



Kathryn Harsha, **Artistic Director**
Victoria Benson, **Executive Director**
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Alexandria, VA - Alexandria Choral Society Appoints Victoria Benson as Executive Director

The Alexandria Choral Society (ACS) is pleased to announce the appointment of Victoria Benson, MM, as its new Executive Director. With a distinguished career in mission-driven organizations, Victoria brings a unique blend of strategic leadership and robust operational acumen from both arts management and private enterprise to ACS. Eager to build on the successful tenure of outgoing Executive Director Megan Yingst, Victoria is committed to advancing the role of the organization as a leader in the choral landscape and expanding its presence as a vital community partner.

Victoria will work to build on the artistic foundation laid by Artistic Director Kathryn Harsha, with a focus on upholding musical excellence and fostering a broader reach through strategic community engagement. Her appointment reflects a new chapter for ACS, one dedicated to leveraging its unique position to create greater impact.

"Victoria's cross-functional leadership, dedication to professionalism, and palpable enthusiasm for community partnership is a highly desirable combination for a nonprofit arts organization, especially in the current cultural landscape," said Erika May, Board President. "Her admiration for the choral community in Alexandria, coupled with a proven track record of success in both fundraising and operations, makes her the ideal leader to guide ACS into a new era of sustainable growth and public presence."

Victoria's previous experience as Board Chair, Producer, and Director at Fresh Squeezed Opera Company provided hands-on experience in arts management, during which she doubled the annual operating budget and significantly increased donor engagement and revenue streams. Her extensive operational leadership at Adams & Company Real Estate further honed her skills in managing extensive operational budgets and negotiating contracts. As a dedicated choral performer and opera singer herself, her deep personal commitment to the vocal arts will be a driving force in her leadership.

About Our 2025-2026 Season

The Alexandria Choral Society is excited to celebrate 56 years of choral excellence in the city of Alexandria. This season, across five performances, ACS invites our audiences on a transformative journey through the deepest questions of human experience: How do we truly hear one another? How do we find joy in a weary world? And what legacy do we leave? ACS is also proud to continue the theme of collaboration from our landmark 55th season, and this season includes partnerships with the Alexandria Children's Chorus, the Washington Metropolitan Philharmonic Association, and more. Join us for a season that reminds us to listen deeply, embrace our community, and celebrate together!

PO Box 406 / Alexandria, VA 22313 / 703-951-7849 / www.alexandriachoralsociety.org

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Program funding is provided by our donors, and in part by the Virginia Commission for the Arts, a gift from the Community Foundation for Northern Virginia / The Sydalco Charitable Fund, and the City of Alexandria through the Annual Arts Program.



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About the Alexandria Choral Society

For over half a century, the Alexandria Choral Society has presented a broad spectrum of choral works, delighting audiences and fostering an inclusive environment of belonging and collaboration in the city of Alexandria and beyond. In recent seasons, ACS has commissioned and presented the world premiere of *You Birth the Seeds*, a work by acclaimed composer Melissa Dunphy, with text from Alexandria poet laureate Zeina Azzam; presented the timely and impactful *Washington Women*, by David Chase and Judith Clurman; and hosted the first ever city-wide choral festival *One Voice Alexandria*, bringing together choral ensembles from across Alexandria. Under the direction of Artistic Director Kathryn Harsha, ACS is committed to enhancing the cultural life of the city of Alexandria by presenting diverse and engaging vocal music programs at the highest artistic level.

For more information visit www.alexandriachoralsociety.org.

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