

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

Water! Find the River

Guest Musician Underwriter

David & Heidi Dragoo

This underwriting provides direct support to local musicians to perform with the VSA Chorus. The funding supports several musicians, including youth musicians, to be paid for their time and contribution.

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



Diane Balk

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.



Thanks to our
CONCERT PARTNER

Water!

Find the River

CONCERT PROGRAM

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 Sea

Bruno 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 Water

Paul Simon; arr. Clyde Sechler,
String arr. K. Kristoffersen

Anne Koehler, piano; String Quartet*

Find the River

Bill 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)

Water!

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CONCERT PROGRAM

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!*