



**HICKORY
CHORAL
SOCIETY**

NOTEWORTHY

**Opus 47, No. 3
May 2025**

**Inspiring, Educating,
and Connecting
THROUGH SONG**

This digital newsletter is best
viewed on a desktop device.

THE FIRE WITHIN: MUSIC OF THE STAGE AND SCREEN

Join us for The Fire Within, our Under the Sails concert, offered twice—on Thursday, May 15, at 7:00 p.m. in Morganton and Sunday, May 18, in downtown Hickory. This performance includes a dynamic blend of songs from iconic films and musicals, taking you on a journey through discovery, love, struggle, and celebration. Here's a quick rundown of some of the tunes planned for this performance.

The program begins with "One Short Day" from Wicked, a song reinvigorated by the 2024 movie release. The energy continues to build with the iconic anthems "Fame" and "Footloose," celebrating ambition and the spirit of freedom. The mood then softens with "Moon River," offering a reflective moment that evokes the longing for adventure and the beauty of shared companionship.

As the concert unfolds, we move into themes of endurance and emotional connection. "Skyfall" and "Come What May" explore loyalty through hardship, while "We Don't Talk About Bruno" lightens the mood with playful energy.



Love takes center stage with "Can You Feel the Love Tonight," "Take My Breath Away," and "The First Time Ever I Saw Your Face," offering moments of deep affection and connection. The soulful, barbershop rendition of "Georgia on My Mind" brings even more intimacy and longing.

The concert culminates in a grand celebration of triumph and hope. From the uplifting "One Moment in Time" to the victorious rhythms of "Jai Ho," this section builds toward a joyful finale. "(I've Had) The Time of My Life" adds a nostalgic touch, and we close with "You'll Never Walk Alone / Climb Every Mountain," sending the message home.

We invite you to join us—whether to enjoy familiar favorites, discover new ones, or be moved by the shared experience of live choral music. And don't forget, this is one concert each year where you are welcome to sing along. Thank you for your ongoing support of the Hickory Choral Society!

Ryan Luhrs
Artistic Director and Conductor

SINGING UNDER THE SAILS

a concert featuring award-winning pop, theatre, and classic rock selections that have been featured in award-winning movies.

Thursday, May 15 • 7:00 pm
Downtown Morganton, NC

Sunday, May 18 • 6:00 pm
Downtown Hickory, NC

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

SUMMER CAMP IS COMING!

It's time for our annual Children's Summer Choral Camp. If you know of a rising 4th - 6th grader who loves to sing, we want them to join us! Parents may apply by completing the application online at <https://hickorychoralsociety.org/choral-camp/>, calling the HCS office, or by talking to their elementary music teacher to receive an application. Tuition is \$45 for the week. Financial assistance is available on a first come, first serve basis. Contact the office for more information. Register your singer soon.....camp fills up quickly!

We are pleased to announce this year's camp clinician is **Mrs. Bernadette Watts**. Mrs. Watts is a well-loved and popular music specialist with 30 years of experience as a music educator. She is also a choral clinician for area music festivals as well as a church musician. We are excited to have her join us for this week of fun.

A typical day at camp will find singers rehearsing for 90 minutes, breaking for a snack, and then going explore other SALT Block affiliates: the Hickory Museum of Art and the Science Center. Percussionist Rick Cline will also be leading a drumming class.

Camp times are 8:50 AM - 12:00 PM.

We are looking forward to another great camp!



We are capping our camp at 50 participants, so don't delay in signing up and paying your registration fee! Spots fill up fast.

Join us for this one week, half-day (8:45 AM - 12:00 PM) summer choral camp for rising 4th - 6th grade students to gain basic choral fundamentals through vocal classes. There will be an opportunity for parents, family members, and friends to attend the final concert on Friday at First United Methodist Church, which is located beside the Science Center.

Financial assistance is available. Please contact the HCS office at noteworthy@hickorychoralsociety.org or 828-322-2210 for more information.



CHILDREN'S SUMMER CHORAL CAMP

A week-long, fun-filled camp for rising 4th - 6th graders to enjoy music and explore the SALT block together!

June 2025



SAVE THE DATE:

Remaining Concert in our 47th Season

FALL CONCERT

October 19, 2025

3:00 pm

First Baptist Church, Hickory

J. DON COLEMAN EDUCATION GRANTS

Thanks to the generosity of many of our donors who make designated gifts to the J. Don Coleman Music Education Fund, the Hickory Choral Society provided a second round of grants to nine public school music educators at our Spring Concert. The total amount awarded was just over \$3000.00.

Recipients were from five of the public school systems in our area: Burke County Schools, Caldwell County Schools, Catawba County Schools, Hickory City Schools, and Newton-Conover City Schools. Grantees were:

Chandler Smith, South Caldwell High School
Valerie Graybill, Walter Johnson Middle School
Amalie Hinson, East Burke Middle School
Shannon Rogers, Newton-Conover Middle School
Tawny Homesley, Jenkins Elementary School
Adeena Stading, Gamewell Middle School
Wendy Hardin, Ray Childers Elementary School
Ashley Sigmon, West Caldwell High School
Mary Katherine Taylor, Mountain View Elementary School



We are proud to support music education in our public schools, as this initiative is central in our Mission to transform lives through performance, support of music education, and the advancement of social harmony in the North Carolina Foothills and beyond.

Grants will be called for again in the fall. If you know of a choral music teacher in the six public school districts in our area (Alexander, Burke, Catawba, Caldwell, Hickory City, and Newton-Conover City), please share this amazing opportunity with them and encourage them to apply!

Congratulations to these newest J. Don Coleman Music Education Grant recipients! We know each will teach and share amazing music with their students through these grants!

Gail Summer

Past President, HCS Board of Directors

THE MAGIC OF MUSICALS

The Spring Under the Sails concerts give the singers in the Choral Society a chance to sing music we don't usually sing. Performing Movie and Broadway tunes allows us to connect with the audience through older familiar songs as well as pieces from more recent films and musicals. One song we'll be singing this year is "One Short Day" from Wicked. I was lucky enough to sing it last year and I can't wait to perform it again.



Wicked was the first Broadway musical I ever saw. I was on a high school trip with the band, and our director wanted us to try something different to broaden our horizons. This musical really stuck with me. I had grown up singing choral and church music, but this was my first time seeing a Broadway show. The stage production, the professional singers and dancers, and the depth of the story all struck me as something so special. And I think the message of celebrating our differences is really beautiful.

With the Wicked movie coming out this year, more people have had the chance to experience the music and the story. It's exciting to see these songs become popular and reach a wider audience. I can't wait for HCS to celebrate Wicked by singing "One Short Day" again this year.

MaryGrace Sheets
Singer

SING WITH US!

OPEN AUDITIONS:

Monday, June 2
and
Monday, August 4

SALT Block | Hickory, NC

for more information, visit
hickorychoralsociety.org/sing

Contributions to the HCS General Operating Fund




*In memory of Merinda Grant and
Toni Coleman*

Shirley Thomason
Sharon Foster

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.

Follow us for updates:

 **Hickory Choral Society**
 **@hickorychoralsociety**
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Office Hours
M-Th 12:30 - 4:30 pm

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