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Ode to Joy
Beethoven's
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When Words Meet Music

presented by

Central Texas Choral Society
Central Texas Vocal Artists
Waco High Chorale and Chamber Choir

Dr. David Guess
Brently Bartlett
Conductors

Mike Makowski
Lisa Robinson
Collaborative Pianists

Sunday, October 4, 2026
3:00pm

Monday, October 5, 2026
7:30pm

Richfield Performing Arts Center
Waco High School

CENTRAL TEXAS CHORAL SOCIETY

OFFICERS

Rick Scott, President
Phil Rhodes, Vice President
Bryan Sulak, Treasurer
Heather Scott, Secretary

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Chason Disheroon Lydia Tate
Pam Wurgler Kayla Torp
Artistic Director, Dr. David Guess

The Central Texas Choral Society was reorganized in 2012 as an auditioned community chorus. CTCS evolved out of the Waco Civic Chorus, which was active beginning in the late 1970's. Former Baylor School of Music Professor Robert Young was the founding director of the chorus. Dr. Young and the original members of the chorus saw the need for a community choral ensemble and laid the groundwork for what today is CTCS. Dr. Donald Balmos, then Director of the Department of Fine Arts at McLennan Community College, took over the responsibilities of leadership and musical direction in the mid 80's. During his tenure, the chorus performed many of the standard works for chorus and orchestra. John McLean, former Assistant Choral Director at Baylor University, served as director from 2001-2003. Current director, Dr. David Guess, sang with the chorus in the 1990's and took over the baton as President and Artistic Director in 2012.

CTCS members come from communities throughout Central Texas and consists of singers from all walks of life – faculty from all levels of education; doctors; lawyers; stay-at-home moms; business leaders and community activists; even high school singers who are looking to have a different musical experience. Though the core of singers remains fairly constant, singers often join as their schedules allow. One of the unique aspects of the chorus is the participation of family units who often join together to have the wonderful experience of singing great works of art with CTCS.

The ensemble presents 3 to 4 concerts each season and is committed to the performance of important compositional milestones in the choral art. Recent performances include *Home Alone Live!* with the Waco Symphony Orchestra; *Illuminare* by Elaine Hagenberg; *Gloria* by John Rutter and Randall Alan Bass; and Vaughan Williams' *Dona Nobis Pacem*. The group regularly collaborates with other musical organizations throughout the Central Texas area. They have joined forces with the McLennan Community Orchestra, the Midway High School Chamber Singers; MCC Chorale; Baylor Symphony Orchestra; Baylor University Choirs; Waco Civic Theater; and the Youth Chorus of Central Texas. They have also traveled both internationally and domestically including a tour of Scotland and Ireland in the summer of '24; joined singers from across the country in a performance at the Kennedy Center this past Memorial Day; and performed at Carnegie Hall in 2018. They will be performing in a festival chorus at Cadogan Hall in London in June of 2027. The ensemble also performs in smaller groups at local community activities throughout Central Texas including the Waco Christmas Tree Lighting, the Cultural Arts Festival, the Mayborn Center's Christmas Lights in the Village, HEB's Feast of Sharing, and on the outdoor stage at Magnolia this coming December.

The Central Texas Vocal Artists was formed in the Fall of 2025 as a chamber ensemble from within the bigger organization of the Central Texas Choral Society. Its purpose is three-fold – 1) to have a smaller group that can perform at events throughout Central Texas; 2) to diversify the type of repertoire that can be presented; and 3) to offer a smaller, more intimate choral setting for singers wanting to commit to a deeper level of musicianship. The group is selected by audition and open to anyone who also sings with the parent organization.

CTCS is an official 501(c)(3) organization, and all monetary gifts of any amount are most welcome and tax deductible. All contributors will be acknowledged in their concert programs. For further information visit us here...

Website - centraltexaschoralsociety.org

Facebook - Central Texas Choral Society

E-mail – centexchoralsociety@gmail.com

Donations can also be mailed to: Central Texas Choral Society, 405 Water Wood Circle, Woodway, TX 76712



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WCT WACO CIVIC THEATRE
a New Dawn
2026-2027 SEASON



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COME FROM AWAY Sept 10th - 27th	WAIT UNTIL DARK Oct 22nd - Nov 1st
Annie Nov 27th - Dec 20th	THE PRODUCERS Feb 11th - 28th
Neil Simon's Barefoot in the Park Apr 1st - 11th	Chorus Line May 13th - 30th

CTCS would like to thank the following people and organizations.
Without their generous support this performance could not have happened.

CONCERT SPONSOR

Dave Goodman & Kathleen Branyon
David & Rebecca Guess

CONDUCTOR

Darren Metting & Alan Jones
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Scott Peden - In Memory of Kari Lankford Peden
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SUSTAINING MEMBERS

Jason & Kamille Buenning
Jeff Pressman
Todd Moore, Alliance Bank Central Texas
Mike Makowski
David & Barbee Smith
Susan Thrift
Sam & Barbara Wilson

Corbin Locke - In Memory of Kari Lankford Peden

Midway High School Choir - Caleb Overstreet, Kayla Torp, Drew Jackson
Waco ISD – Larry Carpenter, Brently Bartlett, Emily Chandler
Central United Methodist Church – Zakk Owens, Dave Brower

PROGRAM

Jabberwocky Sam Pottle
Text by Lewis Carroll
To Sail Beyond Anita Taylor

Text by Alfred Lord Tennyson
World Premier
Commissioned for the Central Texas Choral Society

Earth Song Frank Ticheli
Text by Frank Ticheli
CENTRAL TEXAS CHORAL SOCIETY

Lebenslust Franz Schubert
German Text by Johann Karl Unger
*For life to be happy, you can't be alone. If you should be lonely the fault is your own.
If you will but trust in the love of a friend in joy you find that your sadness will end.*

CTCS & WHS CHORALE

Little Wheel A-Turnin' arr. Greg Gilpin
Traditional Spiritual
How Can I Keep from Singing arr. Podd Brothers

Text by Pauline T.

WACO HIGH CHORALE

Sing A Song of Sixpence John Rutter
Traditional English Nursery Rhyme
Goodnight, My Angel arr. Phillip Lawson

Text by Billy Joel

I'm Gonna Sing 'Til the Spirit Moves in My Heart arr. Moses Hogan
Text by Moses Hogan

CENTRAL TEXAS VOCAL ARTISTS

Lux Aeterna Michael John Trotta
Text from the Requiem Mass
*May light eternal shine upon them, Lord; with your saints forever, for you are merciful.
Grant them eternal rest, Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them.*

CTVA & WACO HIGH CHAMBER

Courage My Soul Rollo Dillworth
Text by Charles Albert Tindley
The Crawdad Song arr. Greg Gilpin

Traditional American Folk Song text

WHS CHAMBER

Dear Sarah James Syler
Text by Major Sullivan Ballou
Sing Me to Heaven Daniel Gawthrop

Text by Jane Griner

CTCS & CHORALE

CENTRAL TEXAS CHORAL SOCIETY

Susan Anderson-Karakashian – Retired; Member of Waco Ukulele Orchestra
David Blacklock – Retired Physician
Todd Blattman – Physician *
Kathleen Branyon – Retired Opera Singer/Voice Teacher
Linda Cates – Attorney/Educator
Emily Chandler – Assistant Choir Director, Waco High School
Elesha Coffman – Professor, Baylor University
Carmen Conaway – Legal Intake Specialist, Milam & Fanning PLLC *
Judy Cooper – Music Educator / Church Musician *
Brian Curtis Davis – Retired Choral Director/Singer
Sherry DeHay - University Research Outreach Specialist, Baylor University
John Entsminger - Retired
Marissa Everett – Stay at Home Mom
Samantha Fokos – Merchandise Allocator, Magnolia
Kendall Fountain – Admissions Counselor
Brent Furl - Data Analyst
David Goodman – Retired Opera Singer/Voice Teacher
Logan Gwin – Accountant, Baylor University *
Sarah Harvey – Retired Music Educator
David Hawes – Retired Opera Singer
Tina Thompson-Hays – Retired Opera Singer/Voice Teacher
Timothy Heckenlively – Senior Lecturer in Classics, Baylor University
Fredrick Herrera – Dyslexia Therapist, Midway ISD
Meredith Hooten – Marketing
Lucinda Jackson – Church Musician
Alan Jones – Clinical Field Rep, Boston Scientific
Richard Kahabka – Sales Manager, JD's Waco
Sydney Kerschner – Homemaker
Julia Kettering – Accountant
Dean Kiesling – Retired Music Educator *
Richard Leslie – Retired
Mike Makowski – Retired IT Consultant *
Jon Martin – Technology Consultant *
Mark McCoy – Retired Radio Personality
Hannahlise McDaniel – Administrative Assistant, Baylor University *
Kelli McMahan – Clinical Professor, Baylor University *
Elizabeth Million – Volunteer Engagement, Central Texas Food Bank
Monica Northrup – Admissions Assistant
Kim Olmstead – Music Educator *
Michael Olmstead - Senior Living Executive
Logan Parks – Student, TSTC
Lauren Prather – Florist, Baylor Flowers
Scott Prather – Minister, Crestview Church of Christ
Phil Rhodes – Director of Business Intelligence, Baylor University
Kim Robison – Choral Director, Lorena ISD *
Elizabeth Scala – Landlord
Heather Scott – Small Business Owner; Lead Singer - The Elephants *
Rick Scott – Manager of Training, Texas Farm Bureau Insurance *
Charles Skipping – Military Human Resources
Rachel Smith – Special Education Teacher, China Spring ISD
Jon Snyder – Librarian, Baylor University
Bob Sowder – Pharmacist *
Sue Sowder – Medical Billing, Baylor University *

Dr. Kevin Stephenson – Healthcare Executive
Katherine Stevens – Marketing Copywriter
Pat Talley – Retired Pharmacist
Lydia Tate – CEO, 103.3 KWBU Waco Public Radio
Christy Town – Professional Artist
Rachel Tucker – Voice Teacher
Kristi Turner – McLennan County District Clerk Office
Mike Welch – Retired Music Educator *
Robin Wilson – Retired Music Educator; Brand and Marketing Design Specialist
Sam Wilson – Retired Engineer
Waynta Wirth – Retired Music Educator
George Wolf – Student, TSTC
Norman Wurgler – Retired University Music Educator
Pam Wurgler – Retired University Music Educator
Norman Wurgler – Retired university Music educator
Pam Wurgler – Retired university music educator
Stephen Zheng - AI Analyst via Highspring at Google *

*Member of Central Texas Vocal Artists

WACO HIGH CHOIR

Seniors, Class of 2027

*Coatney, Austin
*Courtney, Ma'Jorie
*Dobbins, Ta'Darius
*Figley, Rylie
Gonzalez, Ashley
Harris, Meagan
McKinney, Kaidence
*Roark, Addison
*Romero, Christian
Ward, Armani

Sophomores, Class of 2029

*Holtman, Lyla
Horton, Josiah
Reynolds, Landry
Taube, Caroline
Tucker, William
Vasquez, Aliana
Vega, Nery

Juniors, Class 2028

*Aagesen, Elena
*Brown, Gianna
*Clark-Martinez, Emma
*Henderson, Karis
Ilapogu, Glory
James, Zy'Koria
*Martinez, Gabrial
*Reyes, Eiza
*Shepherd, Devon
*Stoltmann, Khloey

Freshmen, Class of 2030

Allen, Trinity
Bailey, Ambrose
Chandler, Harper
Mantsch, Aurora
Payne, Samuel
Talavera, Jesus

*Indicates Chamber Choir Member

Waco High Choir would like to thank:

Tiffany T. Spicer, Ph.D - Superintendent, Waco ISD
Joseph Alexander - Principal, Waco High School
Katrina Smith - Associate Principal, Waco High School
James Stewart - Dean of Career and Technology, Waco High School
Annie Connor, John Hand, Shalonder Cooper, James Whatley - Assistant Principals, Waco High School
Larry Carpenter - Director of Fine Arts, Waco ISD
Susan Ramon - Fine Arts Administrative Assistant, Waco ISD