and performing four annual concerts. Over the years, the group has progressed, growing in size and musical ability.

In the late 1990s and early 2000s, the Grand Mesa Singers and the Christmas in the Valley Chorus were seasonal contributors, mainly at Christmas concerts. In 2002, these choral groups combined, and the Valley Symphony Orchestra (VSO) became the Valley Symphony Association (VSA) to include both orchestra and chorus.

Today, the VSA's 60+ instrumentalists and 35+ vocalists hail from throughout the North Fork, Uncompahgre, and Grand Valleys. Together, VSA musicians kickoff each season in early September with free Pops in the Park concerts in Cedaredge and Montrose. These outdoor shows are a gift to the regional community that supports the all-volunteer performing arts organization.

The VSA takes pride in their history of bringing classical music to life on the Western Slope, their commitment to keeping classical music vital, and their goal of building future audiences.

OUR MUSICIANS

Who performs in the VSA Orchestra and Chorus?

They are teachers, parents, neighbors, students. They have jobs. They have children. They have homes and schedules and commitments. They teach at local colleges, high schools, middle schools, and elementary schools. They work in business, the arts, government, agriculture, law enforcement, and health care. Some are retired. Some are entrepreneurs. Some are military veterans. They represent the Uncompahgre, Grand, and North Fork Valleys and live in Montrose, Ouray, Hotchkiss, Eckert, Olathe, Palisade, Paonia, Delta, Ridgway, Austin, Cedaredge, and Grand Junction. Some of them are snowbirds. Some of them are teenagers. And they are all VSA musicians.

This season we have over 100 performers who bring their skill, passion, and talent to the stage. The VSA is proud to be celebrating our 50th year as a regional, all-volunteer performing arts organization composed of musicians who live and work in our midst.



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Flashback to the 70s

CONCERT PROGRAM

Loves Me Like a Rock

Words and Music by Paul Simon
arr. Greg Gilpin

Soloists: Seth Ryan and Sam Kevan

Landslide

Words and Music by Stevie Nicks
Arr. Adam Anders and Peer Astrom
Adapted for publication by Ed Lojeski

Soloist: Marka Wellington, Featuring VSA Women

Peace Train

Words and Music by Cat Stevens
arr. Kirby Shaw

Soloists: Sara Jenlink and John Thrasher

Helplessly Hoping

Words and Music by Stephen Stills
arr. Philip Lawson

Featuring VSA Men

One of These Things First

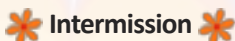
Words and Music by Nick Drake
arr. Katy Kristoffersen

Lorchin Pulsipher, Violin

Fire and Rain

Words and Music by James Taylor
arr. Greg Gilpin

Soloist: Robin Nicoloff



Let it Be

Words and Music by
John Lennon and Paul McCartney

I Can See Clearly Now

Words and Music by Johnny Nash
arr. Larry Nickel

Soloist: Nathan Howe

We Are the Champions

Performed by Queen
Words and Music by Freddie Mercury
arr. Roger Emerson

Soloists: Kevin Pulsipher and Amiee Rawlings

Ripple

Words by Robert Hunter
Music by Jerry Garcia

Featuring VSA Men

Right Down the Line

Words and Music by Gerry Rafferty
arr. Lucius, arr. for Treble Chorus
by Katy Kristoffersen

Featuring VSA Women

Scarborough Fair

Words and Music by
Paul Simon and Art Garfunkel
arr. Randy Jordan

Listen to the Music

Words and music by Tom Johnston
arr. Alan Billingsley

Soloist: Katie Hurford



Flashback to the 70s

CONCERT NOTES

By VSA Chorus Conductor Katy Kristoffersen

The 70s were, yes, before my time in the space-time continuum. But they were fully part of my childhood and a massive influence on the music of today. Songs about peace, protest, fun, and loss evoke strong emotions in all of us. These emotions tend to be tied to our histories, our parents' histories, and the movies and shows that have settled into our hearts.



The music in this concert feels so relevant right now. I hope you feel all of these feelings when you listen to this program: collective nostalgia, delight and exhilaration, tender sadness, and hope. We are feeling them, too, right along with you.

I hope you experience a sense of curiosity and wonder about the world when these songs were written. How has this world changed, and how much has it remained the same? What role has music had in your life? Does music mark milestones for you? Historical events? When you feel certain emotions, which artists do you turn to?

We are here to remind you to *listen to the music*, because we have all seen *fire and rain*. We are here to remind you that as musicians, we will put ourselves on this stage for you, *right down the line*.



Have a song in your heart? Join the VSA Chorus!

Mark your calendar to audition for Season 51 on Thursday, August 11, 2022!*

VSA Community Chorus members perform at the *Pops in the Park* concert on September 10.

VSA Chorus members perform at [ALL](#) Season 51 concerts.

*Details at ValleySymphony.org
(go to About Us/Chorus/Auditions & Rehearsals)



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FEATURED MUSICIAN

Rod and Judy Bunyard

Rod and Judy met in Durango, CO, and were married in 1969. They both sang in Fort Lewis College choirs, as well as doing general music studies there. After graduation they moved to Kansas City, MO, for Rod's career with the Social Security Administration. During that time, Judy was a homemaker and community volunteer. They have both always enjoyed singing.



Rod and Judy

Pining for the Colorado mountains again, they retired to Montrose in 2003.

They attended their first VSA Chorus concert in December, 2003, at the Montrose United Methodist Church and were thrilled with the performance directed by Kelly Neill, the first VSA Chorus conductor (see page 13 for additional chorus history). Rod and Judy had been active church choir members in Kansas City. They discovered that Kelly was also from the Kansas City area and had been a singer in the Kansas City Chorale. In fact, Rod and Judy had frequented Chorale concerts when they lived in Kansas City—small world!

Rod began singing with the VSA Chorus for the March, 2004, spring concert and has sung in every concert since then through March, 2019, the last VSA Chorus (only) concert before today's performance. In addition to Kelly, Rod has performed under the direction of all VSA Chorus conductors (see page 8 for a full listing).

In addition to singing, Rod helped with the design and set-up of the chorus risers. He is still the Montrose "point man" for moving the VSA trailer and risers for all VSA concerts. Rod's faithful dedication to the VSA is certain testimony to his love of music. "Singing is just plain fun!"

Judy sang regularly with the chorus from December, 2010, through March, 2019. She had planned to retire but was persuaded back for the Season 50 Christmas concert. Today, she'll take part as an audience member.

Beyond the chorus stage, Rod and Judy love to travel. An interesting "flashback" about Judy: she spent time overseas in her teens and accomplished a trip around the world—some by cruise ship—before she reached the age of 18!

They are also railroad fans. Rod is "motorman" (driver) for Motor #1 replica at the Ridgway Railroad Museum. Judy loves to plan rail trips. This past summer they travelled to Alaska to ride all the beautiful routes of the Alaska Railroad.





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- ♦ The Eagles, a titan of classic rock, was formed.
- ♦ Amtrak merged 20-passenger railroads into one transcontinental system.
- ♦ Valley Symphony Orchestra hosted its first season.

The Valley Symphony Association's long held belief in the transformative power of orchestral and choral music continues to educate, entertain, and inspire.

Cheers to your dream and vision, and thank you for your service to this community.



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- Josue Perez, Journalist Product Manager

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"Montrose is a central location in Western Colorado, and is surrounded by some of the country's darkest night skies."

- Aaron W, NABUR member

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- Aleta L., NABUR member

Little Blue Creek Canyon Project - Local Affairs Group

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- Josue Perez, Journalist Product Manager

**Discussion on Meat-Out Day from a
Beef Producer's Perspective** - Food Group

"So being a beef provider, several people have asked me about my opinion on the Governor's Meat Out Day."

- Cally H., NABUR member



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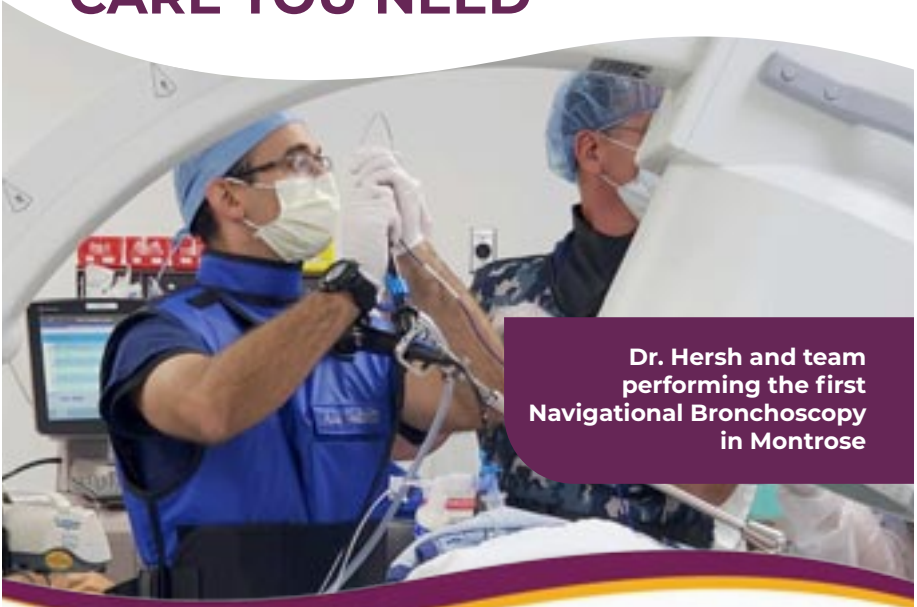
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