



The Vail Chorale

LIVE FOR SINGING. SING FOR LIFE.

presents



Romancing the Song

Saturday, April 12, 2025, 2:00 p.m.

Rancho del Lago

Del Webb Community Center Lodge

10264 S. Blendu Way, Vail

Sunday, April 13, 2025, 3:00 p.m.

The Academy Village

Arizona Senior Academy Building

13715 E. Langtry Lane, Tucson

Melissa Hale, Director

Hanna Gregg, Accompanist

Rene Cañez, Percussionist

Michael Melton, Guest Conductor

No charge to attend

Donations gratefully accepted

Program

- Love Song Waltzes (the “Liebeslieder”) Op. 52, Nos. 8, 9, 10, 15, 18.....
Music: Johannes Brahms; Words: Georg Friedrich Daumer;
English translation: Natalia McFarren
(Pianists: Hanna Gregg, April Layher; Conductor: Michael Melton)
~ Please hold applause till the end of the Brahms pieces ~
- As Torrents in Summer..... Music: Edward Elgar;
Words: Henry Wadsworth Longfellow
- O Love..... Words: George Matheson; Music: Elaine Hagenberg
(Cello: Josh Gregg)
- Orange Colored Sky..... Words & Music by Milton Delugg & Willie Stein;
arr.: Kirby Shaw
(Soloists: Mindi Bennett, Janet Cañez)
- Make You Feel My Love..... Words & Music: Bob Dylan
(Soloist: Ashley Payne; Piano: Michael Melton)
- Can't Help Falling in Love.. Words & Music: George David Weiss, Hugo Peretti,
& Luigi Creatore; arr. for vocals & guitar: Michael Perdue
(Solo: Jim Gacey; Singers: Butch Bryant, Josiah Gaffney, Michael Perdue, Dale Thoreen;
Guitar: Michael Perdue; Piano: Michael Melton)
- Love Me Tender..... Words & Music: Elvis Presley & Vera Matson;
arr.: Roger Emerson
- We Will Dance..... Words & Music: Stephen Curtis Chapman
(Soloist: Josiah Gaffney)
- Heart (from *Damn Yankees*) Words & Music: Richard Adler & Jerry Ross

(The Coach: Dale Thoreen; The Ball Players: Allison Bain, Janet Cañez, Julie Dawson,
Josiah Gaffney, Holly Gonzalez, Shiela McGinnis, Kristen Reed, Robert Snyder;
Piano: Michael Melton)
- Come Rain or Come Shine..... Words: Johnny Mercer; Music: Harold Arlen;
arr.: Jay Althouse

Thank you for fostering connection and joy through singing. Vail is fortunate to have such dedicated, talented people running this wonderful group. Thank you all!

—Note from a Donor

The Vail Chorale Singers

Sopranos

Allison Bain
Erika Brand
Janet Cañez
Sara Cothorn
Julie Dawson
Chelsea Grote
Sara Lee
Mary Lovell
Martie Maierhauser
Sheila McGinnis
Margaret Nesse
Leslie Nitzberg
Ashley Payne
Kristen Reed
Lindsay Shaw
Maureen Shea

Altos

Mindi Bennett
Laura Gerhig
Holly Gonzalez
Nancy Babson-Gulotta
Nicole Herington
Laura Moore
Susan Nisbet
Heather Redmon
Lisa Robinson
Mary Jo Snyder
Susan Taylor

Tenors

Josiah Gaffney
Josh Gregg
April Layher
Lynne Perdue
Robert Snyder
Dale Thoreen

Basses

Butch Bryant
Rene Cañez
Jim Gacey
Ronald Klass
David Ladd
Michael Perdue



Who We Are

We are a non-auditioned, multi-generation community chorus, open to anyone age 18 and up who enjoys choral singing. Based in the Greater Vail, Arizona, area, we have been entertaining local audiences since 2011, singing jazz, pop, and folk arrangements, Broadway tunes, Renaissance madrigals, sacred music, and classical gems.

We invite choral singers of all musical skill levels to sing with us! Please go to www.thevailchorale.org to learn how to join us in song. We're looking forward to our Fall 2025 season—keep an eye out for the details.

The Vail Chorale is a member of the Arizona Choral Arts Association (ACAA), and a 501(c)3 non-profit organization.



Tierra Antigua REALTY

Melissa Thames Hale
REALTOR®

Direct: 520.270.2289
melthames@yahoo.com

7423 E. Tanque Verde Rd.
Tucson, AZ 85715

*Specializing in
Vail, Southeast Tucson
and Corona de Tucson*

The Vail Chorale Governing Board

Janet Cañez, President
Julie Dawson, Immediate Past President
Mindi Bennett, Vice President
Holly Gonzales, Secretary
Dale Thoreen, Treasurer
Melissa Hale, Director of Music
Hanna Gregg, Accompanist
Rene Cañez, Percussionist
Fritz Reinagel, ex officio



Thank you to our Patrons!

Platinum - \$1,000 or more

Amelia Autin Lam (In memory of Dr. Vincent Lam)

Julie and Edd Dawson

Gold - \$500 – \$999

Erika and Bernd Brand
Melissa & Thomas Hale,

Silver - \$100 – \$499

Butch & MaryBeth Bryant
Janet & Rene Cañez
Andrew David Chen
Holly & Juan Gonzalez
H. Deon Holt
Dave Ladd

Wayne & Misty Morgan
Leslie & Martin Nitzberg
Maureen Shea
Margaret Thames

Bronze - \$50 – \$99

Bruce Goren
Martha Wolpert

Donations within the last 12 months



Thank you to the Vail School District for giving us rehearsal space.

Our Director, Melissa Hale, was involved in music throughout her youth, starting with church choir at the age of 8 and piano at age 10. Throughout grade school, she sang and played for choirs in school and church. She attended both the University of Alabama at Huntsville (UAH) and Birmingham Southern Methodist College (BSC) where she studied voice and piano, sang in the Concert Choir and the Village Singer ensemble, and accompanied soloists, ensembles, and choirs. After a nearly 25-year hiatus from music, in the fall of 2011 she attended the first rehearsal of The Vail Chorale. The Chorale's founder and first Director, Fritz Reinagel, recruited her as Assistant Director, a post she held for ten years, through 2021. Melissa became our director starting with the Spring 2022 Concert season!

Our Accompanist, Hanna Gregg has degrees in Music and Educational Psychology from the University of Arizona and Texas A&M. She was awarded the Alice Jones Berding Award for Excellence in Music in 2018. In December of 2022, Hanna graduated Summa Cum Laude from the University of Arizona with a Bachelor's of Arts in Music and a minor in Spanish. Hanna enjoys teaching piano and performing as a soloist and collaborative pianist.

Our Percussionist, Rene Cañez, is a Tucson native. He started playing drums and percussion in fifth grade. He continued to play percussion throughout his middle school and high school years. His playing styles range from Black gospel to jazz and blues, and even punk rock! Since 2003, he has played drums for various churches, including at the Talil Air Base Gospel Chapel while deployed to Iraq with the US Air Force. He currently plays drums at University City Church, which he has attended for the past six years. Rene has been playing drums and auxiliary percussion (and singing) with The Vail Chorale since the Fall season of 2018.

Michael Melton, our Guest Conductor, has been active throughout his career as a conductor, singer, pianist, coach, and teacher. He is recently retired from Northeastern Illinois University in Chicago where he served as Director of Choral Activities and Opera Conductor, and taught voice, conducting, diction, and secondary methods. He continues his summer work in Chicago as score reader for video productions of Chicago Symphony Orchestra concerts at the Ravinia Festival. He is the author of *Inspiring Harmony: A Memoir about Leading with Grace*.



ACADEMY VILLAS
AT ACADEMY VILLAGE/ALTURA

7700 S. VIVALDI COURT | TUCSON | ARIZONA
520-647-7500

WWW.ACADEMYVILLAS.ORG

Academy Villas is a locally owned and operated, non-profit facility. Were it not for the generous support of the residents of Academy Village, it would not be possible to offer this extraordinary resource to the greater Tucson community.

**inspiring
harmony**



Michael Melton
Author/Presenter

www.inspiringharmony.net

847.638.1010



Heather Redmon, DVM

Madera
Veterinary Hospital

7681 S. Houghton Rd.
Tucson, AZ 85747

Phone (520)574-3700
maderavet.com

<http://thevailchorale.org>  [Facebook.com/thevailchorale](https://www.facebook.com/thevailchorale)
thevailchorale@gmail.com P.O. Box 144, Vail, AZ 85641

We are a 501(c)(3) organization