

FEATURED MUSICIAN Rachael King - Principal Violin 2

I joined the VSA in January 2017 and played my first concert that February. I started learning violin from my mom at age 7, though I had gaps in playing. In high school, I took a break but returned to the orchestra in my senior year. At college (CSU in Fort Collins), I was hesitant to audition for the orchestra, but my boyfriend (now husband) convinced me that it wouldn't hurt. I got in and received lessons!



Rachael King

After college, I didn't play for 18 years due to family and work. Born and raised in Boulder, I moved to Delta in 2005 with my husband, Toby. We now work together with his mom at Raymond James Financial Services, where he's a financial advisor.

Music has always been a big part of my family—my parents are musicians, most of my siblings play instruments or sing, my husband is an incredible saxophone player and band director, and all four of our kids play instruments, too. During COVID, I reconnected with my mom for weekly FaceTime violin lessons.

As a kid, I wanted to quit violin, but my parents didn't let me until they were sure I was good enough to return to it later. I'm glad they did! Playing with others is much more fun than practicing alone, and having a performance to prepare for pushes me to improve. The better I get, the more enjoyable playing becomes. It's a satisfying cycle.

In my spare time, I enjoy crochet, knitting, and photography. Fun fact: in the late 1800s my ancestors moved to Colorado from Scotland, and we're related to William Wallace (Braveheart)!



Snow!

CONCERT PROGRAM

Dec. 7, 2024, 7 p.m.
Dec. 8, 2024, 3 p.m.

Fanfare!

VSA Brass Section

Joy to the World

Bob McCormac, Conductor

Isaac Watts (1674-1748)
"Antioch," by Lowell Mason
arr. Mack Wilberg

A Christmas Festival

Premiered 1950 - Boston Pops Orchestra

Leroy Anderson (1908-1975)

In the Bleak Midwinter

Gustav Holst (1874-1934), music
Christina G. Rossetti, poem
arr. Albin C. Whitworth

O Holy Night

Rene' Clausen (b.1953)

"Home Alone"

Somewhere in my Memory
Merry Christmas, Merry Christmas

John Williams (b.1932)

INTERMISSION

We Need a Little Christmas Jerry Herman (1931-2019) arr. Mark Hayes
From the Musical "MAME" - Premiered on Broadway 1966

Coventry Carol

Trad. 16th c. English carol
arr. Victor C. Johnson

God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen

Trad. 16th c. English carol
arr. Katy Kristoffersen

Wexford Carol

Trad. 15th and 16th c. Irish carol
arr. Charles Floyd and Yo-Yo Ma
Chorus setting by Katy Kristoffersen

The Bells of Christmas

Bob Krogstad (1950-2015)

Hallelujah Chorus from "Messiah"
Premiered 1742 - Dublin, Ireland

G.F. Handel (1685-1759)

Peace, Peace

Rick and Sylvia Powell
arr. Fred Bock

Sleigh Ride

Premiered 1947 - Boston Pops Orchestra

Leroy Anderson (1908-1975)

Chorus Chorus & Orchestra Orchestra

FEATURED MUSICIAN Cheryl Harshman - Alto I

After attending the December 2013 concert, I knew I wanted to be a part of such an amazing chorus, and joined in the Spring of 2014

I've been singing as long as I remember. My mom played the piano, and I'd sing with her. Our family took road trips in a VW Van, and I'd sit in the very back and sing over the engine. In school I took private vocal lessons and was active in band and choir.

My husband, John, and I moved from Greeley to Montrose in 1978. That same year, my need to sing led me to the Del Rose Chapter of Sweet Adelines International (SAI), a competitive barbershop harmony organization for women. From 1978 to 2017 I sang tenor, lead, or baritone in chorus and lead in quartets. Through the SAI Music Education Program, I earned my director certification and led the chorus for 16 of those years. My favorite activity was delivering singing valentines with my quartet.

John and I were married 50 years and fortunate to be retired together for 17. We enjoyed traveling in the United States, Europe, and Mexico. I enjoy fishing, card games, riding my bike, hikes with my dog, Frank, and spending time with my five grandchildren and five great grandchildren.

I'm honored to be a part of VSA. All the musicians have the desire to share their talents and bring joy to the community. Seeing someone touched by a song is the most rewarding experience for me.



Cheryl Harshman

VSA BOARD - MEMBER-AT-LARGE Anne Harper

I grew up in Houston, TX, in a family of six, and attended undergraduate and law school at the University of Colorado Boulder. After graduation from law school in 1980, I worked in the Montrose area in both the legal community (as a private attorney) and the judicial community (as a magistrate and court facilitator). I retired from the active practice of law in 2008.



Anne Harper

My husband, Phil, and I married in 1985 and have three daughters. I enjoy gardening, although I have recently discovered that there are not really very many vegetables that I actually like, and we both enjoy playing golf, reading, and traveling. We truly love living on the Western Slope.

I have always loved singing with others and have been a first alto in the VSA Chorus since 2022. In the chorus, I have the delightful opportunity to harmonize with beautiful voices as we learn both songs that we know, arranged in new and fascinating ways, and pieces that are so difficult and challenging that mastering them is deeply fulfilling. I am hoping that, as a member of the VSA Board of Directors, I can contribute to the growth of the VSA and can continue to witness the joy which the music played by the orchestra and sung by the chorus brings to Western Slope communities.

REPERTOIRE UNDERWRITER

One piece of music can cost between \$500 and \$3,000, and every VSA concert requires purchasing or renting it. Concert Repertoire Underwriters generously donate \$1,000 to help cover these costs.

Thank you to Rod & Judy Bunyard

for their generous donation to make our December SNOW! performances a reality, ensuring this festive and beautiful music could be shared with our community.

By joining their ranks, you can also make a meaningful contribution to the arts. Support the music you love and musicians you know by becoming a Concert Repertoire Underwriter!

