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Voices Rising is a proud member of the HSV Arts Council and the HSV Area Chamber of Commerce.



Rising News July 2021 Newsletter





Whew, it's hot! And already! Wouldn't it be nice to enjoy beautiful music in a cool, comfortable seat? Well, you are in luck.

Our August 1 concert is coming to life. You can expect to hear a Celtic song about all of creation singing and clapping their "hands or paws, or anything they've got." Four of our wonderful ladies will perform a barbershop rendition of Swing Down Chariot, fast-paced and harmonically tight.

A bunch of hillbilly men will attempt to play fake bluegrass instruments - a washboard, a string bass bucket, and spoons - well you get the picture. Unfortunately, their singing won't be fake.

There will be surprises, so I won't spoil them here. I will just hint that some of the songs will come to life before your very eyes!

And there will be songs you expect from Voices Rising. A lush a cappella arrangement of Secret Love, a fully Gershwin arrangement of Summertime featuring our exquisite Ruth'e Korelitz. And Elsen Portugal, our accomplished accompanist, will play a group of Gershwin preludes.

Enough said. I know you will have a great afternoon if you join us at Village Bible Church at 3:00 p.m. on Sunday, August 1. So mark your calendar now and I will see you then.

Marc Bremer Director





The singers of Hot Springs Village are just beginning to get to know Dr. Elsen Portugal. This accomplished

pianist and music educator has accompanied the Cedar Mountain Singers and has assisted as a rehearsal accompanist for the Village Chorale. Elsen became the permanent accompanist for both the Chorale and Voices Rising this year. He is a teacher at Christian Ministries, the Principal Designated School Official at Champion Christian College in Hot Springs, and accompanist at HSV's Village Bible Church. These positions give him many opportunities to share his love for ex-

ploring how artistic expression in music enhances communication among people of different heritages, especially in divine worship. He and his wife Michelle have four grown children and six grandchildren.



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Nancy Carlton has lived in the Village for about four years. She only recently joined Voices Rising, but is loving every minute of it! Previous musical experience goes all the way back to childhood and includes school choir, church choir, The Singing Teens (touring Youth Gospel Choir), Top of the Rock Sweet Adelines, Jazzmatazz quartet, 4 His Glory quartet, numerous theatrical musicals, Opera Program at UALR, vocalist for Jazz Organ Collective, The Village Cho-

rale. Nancy is also a songwriter and has recently recorded a song with co-writer Buddy Case. Nancy loves music and is always looking for opportunities to sing.





Maureen moved to HSV in 1993 with husband Colin. She appeared has several musical productions, including South Pacific, Oliver, and the Broadway reviews performed in the Village. Most recently, she played

Ambrosia in "Old Time Radio Theater", and in the chorus of "Damn Yankees." Maureen sings with Voices Rising since 2018, Cedar Mountain Singers 1993-present, Village Chorale 1994-2018, and is the 'girl singer' with the Village Big Band 2010 to present.



All about Jim Servais. I sang bass for a number of years in two choirs in Albuquerque, NM, one very similar to Voices Rising. I also sang bass in a mixed quartet performing barbershop. In addi-

tion, I sang and directed the musical numbers of a theatre group recreating radio programs from the golden age of radio. I play sax, flute, clarinet, recorder, tin whistle and guitar and look forward to playing with some musicians here in the future. This is my first year with Voices Rising and I am enjoying it immensely!

Alice Canham joined her first choir at age 8 and sang with Bel Canto Chorus in St. Louis, Shreveport Opera Chorus in Louisiana, and Irving Chorale and Aria Chamber Singers in Texas.

She began singing with Scherzo in January 2014, six weeks after moving from Texas to the Village.



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