The Benzie County Community Chorus

We're Doing It!

The 2021 Sounds Of Summer
Concerts
July 19, 20 & 21, 2021 7:30 p.m.

Friends,

We are SO excited to be able to sing together AND be able to share it with all of you! We tried so hard to bring you concerts last year, but Zoom rehearsals were more socially distancing that we could manage.

We will be holding a drawing tonight – for local, right down on Main Street – Kilwins chocolates! We ask that you fill out your name and other relevant information and place your "opportunity" in the collection boxes at the "entrance" tables.

If you forgot your checkbook at home, donations can be mailed to PO Box 1525 in Frankfort, care of the BC3, or you can go to benziechorus.org and make a gift with the button on the front page. Our latest addition to the world of technology is the QR code at the bottom of this page. Aim your phone camera on it and it will take you to the donation page.

Little did any of us know the truth of the words we last sang for you; "We'll Meet Again – don't know where, don't know when." We're so glad you were able to be with us tonight, and we know it will be a great time for everyone.

If you are so moved, we would appreciate your applause on the songs marked with an asterisk. Much as you might be moved to show your appreciation during other songs, we ask that you hold on to that feeling while the songs create the mood, moving one into the next. Thank you.

Donate Here

The 2021 Sounds of Summer Concerts
"We're Doing It!"

SING, SING, SING * Louis Prima, arr. Philip Kern

Our opening 1936 big band/swing song made famous by Benny Goodman is often performed as an instrumental piece. Regardless of how it has been presented, it has been popular enough to make its way into films, theater, television and video games and is often recognizable from the opening drum riff.

BE MERRY, MY FRIENDS * Jeff Cobb/ John Masefield

"Dedicated to Carolyn Lalas in honor of her 40 years of leadership, commitment and inspiration to the Benzie County Community Chorus of Michigan," this piece premiered in 2017.

Laugh and be merry, remember, better the world with a song,
Better the world with a blow in the teeth of a wrong.
Laugh, for the time is brief, a thread the length of a span,
Laugh and be proud you belong to the pageant of man.

Laugh and be merry, together! Laugh and be merry, remember!
Laugh and be merry, together, friends!

Laugh and be merry, remember in olden time,
God made Heaven and Earth for joy He took in a rhyme,
Made them, and filled them full with the strong red wine of His mirth,
The splendid joy of the stars: the joy of the earth.

So we must laugh and drink from the deep blue cup, the blue cup of the sky,
Join the jubilant song of the great stars' sweep, join the stars sweeping by.
Laugh, and battle and work. and drink of the wine outpoured,
In the dark green earth, the sign of the joy of the Lord.

Laugh and be merry, together like brothers akin,
Guesting awhile, in the rooms of a beautiful inn,
Glad till the dancing stops, and the lilt of the music ends,
Laugh till the game is played; and be you merry, my friends.

THE LION KING Elton John/Tim Rice, arr. Mac Huff

The musical took the world by storm when it was Released in 1994 after the animated film with the same name, the musical took the world by storm with actors in animal costumes and giant, hollow puppets. The words are the real feature tonight!

"Hakuna Matada" featuring Cory Bissell and Dave Limer
"Can You Feel the Love Tonight?
"Circle of Life" * featuring Nancy Reed

(THEY LONG TO BE) CLOSE TO YOU * Burt Bacharach, Hal David
arr. Deke Sharon

Made popular by siblings Karen and Richard Carpenter in 1970, tonight's performance is an update by sisters of the heart. They think of this song as a play on the idea of a road trip, packed together in the back of the station wagon and the irony of social distancing in the 21st century.

Christy Case, Jeanne Hafer, Rachel Higgins, Michelle Thompson

DRAWING

SURF'S UP Church Berry, arr. Roger Emerson

This rock standard was the title song on the 17th studio album by the Beach Boys in 1971. Despite the fun and toe-tapping music, the lyrics introduce a subtle environmental message before its time.

WALKING IN MEMPHIS Marc Cohn, arr. Mark Brymer

The church where former soul singer Al Green preached, Elvis Presley's Graceland home of Graceland, a small nightclub and wandering various streets of downtown Memphis all came together to break Mr. Cohn's case of writer's block.

GEORGIA ON MY MIND Hoagy Carmichael/Stuart Gorrell
arr. Robert Sterling

Written in 1930, it's possible that this was written about Carmichael's sister, Georgia, rather than the state. Of all the versions by such greats as Louis Armstrong, James Brown , Django Reinhardt, and Willie Nelson, the one by Ray Charles is the most famous, at his driver's suggestion that he record it.

FOREVER COUNTRY * Willie Nelson, Dolly Parton, Bill Danoff, Taffy Nivert, John Denver, arr. Mac Huff

The 2016 #1 Country Hit partners "Take Me Home, Country Roads," "I Will Always Love You," and "On the Road Again." Like people, it is a delight when such different songs can come together to invoke that time when life was more foot-loose and fancy free and travel included hitchhiking.

WOODSMOKE AND ORANGES Ian Tamblyn, arr. Rebecca Campbell

This modern folk song hovers over the northland and its hold on those of us who love her. While fires and oranges don't have popular connections to each other, the inside of orange peels contain D-Limonene, which will spark to start a fire and create a fire "show" when squeezed next to a flame, which was probably discovered sitting around a campfire.

LET THE RIVER RUN * Carly Simon, arr. Craig Hella Johnson

Ms. Simon wanted to write a "hymn to New York with a contemporary jungle beat under it, so as to juxtapose those opposites" for the movie "Working Girl." It's also the first song created entirely by one artist to win an Oscar, a Golden Globe and a Grammy. Besides all that, it's so much fun to sing!

UNCLOUDED DAY Rev. Josiah K. Alwood, arr. Shawn Kirchner, Christy Case

Rev. Alwood was itinerant preacher, writing the chorus and verses in a day and a half after a late-night horse ride. It is the opening movement of *Heavenly Home: Three American Songs.* It's actually a big song with lots of parts, but our own Christy Case transformed it for us, and we think she did a great job!

THE STORM IS PASSING OVER * Charles Albert Tindley, arr. Barbara W. Baker

Born a free person in 1851, Tindley's father was a slave; his mother was free. Largely self-taught, he not only learned to read, but took correspondence courses to become a highly popular Methodist minister, author of several books, husband and father to eight children. He might not have known of Covid-19, but he surely knew some storms.

RISE UP Cassandra Batie (Andra Day) and Jennifer Decilveo, arr. Mac Huff

Toby Gould, soloist

Cassandra Monique Batie's album by the same title won both the Best R&B Album and Performance in 2016 in addition to a Daytime Emmy Award. Ms. Day (her professional name) grew up singing in church in California and was noticed by Stevie Wonder's then-wife, Kai Millard, who brought Day to his attention. The rest, as they say, is history, albeit very recent history.

ON TOP OF THE WORLD * Daniel Reynolds, Benjamin McKee, Daniel Sermon Alexander Grant, arr. Roger Emerson

Recorded by Imagine Dragons, this song is a celebration of the band's accomplishments after striving for years to become successful. Not only has it been in the top ten weekly charts in Europe, it has been the anthem that has enabled many of us to make it through another day in a pandemic!

WE'LL MEET AGAIN * Ross Parker & Hughie Charles, arr. Steinar Eielsen

This 1938 British song was one of the most famous of the Second World War era. After this past year, it has an even deeper meaning for us and perhaps for you, too.

We will present our ***Christmas Concert*** concerts
Friday, Saturday and Sunday, December 10, 11 and 12.
We hope you can join us for this year's Hymns and Humor Concert Series.

SINGERS

Rosemary Abbett	Jeanne Hafer	Maureen Merry
Amanda Babcock	Melissa Hamp	Becky Ogilvie
Emily Baker	Evelyn Harper	Nancy Reed
Bob & Nancy Boehm	Abby Hayes	Michelle Thompson
Cody Bowers	Rachel Higgins	Julie Van Antwerp
Steve Chapman	Kathi Houston	*Sabine Vera
Phyllis Crowell-Van Hammen	Dave Johnson	Judy Welch
Myra Elias	Pat Kinske	
Missi Gilbert	Dave Limer	* New Member
Toby Gould	Leslie McElduff	

DRUMMER

Cody Bowers is a graduate of Benzie Central High School and has an audio engineering certification. His dream job is to be able to write and play music.

ACCOMPANIST

Christy Case is also a graduate of Benzie Central Schools and owner of the Cherry Hut, along with her husband Andy, with a little help from their sons, Carsen and Caleb. Her educational experience includes an undergraduate degree from Western Michigan University, a master's degree from Vander Cook School of Music in Chicago, and seventeen years of choral music education, fourteen of them at Benzie Central.

DIRECTOR

Dinah Haag obtained her undergraduate degrees in music education at St. Cloud State University and a Master of Divinity degree from Bethel Theological, all of which took place in Minnesota. She finds it amazing that she's been able to be and work and live in this amazing place since 1998.

The Benzie County Community Chorus is grateful
to the good people of Frankfort United Methodist Church
for the gracious use of their space and facilities.

Thank you, Robin MacKenzie, for creating and adding to the ambiance of The Lion King songs. After teaching art in private schools in the Grand Rapids, MI area, she and her husband Jim are living their retirement dream in the house they built off Bellows Avenue in Frankfort. Both MacKenzies were recently able to homeschool the grandsons over the course of the last year.

The Kilwin prize drawings come from right here in Frankfort, owned by Mr. Cory Bissell. Thanks for dressing up the good stuff, Mr. Bissell!

If you are interested in becoming a member of the BCCC, please contact any chorus member or give our director Dinah Haag a call at 231-651-0311. Rehearsals will begin in mid-September. The date will be announced on the chorus website (www.benziechorus.org) and on our Facebook page (Benzie County Community Chorus).

Unwanted programs can be recycled in the recycling boxes at the “entrance” tables.

To keep up with our events, please feel free to check out our website at
www.benziechorus.org or follow us on Facebook:
Benzie County Community Chorus