



# The Vail Chorale

LIVE FOR SINGING. SING FOR LIFE.

presents

## How Can I Keep from Singing



**Saturday, April 18, 2026**  
**3:00p.m.**

Rancho del Lago  
Del Webb Community  
Center Lodge  
10264 S. Blendu Way, Vail, AZ

**Sunday, April 19, 2026**  
**3:00p.m.**

The Academy Village  
Arizona Senior Academy Bldg  
13715 E. Langtry Lane,  
Tucson, AZ

Melissa Hale, Director  
Michael Melton, Co-Director  
Rene Cañez, Percussionist

No charge to attend

Donations gratefully accepted

## Program

- Zion's Walls** ..... Revivalist song credited to John G. McCurry  
Adapted by Aaron Copland; Arr., Glenn Koponen
- A Red, Red Rose** ..... James Mulholland  
Arr., Walter Rodby; Poet, Robert Burns
- Bring Me Little Water, Silvy** ..... Attr. to Huddie Ledbetter (Leadbelly)  
Soloists: *Mary Jo Snyder, Zach Hammond* Arr., Adam Podd
- He's Gone Away** ..... Appalachian Folk Song  
Trio: *Mindi Bennett, Katherine Machamer, Michele Smelker* Arr., Ron Nelson
- We Shall Walk Through the Valley in Peace** ..... Spiritual  
*The Vail Chorale Tenors & Basses* Adapted by William Appling
- Deep River** ..... Spiritual  
Arr., Alice Parker & Robert Shaw
- Wade in the Water** ..... Traditional Spiritual  
Soloist: *Janet Cañez* Arr., Moses Hogan
- Ain'-a That Good News!** ..... William L. Dawson
- Black Is the Color of My True Love's Hair** ..... Appalachian Folk Song  
Soloist: *Josiah Gaffney* Arr., Derric Johnson
- A Girl's Garden, from *Frostiana*** ..... Randall Thompson  
*The Vail Chorale Sopranos & Altos* Poet, Robert Frost
- 16 Tons** ..... Merle Travis  
Soloist: *Butch Bryant* Arr., Brian Graff  
Quartet: *Juan J. Aguirre, Rene Cañez, Dale Thoreen & Josiah Gaffney*
- Shenandoah** ..... American Folk Song  
Arr., James Erb
- How Can I Keep From Singing** ..... American Folk Hymn  
Soloists: *Ashley Payne & Laura Gehrig* Arr., Ronald Staheli

## The Vail Chorale Singers

### Sopranos

Erika Brand  
Linda Buus  
Janet Cañez  
Sara Cothorn  
Donna King  
Melissa Larsen  
Martie Maierhauser  
Jessica Mannella  
Katherine Machamer  
Sheila McGinnis  
Leslie Nitzberg  
Ashley Payne  
Kristen Reed  
Maureen Shea  
Michele Smelker

### Tenors

Lee Cuevas  
Josiah Gaffney  
Zach Hammond  
Robert Snyder  
Wendy Spaulding  
Dale Thoreen  
Adriana Walker

### Altos

Nancy Babson Gulotta  
Mindi Bennett  
Laura Gehrig  
Holly Gonzalez  
Nicole Herington  
Melody Loya  
Jill Maxwell  
Kim McCarthy  
Laura Moore  
Heather Redmon  
Lisa Robinson  
Mary Jo Snyder  
Susan Taylor

### Basses

Juan J. Aguirre  
Butch Bryant  
Rene Cañez  
Mike DePaso  
Ronald Klaiss  
Marco Vildosola

### Sound Assist

Juan Gonzalez

### Videography

Scott Rigg



# ACADEMY VILLAS

AT ACADEMY VILLAGE

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.



## Fish for Life Coaching

Kimber Innecken



fishforlifecoaching.com  
(520) 245-8485



Heather Redmon, DVM

## Madera

Veterinary Hospital

7681 S. Houghton Rd.  
Tucson, AZ 85747

Phone (520)574-3700  
maderavet.com



## Janice Klaiss

REALTOR®



609.513.4485  
Janice@embarcrealty.com  
EmbarcRealty.com

# InJoy

## Thrift Store

250 North Pantano Road

**Store Hours**  
Monday to Saturday  
9 a.m. to 6 p.m.  
Sunday Noon to 6 p.m.

**Donations**  
520-396-3361

## SheCreates Studio

Sheila McGinnis  
artist & illustrator

10445 E George Tolman  
Tucson, AZ 85747

shecreatesart@gmail.com  
(520) 205-2308



www.shecreatesart.net

## Thank you to our Patrons!

### Platinum \$1000+

Erika & Bernd Brand  
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### Gold \$500-\$999

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Butch & MaryBeth Bryant  
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Margaret Thames  
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Paul & Patricia Wildman

### Bronze \$50-\$99

Mary Lovell  
Dale Thoreen

### In Kind

Melissa Hale  
Donna King  
Lynne & Mike Perdue



*Many thanks to the Vail School District  
for giving us rehearsal space.*

KZ Captures: Framing Life's Beautiful Moments

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## The Vail Chorale Governing Board

Janet Cañez, *Outgoing President*  
Julie Dawson, *President-elect*  
Lee Cuevas, *Vice President*  
Holly Gonzalez, *Secretary*  
Dale Thoreen, *Treasurer*

### Members at Large

Mindi Bennett  
Martie Maierhauser  
Sheila McGinnis  
Leslie Nitzberg

Melissa Hale, *Director of Music\**  
Michael Melton, *Director of Music\**  
Rene Cañez, *Percussionist*  
Fritz Reinagel, *Founder*

*\*piano accompanists*

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<https://thevailchorale.org>

Facebook: The Vail Chorale

Address: P.O. Box 144, Vail, AZ 85641

We are a 501(c)(3) organization

## 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 2026 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.

**Our Director, Melissa Hale**, throughout grade school, sang and played for choirs in school and church. She attended both the University of Alabama at Huntsville (UAH) and Birmingham Southern Methodist College (BSM) where she studied voice and piano, sang in the Concert Choir, 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 Guest Conductor, Michael Melton**, has been active throughout his career as 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*.

**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 Tail 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 2018.