



# Empowering Voices

The Official Newsletter of the **Winston-Salem Girls Chorus**  
Anne M. Saxon, Editor — Spring 2016

## Winston-Salem Girls Chorus

**(WSGC):** A multi-leveled, community-based choir organization for girl singers from 8-18 in Winston-Salem and surrounding areas. WSGC is a partner with the Music and Arts Ministries of Centenary United Methodist Church.

### Founder, Managing Artistic Director & Conductor

Anne M. Saxon

### Accompanist

Cynthia Saylor

### Director Assistant

Suzanne Saxon

### Administrator

Lelia McClain

### Parent Board President

Darby Graves

### UPBEAT! Representative

Mason Wood

### Lyrica Representative

Carol Kelly

### Encore Representative

Robin Bachmeyer

### Uniform Chairperson

Judith Arnolda

### Webmaster

Shawn Martin

### Centenary UMC Director of Music

Dr. Robert Frazier

### Centenary UMC Music & Arts Ministries

Jean Burroughs

Barbara Fulp

Pollyann Holthusen

### Salem Academy

Chorus Director

Joy Rushton

*Winston-Salem Girls Chorus*

*Presents our annual*

# Spring Concert

*Featuring:*

*Upbeat!, Lyrica, Encore*

*& Glen Alexander, Fiddler*

*⇒ Music from Bach to Bluegrass!*


*Sunday, April 24, 2016, 3:00 pm*

*Centenary United Methodist Church*

*Winston-Salem, North Carolina*


*Free & Open to the Public - Love Offering Collected*





**UPBEAT!**

2nd - 4th Grades



Lyrica  
4th - 8th Grades

**Encore**

Advanced Choir  
8 - 12th Grades

## From the Artistic Director

A little over a year ago I remember us coming to the final decision to change our name and focus. It was not an easy one, but one we felt strongly compelled to do. Change, especially on a larger scale, is challenging at best, but can also be exciting at the same time.

At first this involved the “letting go” of many things: ideas, perspectives, and a current mode of operating. It takes a while to get used to new ways of thinking and doing things. I admit to times of strong doubt because we had been the Central Carolina Children’s Chorus for 16 years, and committed to that endeavor with great heart, passion, and industry.

At first it was the big things: mission statement, logo, narrative, and clearing out paperwork and uniforms. Then as time went on it was the little things: new phone message, new name tags, and a new P.O. Box. During this process I would mourn the “letting go” parts. However, with each new facet that materializes as we have become the Winston-Salem Girls Chorus, there is new energy and excitement. For me it has been like a constant celebration for each new triumph as we have moved forward.

Spring is a time of renewal and recreation, and during our upcoming Spring Concert on April 24th we will celebrate US. I am so excited! Please join us for an afternoon of wonderful music with these amazing girls and young women.

—Anne



## Piedmont Chamber Singers

Our advanced choir, Encore, will be performing with the Piedmont Chamber Singers in a Joint Concert on Saturday, April 23, at 7:30 pm. It will include Randall Thompson’s “Testament of Freedom” and other patriotic songs. The concert will be held at Ardmore Baptist Church and an admission is charged. —for more info: [www.piedmontchambersingers.org](http://www.piedmontchambersingers.org)



Above: UPBEAT! Choir singers celebrate St. Patrick’s Day at Salemtowne Retirement Center with a special concert.

## ANNOUNCING OUR SPRING AUDITIONS

Come and join us!  
Auditions now open for our  
2016-2017 Season



*Lyrica*

4th - 8th Grades  
Audition Required

**UPBEAT!**

Training Choir for 2nd - 4th Graders  
Audition/Interview Required



**Encore**

8th—12th Graders  
~ Audition Required ~

Auditions/Interviews by appointment only ~ Fees required  
Contact Artistic Director Anne M. Saxon: (336) 922-4073  
[WSCGSing@aol.com](mailto:WSCGSing@aol.com) ~ [www.wsgirlschorus.org](http://www.wsgirlschorus.org)



## AMANI INVITATIONAL CHILDREN'S CHOIR FESTIVAL

FRIDAY & SATURDAY, JANUARY 29-30, 2016

Even though we had to reschedule the Festival due to bad weather, most of our invited choirs were still able to participate. Highlights included our new drumming instructor, Will Ridenhour,

who led the singers in their drumming groups, as well as played for our final concert. Jane Stephens of the Amani Foundation gave a passionate address about Amani, and its continued growth and service with New Life Homes. Finally, copies of the published theme song, "Beyond Borders", were presented during the concert to the original festival directors,

which were autographed by composer Tom Shelton. A Love Offering was collected for the Amani Foundation which goes to supporting orphaned babies in Kenya. *The next festival is planned for November of 2018.*

For more information: [www.amanichildren.org](http://www.amanichildren.org)



Above: WSGC Singers at the Piedmont Festival; Below: 2017 PICCF Info



**Winston-Salem Girls Chorus**  
is pleased to announce our  
2017 Piedmont Invitational  
Children's Choir Festival Conductor

*Melissa Malvar*

March 3-4, 2017, Centenary United Methodist Church

*Melissa Malvar* is Director of Admissions and Recruitment at the American Boychoir School, where she conducts the community after-school boychoir program. She is in her ninth year as Associate Director of the Princeton Girlchoir, conducting the Semi-Tones and Grace Notes choirs. She is the Founder of the Children Making a Difference benefit concert, which in eight years has raised over \$18,000 for non-profit organizations. She is also an Adjunct Professor at Rider University, supervising their music education student teachers. Melissa and co-writer Jill Friedersdorf have published over twenty songs which have sold over 75,000 copies.

*PICCF: Still going strong!*

In early March we took our annual "pilgrimage" to the Piedmont Invitational Children's Choir Festival, which was held at Meredith College in Raleigh with the Capital City Girls Choir as our hosts. Six choirs from North Carolina gathered together to sing under the direction of Dr. Bridgett Sweet.

Dr. Sweet, who is the Assistant Professor of Music Education at the University of Illinois in Urbana-Champaign, led these young singers during the two-day event. Songs ranged from Bach to Appalachian Folk Songs, as these young people sang together and interacted with one another during the weekend.

A concert for Parents and Friends was held at the conclusion of the festival. Each individual choir performed, concluding with a thrilling massed choir performance!

I am pleased to announce that WSGC will be hosting this prestigious event in March of 2017 in the beautiful Centenary United Methodist Church, here in Winston-Salem. We are excited to announce Melissa Malvar as our festival clinician! *Please read more about her in the box to your left.*

## WSGC Spring 2016 Schedule

### Friday, Saturday, January 29-30:

**Amani Invitational Children's Choir Festival**  
Centenary United Methodist Church  
648 West 5th Street, Winston-Salem  
**Concert: Saturday, January 23, 1:00 pm**  
Free and open to the public;  
Love Offering collected for the  
Amani Children's Foundation  
[www.wsgirlschorus.org/amani](http://www.wsgirlschorus.org/amani)

### Thursday, February 11:

**Valentine Concert**  
UPBEAT! Training Choir  
6:00 pm, Centenary UMC Auditorium

### Sunday, February 21:

**11:00 Worship Service**  
Centenary United Methodist Church  
Lyrica & Encore Choirs  
Live on WSJS AM 600 Radio  
Webcast at [www.centenary-ws.org](http://www.centenary-ws.org)

### Friday, February 26:

**"Italian Café" Fundraiser Event**  
Centenary UMC Auditorium, 5:30 pm  
Featuring Salad, Spaghetti, Bread  
Beverage, Desserts;  
Raffle & Live Entertainment

## Central Carolina Children's Chorus

### Alumni Invitation

It is our joy to welcome Alumni Singers to sing the final number with us in our annual Spring Concert every year. This year's concert will be at 3:00 pm on Sunday, April 24, at Centenary UMC.

***We would love to see you!***

We invite you to continue to be in community with us as we celebrate the culmination of our 17th season. A special pew will be reserved for you in the front.

## Winston-Salem Girls Chorus

*The mission of the Winston-Salem Girls Chorus is provide a joyful and empowering experience for girls and young women through vocal music education and artistic excellence in choral music performance. **Celebrating our 17th season of choral excellence!** Our graded choral program is comprised of singers from 2nd - 12th grades from Winston-Salem and surrounding areas. Contact Information: (336) 922-4073; [WSGCsing@aol.com](mailto:WSGCsing@aol.com) [www.wsgirlschorus.org](http://www.wsgirlschorus.org)*

### March 4-5:

**Piedmont Invitational Children's Choir Festival (PICCF)**  
Hosted by the Capital City Girls Choir  
Meredith College, Raleigh  
Dr. Bridget Sweet, Guest Conductor  
**Final Concert: Saturday, March 5, 4:00 pm**

### Thursday, March 17:

**St. Patrick's Day Concert**  
Salem Towne Retirement Center, Zall  
UPBEAT! Training Choir, 7:00 pm  
*Open to the public*

### 2016-2017 Auditions Open

Contact Director Anne Saxon  
to schedule an audition for girls ages 8 - 18

### Saturday, April 23:

**Piedmont Chamber Singers Joint Concert**  
Encore Choir, 7:00 pm  
Ardmore Baptist Church; Admission Charged  
[piedmontchambersingers.org](http://piedmontchambersingers.org)

### Sunday, April 24:

**Annual Spring Concert**  
Centenary UMC Sanctuary, 3:00 pm  
UPBEAT!, Lyrica, & Encore Choirs  
& Glen Alexander, Fiddler  
Love Offering Collected / Reception Following

### Saturday, April 30:

**Wedding of Suzanne Saxon & Jeffrey Maggs**  
Centenary UMC Sanctuary, 4:00 pm



# Summer Sing!

with the Winston-Salem Girls Chorus

## 15TH ANNUAL CHOIR DAY-CAMP FOR SINGERS AGES 8 - 14

### Schedule: August 1-5, 2016

- ▶ **\*August 1-4: 9:00 a.m. - 12:45 p.m.**
- ▶ **\*August 5: 9:00 a.m. - 2:15 p.m.**  
Includes Sharing Concert

*For More information/Registration:*  
[www.wsgirlschorus.org](http://www.wsgirlschorus.org) / [WSGCsing@aol.com](mailto:WSGCsing@aol.com)