



**HICKORY
CHORAL
SOCIETY**

Love and Music Endure

There's no shortage of choral music repertoire that could be categorized as expressions of praise, joy, peace, comfort, hope, etc. Less common is music inspired by a disease and its impact on tens of millions of people in the United States alone. Enter Robert S. Cohen's *Alzheimer's Stories*, a 30-minute choral work that seeks to offer some semblance of hope in response to this debilitating disease. It was commissioned by a Susquehanna Valley Chorale (PA) chorister in honor of his parents, who both died from Alzheimer's. The libretto was created by Hershel Garfein, who drew on testimony of Susquehanna Valley Chorale members and the local community who shared their experiences with friends and family who had the disease. In three movements, the work features mezzo-soprano and baritone soloists, choir, and a 13-piece instrumental ensemble. Different elements of living with Alzheimer's are explored, including history, poignancy, humor, hopelessness and hope, concluding with the text:

*Keep faith.
They sense what they cannot show.
Love and music are the last things to go.
Sing anything.*

Alzheimer's Stories is unlike any other piece of music I've encountered, and I'm thrilled that HCS will give its North Carolina premiere at our fall concert,

Sunday, October 22, 3pm, at Lenoir-Rhyne's P.E. Monroe Auditorium. Not only does the work offer hope for caregivers and those among us who have been impacted by this disease, but in a broader sense, it reminds us of the power of music to heal, connect, and provide comfort when all else seems lost. Additionally, the choir is one of 12 area organizations participating in The Art of Compassion, a Hickory-based project whose mission is the "education, encouragement, support, and love for others through the power of storytelling, art, and entertainment". To that end, choir members will be visiting area assisted living memory care units and participating in the October 28 Walk to End Alzheimer's - Unifour, NC.

Even though we're in the middle of summer, it's not too early to add these dates to your fall calendar. And, speaking of dates, Thursday, August 3 is the next round of singer auditions. It's not too late for you or someone you know to sign up by contacting the HCS office. See you in the fall.

Ryan Luhrs, Artistic Director & Conductor



Alzheimer's Stories composer Robert S. Cohen and Ryan Luhrs at the national American Choral Directors Association (ACDA) Conference in Cincinnati this past February

45th Season Remaining Concerts

FALL CONCERT
Love and Music Endure
Sunday, October 22, 2023 3:00 pm
P.E. Monroe Auditorium,
Lenoir-Rhyne University

SING WITH US
HCS Auditions
Openings in all parts
Make an appointment by
contacting our office

Hickory Choral Society concerts are free and open to the public.

For more information visit:
HickoryChoralSociety.org
or contact
Noteworthy@hickorychoralsociety.org
(828) 322-2210.

Noteworthy

**Opus 45, No 4.
June 2023**

**Inspiring, Educating, and
Connecting
Through Song**

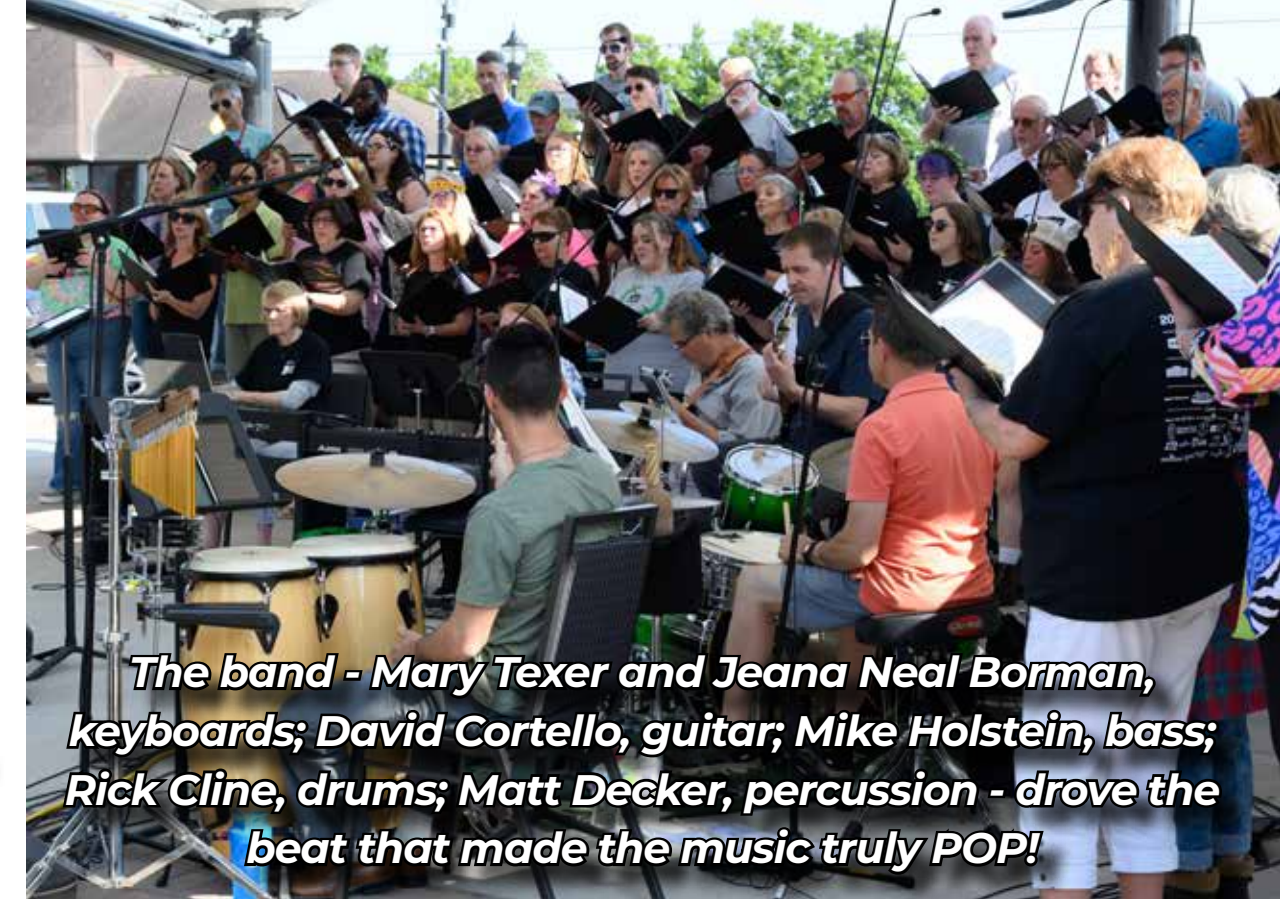
This digital newsletter is best viewed on a desktop computer. If viewing on your mobile phone please rotate your screen.



Photos in this article provided by Tom Devlin



Charter members Chuck Yoder and Sara Isenhour kicked off the concert and introduced the 1970s



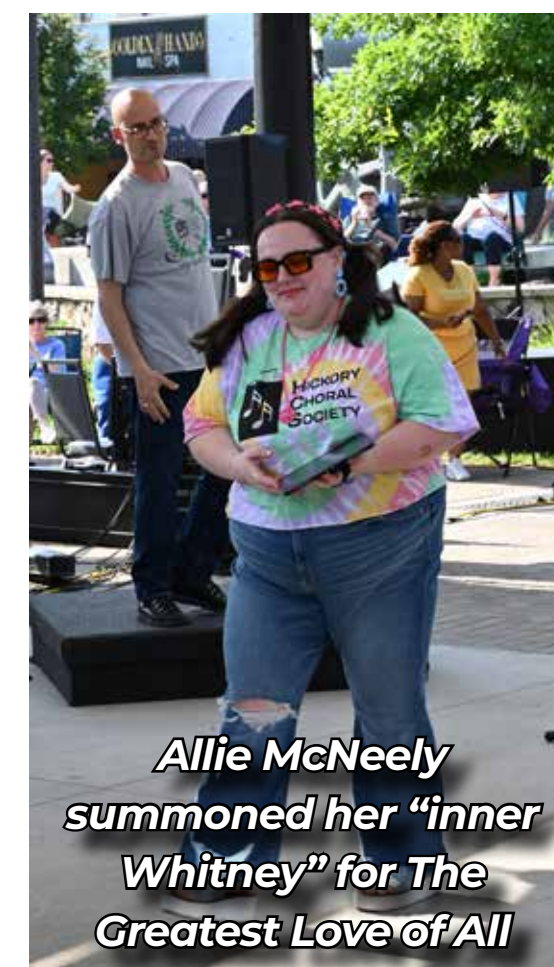
The band - Mary Texer and Jeana Neal Borman, keyboards; David Cortello, guitar; Mike Holstein, bass; Rick Cline, drums; Matt Decker, percussion - drove the beat that made the music truly POP!

A Journey Through 45 Years of Love Songs

Thank you to all who joined us for our concert downtown "Under the Sails" on Sunday May 21st – it was an absolutely perfect spring afternoon! In celebration of our 45th anniversary year, the concert theme was "45 Years of Love (Songs)". The concert began with *Sentimental Journey* to set the stage, which was complemented by the appearance of a real-life train coming through town a short time later. We couldn't have planned that if we tried!

Each decade of HCS' existence (from the late 1970s to the current 2020s) was introduced by singers who joined the group during that period. Yes, we still have charter members from 1978 singing with the group! They shared a little bit about what was happening with HCS at that time in our history and then introduced the songs to be sung representing that decade. It was educational for many of our newer singers as well as the audience!

A huge thank you goes to the City of Hickory, our concert underwriter, without whom our outdoor spring concert would not be possible. We are proud to partner with them each year as part of their ongoing concert series under the sails.



Allie McNeely summoned her "inner Whitney" for The Greatest Love of All



1980s remembered by Sharon Abernethy and Pat Rice



Interim Associate Conductor Renee Shatley directed Journey's Greatest Hits, accompanied by a random freight train

If you were unable to attend, you missed a special performance. With music spanning six decades there was truly "something for everyone". I have to say, for me at least, the HCS soloists stole the show! We were blessed to have over 20 individual soloists or participants in small ensembles (too many to name here!), and they were all spectacular. I never cease to be amazed at the level of talent within our own group.

As the old saying goes, a picture is worth a thousand words, so please enjoy the photos, taken courtesy of Tom Devlin, to see a glimpse of what went on during the event. Sunshine, blue skies, smiling faces, food & drink, and fantastic music...who could ask for anything more?

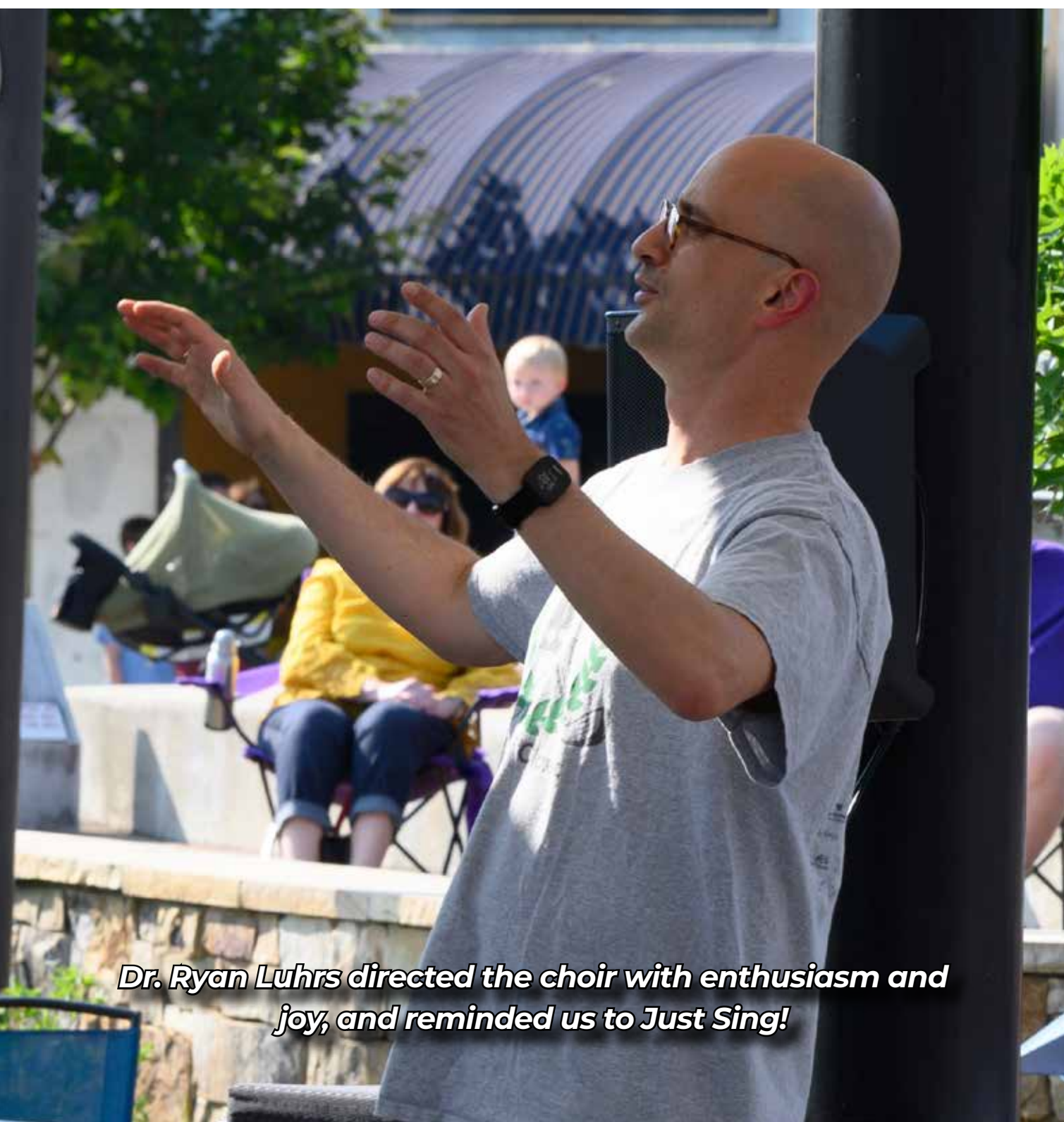
Sharon Foster Milligan
HCS Board President



A medley of Journey's Greatest Hits began with Kate Lawhorn and Andrew Parker, followed by Becca Easterling, Chandler Smith, and Olivia Higdon (on deck)



Lu Litton Griffin helped set the stage for the 1990s



Dr. Ryan Luhrs directed the choir with enthusiasm and joy, and reminded us to Just Sing!



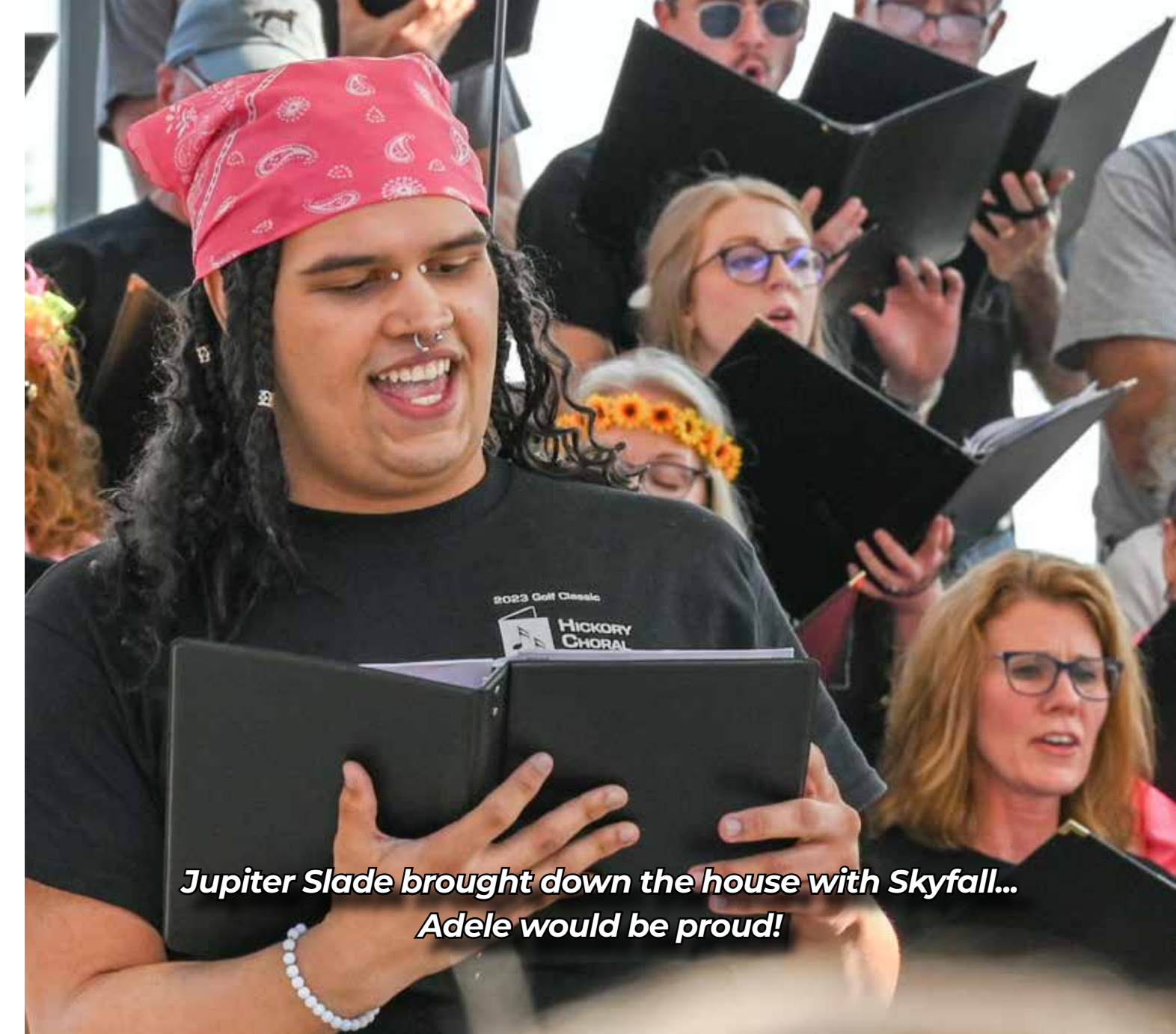
And now for the 2000s...as introduced by Gail Summer, Board Vice President



Kevin Barlowe put his own spin on I'll Fly Away, taking us to new heights



Bless the Broken Road was blessed by vocals from Dr. Anne Gonzalez



*Jupiter Slade brought down the house with Skyfall...
Adele would be proud!*



*Grant Logan and Marty Light were two
of the soloists soaring high on The Wind
Beneath My Wings*



*Becca Easterling, new singer and incoming
Board member, welcomed us to the present
- HCS in the 2020s*



*Long-time HCS accompanist Mary Texer
provided her usual magic on the keys*



Reflecting on the 3rd Annual HCS Golf Classic

HCS Golf Classic

Thank You to all our Tournament Sponsors



Alan & Lu Griffin Bobby & Brenda Bush Carl Sauer & Nancy Toy Living Trust of Robert T. DiCianni

The 3rd Annual HCS Golf Classic on Monday, May 1 was another amazing day of competitive fun and fellowship! Thank you to our generous Sponsors – we couldn't do it without you!

We are just as appreciative of our dedicated Golfers! Here is what a few of them had to share after playing this year:

Why did you agree to play or register to play in the 2021 HCS Golf Classic?

Dane Whitworth: "I have played in all three tournaments. My son helped lead the first Tournament. I was hooked!"

Nick Homesley, Nick's Stix: "I have played in this tournament since the start of this event. It is always a lot of fun, a great course, and very well done!"

S. Franklin Young, III, Resource Partners: "To support HCS"

Kirk Viola: "My friends that are associated with HCS invited me to participate."

Hunt Shuford: "HCS has been 'near and dear' to our family from the beginning. I don't play many of these events for a variety of reasons – but this one is very well run and supports a terrific organization which is actually a huge asset to our community – pace of play is good as is the food and beverages (both very important at least to me). It has been a lot of fun both times I have played."

What did you enjoy about the tournament?

"It is always fun to play golf and it is especially fun to play with a great group of people and help contribute to the community."

"Absolutely. Well organized, lots of food and drink, and loads of prizes."

"The days was a lot of fun."

"We had an absolute blast!"

What was the most memorable moment of your day at the HCS Golf Classic?

"My closest to the pin shot on a Par 3 (it was quickly beat, but fun to have my name on the board)"

"The entire day was memorable... golf, camaraderie and fellowship."

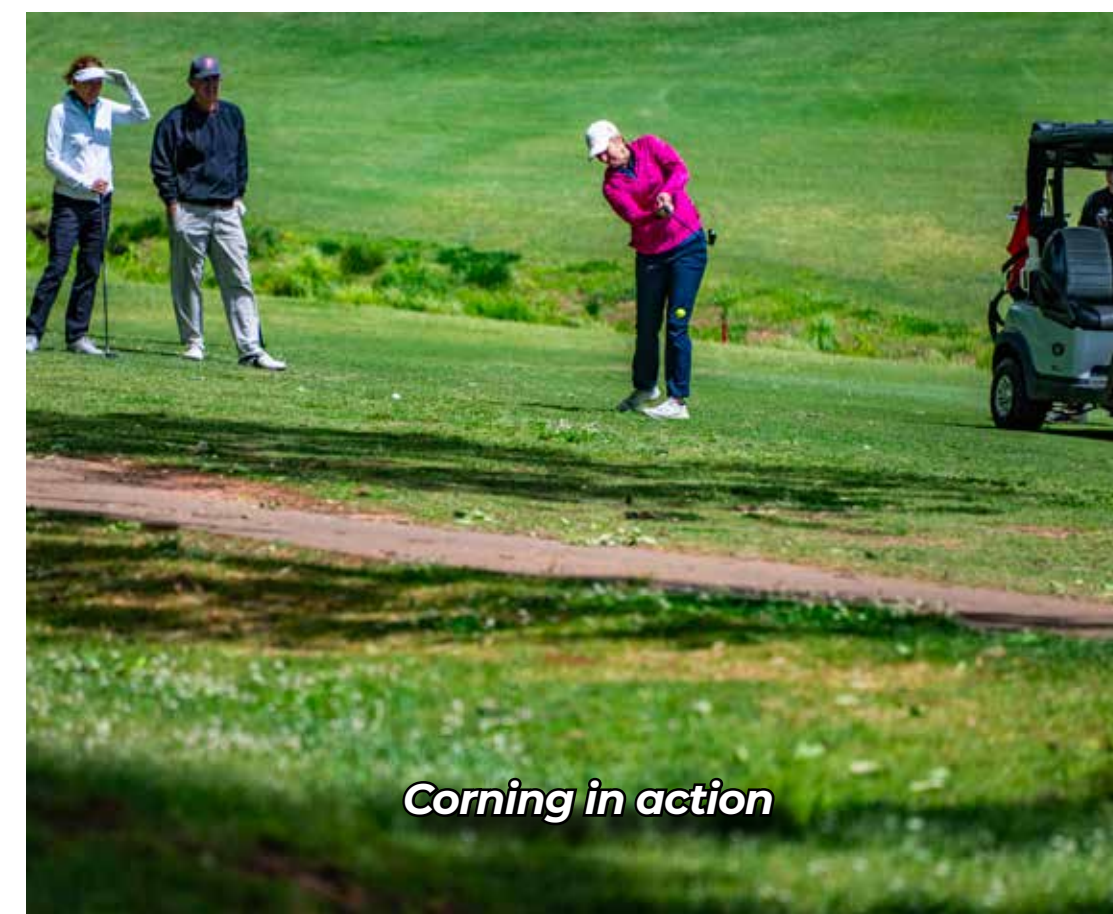
"The weather was perfect. HCS volunteers were great and welcoming."

"I won some prizes!"

"For me it was a few of my good golf shots, very few. Also seeing the support to HCS."



Photos in this article provided by Paul Van Breeman



Corning in action

Would you like to play in the HCS Golf Classic again next year?

“Yes, definitely”

“Yes, we look forward to it again next year.”

“Yes, but I did miss the putter drawing and driver drawing that we had last year.”

“As a sponsor, I hope to sponsor at a higher level next year, I enjoyed seeing my logo on the banner and the golf cart.”

Sorry to get carried away with all the comments, but they were too good not to share! And now, the moment you have all been waiting for: **the 2023 HCS Golf Classic raised just under \$15,000!**

Other special guests that took time to stop in during the tournament were our Artistic Director/Conductor Dr. Ryan Luhrs and founding director, J. Don Coleman

Kudos to the HCS Golf Classic Steering Committee: Denise Filip, Cathi Hall, Sharon Milligan, Joey Sadowski, Lori Sadowski, Eric Whitworth & Karen Whitworth. This team made every effort for this day to run as smoothly as was noted by the golfers, but I have to say – they do it because they have equal love for the Hickory Choral Society and the community at large – just like has been echoed by the various golfers that join us year after year. We cannot say it any better than noted above - “The entire day was memorable... golf, camaraderie and fellowship.”

**Lori Sadowski
Golf Committee Chair**

Tournament Winners

**1st place team
McKinley Leather Team:**

Joey Sadowski
Mack Morgan
Phil Bland
Robert Staines

**2nd place team
Bass-Smith Team:**

John Young
Mitch Sigmon
Fred Young
Taylor Young

3rd place team

Hunt Shuford
Kirk Viola
Lance Sellers
Jason Sigmon

Closest to the Pin:

Hole #3 – Toby Benton
Hole #7 – Fred Young
Hole #13 – Debbie Boyle
Hole #17 – Ricky Frye

Longest Drive Women (#10): Meghan Liedkie

Longest Drive Men (#18): Phil Bland

Putting Contest: Jason Hawks

50/50 Raffle: Phil Bland

Scratch-off Board Raffle: Beth Palermo

Please join us in recognizing and thanking our HCS singers that volunteered enthusiastically, while enjoying being together and sharing this time with our community!

Volunteers:

Ken Beaty
Nancy Beaty
Connie Burleson
Craig Cansler
Eddie Compton
Linda DiCianni
Susan Goldstein

Anne Gonzalez
Johnathan Greer
Cathi Hall
Stanley Hall
Tony Ikard
Kellie Light
Marty Light
Allie McNeely

Marylynn Miles
Sharon Milligan
Beth Palermo
Tim Penn
Joyce Powell
Pat Rice
Lori Sadowski
Renee Shatley

Mickey Shuford
Mary Texer
Shirley Thomason
Paul van Breemen
Tabitha West
Karen Whitworth

SAVE THE DATE!
Join us for next year’s tournament on May 6, 2024.



1st Place Team - McKinley Leather's Team



2nd Place Winners - Bass Smith's Team



3rd Place Winners - Hunt Shuford's Team



*Registration and T-shirt distribution -
Nick's Stix & Volunteer Team
Kellie Light & Linda DiCianni*



Backstreets Team



Caring Cremations Team



Caring Cremations Team in action



Beth Palermo - Scratch-off winner



*Vanguard team
headed to shotgun*



*McKinley Leather's team
headed to shotgun*



Jason Hawks - Putting Contest winner



J. Don Coleman



Corning Team #2



Debby Boyle - Closest to the Pin



HCS Dynamic Duo - Kellie Light & Linda DiCianni



Father Ed Sheridan's team



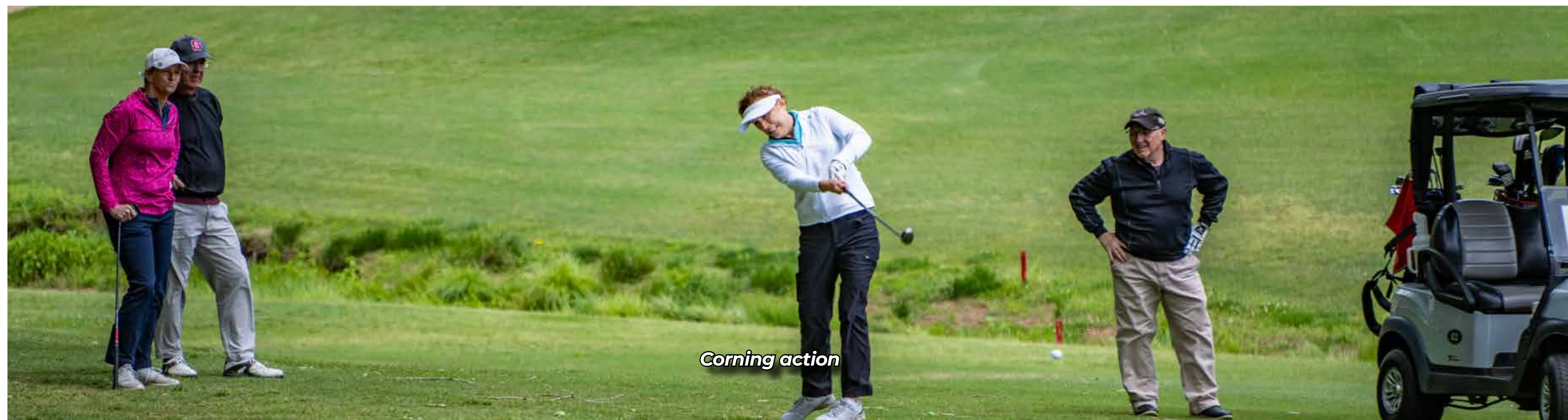
Silver Fork Winery's Team



Modern Nissan preparing to putt



Focus on your swing, not the sign you just passed



Corning action

Contributions to the J. Don Coleman Education Fund

In Memory of Marjorie McDaniel

Mike and Denise Filip
Kyle and Tammie Canerday

Contributions to the Conductor's Endowment Fund

In Memory of Father Wilbur Thomas

Marty and Kellie Light

In Honor of Mary Texer

Marty and Kellie Light

Leave a Legacy!

Please remember the
Hickory Choral Society with a gift
in your will, trust, retirement account,
or life insurance policy.
Contact the HCS office for more information.

Board of Directors

Sharon Milligan
President

Linda DiCianni
Treasurer

Lu Litton Griffin
Publicity

Mark McGinnis
Property

Kellie Light
Member-at-large

Marty Light
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Grant Logan
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Gail Summer
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Staff

Ryan Luhrs
Artistic Director & Conductor

Renee Shatley
Interim Associate Conductor

Denise Filip
Interim Business Manager

Mary Texer
Accompanist

HCS Music Available All Year Long!

We have many of your favorite Hickory Choral Society performances available on CD and/or DVD for purchase at the Choral Society office located at 243 3rd Ave NE, Suite 2-N, Hickory, NC, 28601.

Prices start at \$16.00. What a wonderful gift for a special occasion - the gift of music from HCS! If you are looking for that certain concert recording, give us a call at 828-322-2210. Many of our CD's are also available at the Hickory Museum of Art Gift Shop.

Sing With Us!

Openings in all parts
By appointment

Make an appointment by
contacting our office:
828-322-2210
noteworthy@hickorychoralsociety.org



Hickory Choral Society Office 243
3rd Ave NE, Suite 2-N, Hickory,
NC, 28601.

Office Hours M - F 10 AM - 2 PM

Contact Us
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noteworthy@hickorychoralsociety.org

Find US

