



Then and Now

Genesis: Stillwater Community Singers

August 1994, Stillwater NewsPress: "There will soon be a new vocal music group in Stillwater."

Stillwater Civic Chorale, sponsored by the St. Celia Music Club, would be different than area chamber music groups. It would perform lighter popular music along with sacred and secular music. And, no auditions were required. The new chorale welcomed all singers from the surrounding area who wanted to participate in choral singing.

The first concert performed later that fall featured music from Broadway. Launching the resident choral group at the Stillwater Community Center, the concert was successful.

Within one year, the Stillwater Civic Chorale evolved into the Stillwater Community Singers and the group settled into a pattern of regular rehearsals and concerts at their home base, the Stillwater Community Center.

Just a few short years after the former school building was designated the Community Center, people, projects and events populated the building, giving it new life and purpose.

The Stillwater Community Singers became part of the fabric of the Community Center and the community.

The Community Center was the perfect place for the Singers. It had a music room for weekly rehearsals and an auditorium for concerts. Many members of the group attended school in Stillwater and some share experiences of learning music in the very room where today rehearsals are held each Thursday.

If not for the existence of a facility with rehearsal and performance space, a sponsoring club, and a cooperative administration, would this fledgling vocal music group have been established? For more than 20 years, the Singers have utilized a facility that is easily accessible, affordable, and in the center of town.

What do the Singers get out of all this?

We have combined opportunities given with those we created to share America's musical heritage which bring people downtown into the Community Center. We have a chance to share our talents and be part of a group performing at concerts and entertaining at area events.

Music is a creative outlet for creative people. It encompasses rhythms, tones, and harmonies that speak to all of us, whether the music is instrumental, vocal, or just the beating of a drum. Musical culture expresses human storytelling and emotion, touches souls and marks the important moments in lives. It prompts memories of growing up, living, and loving.

Singing is how we share language and culture and connect with one another. We sing the music we like, and we entertain those who like the music we sing.

We have been singing together since 1994, but without the foresight of the people responsible for seeing the possibilities of the Community Center, very likely this group would not exist.

The Stillwater Community Singers is an all-volunteer, all-age, all-walk-of-life group of adults who want to sing. Rehearsals are in the North Stage Room of the Community Center each Thursday at 6:45 p.m. Our spring concert is April 13. Rehearsals for our August 17 concert begin in May, so watch the News Press for an announcement.



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The Stillwater Community Center Foundation and the Friends of Stillwater Community Center strive to provide supplemental resources for the Stillwater Community Center to ensure its accessibility, affordability and sustainability for its use by residents and visitors of Stillwater and surrounding area. Visit www.sccfriends.com for more information.

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