

Hickory Choral Society is a funded affiliate of Arts Culture Catawba.

Updates from the Office

Thanksgiving Closures

The office will be closed **November 25th** and **26th** for Thanksgiving.

Christmas Concert Reserved Seating

Reserved seating is now available for the 2026 Hickory Choral Society Christmas performances.
Four Christmas performances will be held at Corinth Church in Hickory, NC:

- Friday December 11, 7:30 pm
- Saturday December 12, 3:00 pm & 7:30 pm
- Sunday December 13, 3:00 pm

Please note, the Sunday afternoon concert is typically standing room only, so if you want to avoid the crowd you might want to consider selecting a different date. You may reserve your seats online at our website, or call/come by the HCS office to have us reserve seats for you. As a reminder, you need to submit your membership for season 49 (2026-27) before you can reserve seats, as our season now begins with the Fall concert.

Cookies and Carols

Join us for a free concert for children and families, taking place at **11am** on **December 5th** at **Ridgeview Recreation Center** in Hickory.

This concert will feature a Hickory Choral Society sing-along, holiday cookies to take home, and special surprise guests!



Stories from Music Educators

Last year, the Hickory Choral Society awarded several music educators with the J. Don Coleman Music Educator Grant. If you are a music educator and would like to apply for this grant, the last call for applications is **November 6th**. Applications can be completed online here.

Now, some of the past recipients have shared what the grant meant to them and their students:

Shannon Rogers: Newton-Conover Middle School Chorus

The HCS J. Don Coleman Music Education Grant meant so much to me and my students because it helped create meaningful musical experiences that inspired growth, confidence, and a love of music. This grant allowed me to give my students opportunities to explore, learn, and grow as musicians while making memories that will stay with them long after they leave my classroom. When we are dismissing class, students still ask to sing the same songs that HCS provided for us last year! Thank you so much for your generous donation to the Newton-Conover Middle School Chorus program.

Mary Catherine Taylor - Mountain View Elementary Chorus

We are incredibly grateful to the Hickory Choral Society for supporting the Mountain View Elementary Chorus. Thanks to the J. Don Coleman Music Education Grant, our students had the opportunity to learn, grow, and develop as young musicians through high-quality choral literature last year. Thank you for helping make meaningful musical experiences possible for our students!

Castle of Cans Food Drive

This October, the Hickory Choral Society participated in the Castle of Cans Food Drive event in support of Second Harvest Food Bank of Metrolina.

It was a friendly competition between voice sections to see who could donate the most cans. At the end of the month, it was a tie between tenors and altos!

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the food drive! Your donations have helped support the following agencies: The Corner Table in Newton, Ashure Ministry (formerly ECCCM), Exodus Homes, Greater Hickory Cooperative Christian Ministry, The Family Care Center, Hickory Soup Kitchen, Salvation Army, and Second Harvest Food Bank Hickory.



Fall Membership Reception

Thank you to those who attended our membership reception on October 18th at the Lake Hickory Country Club! It was a wonderful event with good times had all around!









Singer Stories: Camille Carswell



Meet Camille Carswell (Alto 1), a retired music educator from Morganton who has continued pursuing her love for music.

She is the accompanist for Pleasant Ridge Baptist Church, where she also sings in the choir, plays in the band, leads the youth band, and teaches a children's music class. She also teaches a Kindermusik at a local preschool, and loves singing in HCS.

Camille lives with her husband, Todd Carswell, who is the CFO for A Caring Alternative. They have 2 adult children and 3 grandchildren, and love camping, traveling, and spending time together with them.