Thank You, and Farewell!

To my favorite audience ever, to my friends, fellow musicians, patrons and community members of the Valley Symphony Association: I am experiencing a heart full of gratitude. This concert marks the final chapter in my role as the VSA Chorus Conductor. It has been an incredible four years. You have all taught me so much about who you are—what this community is capable of—and what you value.



Katy Kristoffersen

You have supported me, sung with me, and played alongside me. You have provided me with

such rich soil in which I could grow and learn more about who I am and what I can give. Everything I do from here on out will have been shaped by the lessons I have learned and the gifts I have received throughout my experience here, with you. It has been one of the great joys of my life! Thank you.

This is not goodbye, though. While it is time for me to explore a new path, our family is very rooted in this place—we are not moving! I promise to continue to support the arts, creativity, education and the spirit of human connection. And I am certain that in some way, our paths will cross again.

With so much love for all of you,

Katy Kristoffersen

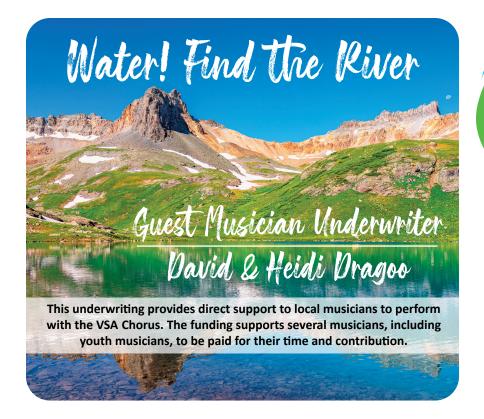
VALLEY YOUTH CHOIR

Katy Kristoffersen (Ridgway), Conductor

Mila Barfield
Marlowe Bojar
Rose Caldwell
Wren Cassidy
Annabelle Chavez
Auri CountryMansfield
Kate Davis
Charlotte Evans
Noah Evans
Amelia Fishering
Emma Fishering
Lena Hayes
Atticus Howe

Katy Keppen

Margot Kristoffersen Eliza Lawshe Tori Link June Mathis Tristan Mayes Stella Scoville Elise Scribner Aleya Stengele Benja Stengele Malachi Stengele Emily Thompson Everette Wakefield Samuel Walker Aubrey Wasser



FEATURED MUSICIAN Diane Balk - Soprano 1

At 76, Diane has been playing the piano since age 9 and singing with the VSA Chorus since 2009. She has never taken a break from singing or performing. A Montrose resident for 38 years, she majored in music in college. After graduating, she and her husband, Charlie, joined the Peace Corps and taught in Ghana for two years: Charlie taught business, and Diane taught music. After returning to the U.S., she taught in Illinois for two years before moving to



Diane Balk

Colorado, where she spent 22 years teaching at Columbine Middle School.

Diane loves performing a variety of music with the chorus.

Fun fact: At 5'1", she played high school basketball in Iowa and enjoys life in beautiful Colorado.





Apr. 26, 2025, 7pm Apr. 27, 2025, 3pm

Storms in Africa

Enya; arr. K. Kristoffersen

Valley Youth Chorus; Etienne Tolno and Elliot Kristoffersen, percussion; Anne Koehler, piano; String Quartet*

Song of the SeaBruno Coulais & Kila; arr. K. Kristoffersen

Valley Youth Chorus; Olivia Renfrow, harp; Anthony Mainiero, guitar; Elliot

Kristoffersen, percussion; Phin Howe, string bass; String Quartet*

Shenandoah American Folk Song; arr. James Erb Valley Youth Chorus; Olivia Renfrow, harp

Riverside Agnes Obel

Valley Youth Chorus; Alex Birck, piano; Olivia Renfrow, harp

The Wellerman New Zealand Folksong; arr. Roger Emerson Valley Youth Chorus; Elliot Kristoffersen, percussion

The Water is Wide Steven Paulus

Daniel Bakers, soloist; Olivia Renfrow, harp

Washing of the Water Peter Gabriel; arr. K. Kristoffersen Kevin Pulsipher, soloist; Phin Howe, string bass; Elliot Kristoffersen, percussion; Anne Koehler, piano String Quartet*

Bridge Over Troubled WaterPaul Simon; arr. Clyde Sechler,
String arr. K. Kristoffersen

Anne Koehler, piano; String Quartet*

Find the RiverBill Berry, Peter Buck, Mike Mills and Michael Stipe;
arr. K. Kristoffersen

Mike Edwards, soloist and guitarist; Phin Howe, electric bass; Elliot Kristoffersen, percussion; Anne Koehler, piano; String Quartet*; River footage by Malachai Stengele (13, Valley Youth Chorus)



Intermission

Africa David Paich and Jeff Porcaro; arr. Alex Morris
Delta and Montrose Select High School Choir Members**; Etienne Tolno and
Elliot Kristoffersen, percussion; Phin Howe, electric bass

Water Night Music by Eric Whitacre; Text by Octavio Paz

Delta and Montrose Select High School Choir Members**

Wade in the Water Traditional; arr. John Wiens Julie Laube and Sam Kevan, soloists

The Lake Isle Music by Ola Gjeilo; Text by William Butler Yeats Anthony Mainiero, guitar; Anne Koehler, piano; String Quartet*

La Lluvia Steven Hatfield Valley Youth Chorus; Select Montrose HS Women; Etienne Tolno and Elliot Kristoffersen, percussion

Water Flow Klyne; arr. K. Kristoffersen Valley Youth Chorus; Phin Howe, electric bass; Elliot Kristoffersen, percussion; Anne Koehler, piano; String Quartet*

Who Knows, Who Cares The Local Natives Band; arr. K. Kristoffersen Valley Youth Chorus; Anthony Mainiero, guitar; Phin Howe, electric bass; Elliot & Kristoffersen, percussion; Anne Koehler, piano; String Quartet*

*String Quartet Musicians: Leigh Mahoney, 1st Violin; Maggie Cline, 2nd Violin; Julie Appelhanz, Viola; Martha Jacobs, Cello

** With many thanks for Victoria Olson, Montrose High School Vocal Music Director and Thomas Neil, Delta High School Vocal Music Director for their incredible leadership and collaborative nature. Your students are so lucky to have you!