



# 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



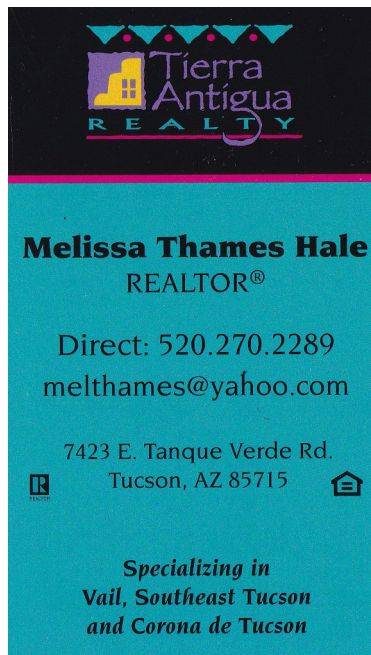
## Who We Are

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](http://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](mailto: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

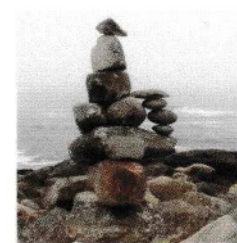
WWW.ACADEMYVILLAS.ORG

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](http://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://maderavet.com)

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

*We are a 501(c)(3) organization*