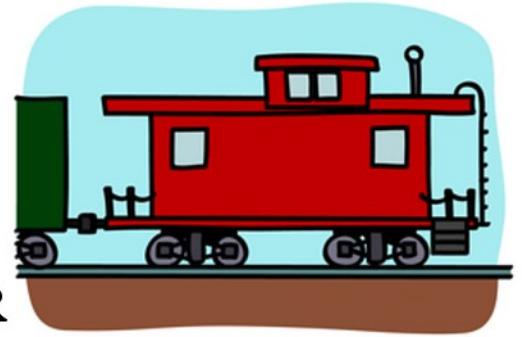




# THE CABOOSE



## AMBLER STATION SINGERS NEWSLETTER



ISSUE #1 OCTOBER 2018



### A Brief History of Our Brief History

-by John Dziel

On July 11th, 2018 a meeting was held to discuss the concept of creating a community choir. Many of those who attended had worked together in other choirs and the interest level was high! The name Ambler Station Singers first came up, but some pointed to the unfortunate acronym that would result. It was decided that we would make up a list of names and vote on them at the next meeting. What was not in dispute would be the nature of the choir. It would be a non-profit choir that focused on show tunes with a few classic and "meatier" pieces thrown in. Our audience would be a mix of retirement communities, public concerts, and town events. We would do two seasons per year, one for the holidays and one in spring which would be our fun chance to shine. And finally, no voice or opinion would be ignored!

By our second meeting we had voted through 20 some names and Ambler Station Singers still came out on top! Our home would be Ambler and we would do all that we could to support the small businesses that had made Ambler a town of rebirth that was up and coming!

Next came the hard work of putting together a formal non-profit corporation, electing a board, and setting up all the infrastructure needed to facilitate a 30 member choir. The target was to start rehearsals in September and book some shows for the holiday season. Each of us put our hearts into the area we knew best and our newly formed fourteen member board went to work. We hit our goal and had our first rehearsal on September 12th. In two months we had gone from just an idea, to a fully functioning choir! Our journey has just begun but the future looks bright. On a personal note. I have been singing with choirs since 1996. Never before have I considered rehearsals to be fun. These are fun!



Seema Vaidyanatham

### From our President Seema Vaidyanatham

*"I don't sing because I am happy, I am happy because I sing" – William James*

Being a scientist, it reminds me of the age-old debate which is a chicken or egg conundrum in the field of behavioral science. What comes first? Does the physiological arousal of the body and thoughts produce what we experience as emotions or is it the other way around? Food for thought.

I know from personal experience that singing transports us to a meditative state and especially singing in a group. The collective energy and resonance experienced is no less than a form a therapy itself. Choral singing gives each singer a chance to participate in an activity that is artistic, builds community, enhances their skills, and results in a product of great beauty, that brings joy. The choir contributes to an artistic product greater than themselves and develop friendships that change the course of their lives.

By way of the choral singing practice and camaraderie, discipline, attention to detail, teamwork, and the social value of the experience are added bonuses to improve their daily lives, in both their work and in family relationships. It makes us aware of other people's life experiences and helps to bridge social gaps. It's truly an open community that speaks just the pure language of music. Ambler Station singers will ensure that our choral music touches all members of our community, regardless of economic status, age, or ethnic origin.

## OUR DIRECTOR LISA !



So, who is Lisa Van Heldorf? Well, this could get long, so lets start with her education background:

### NEW ENGLAND CONSERVATORY

*Bachelor of Music, Voice Performance*

### UNIVERSITY OF NOTRE DAME

*Master of Music, Voice Performance*

### TEMPLE UNIVERSITY BOYER COLLEGE OF MUSIC

*Advanced Choral Conducting*

Here are a few of her prior gigs:

### SHOWSTOPPERS!, South Bend, IN

*Founder and Producer*

### ARS MUSICA CHORALE, Ridgewood NJ

*Director of Musical Theater Productions*

### ST. ROSE OF LIMA, East Hanover, NJ

*Director of Music*

### UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, Warminster, PA

*Director of Music*

### WASHINGTON MEMORIAL CHAPEL

*Interim Music Coordinator*

### CENTENNIAL SINGERS

*Musical Director*

And, of course Founder and Director of  
**AMBLER STATION SINGERS**

While she is directing us, she is also directing two other choirs!

**MEDIA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH** and  
**COVENTRY SINGERS**

## Halloween party and costume contest!



This year's categories are:

**\*\*Most Creative**

**\*\*Best Character from a book**

or your costume can be a book...think how creative you could be with Grapes of Wrath?! – not a book cover.

**\*\*Best Costume as an animal or using animal(s) as a prop.**

We will end rehearsal a bit early and have a parade, contest and then treats and party!

e-mail Lisa at [lisa.vanheldorf@gmail.com](mailto:lisa.vanheldorf@gmail.com) with any questions

*Lisa continued-*

Believe it or not, that list isn't even the full list! Of course, anybody who has known Lisa, or worked with her in another recent choir, knows that the basic resume doesn't begin to describe the person we know and her boundless energy!

## OUR ACCOMPANISTS



We have the pleasure this year of being joined by two accompanists !  
Christopher M. Henkel (*pictured above*) and Jackie Cohen

## RESOURCES ON OUR WEBSITE

**Learning Tracks  
and Other Links**

**It's the Most Wonderful  
Believe  
White Christmas  
We are Lights  
Thankful  
Twelve Days After  
What Sweeter Music  
Chestnuts  
Light the Candles  
We Need a Little  
Little Drummer Boy**

**Learning Tracks by Parts**

**Meeting Minutes  
Gift Card Collection  
Promo Graphics and Pics  
Pre-Order Shirts!  
Expense Request  
501(c)(3) Letter of finding  
Attendance  
Finance Ledger  
Your Input to the Board**

**Expense Request** - This is a form to fill out if you spent money on behalf of the board and need to be reimbursed.

**501 Letter of finding** - From time to time, merchants may require this to prove we are a non-profit charity.

**Attendance** - Yup! We take it! The results are found here.

**Financial Ledger** - Password protected.

**Your Input to the Board** - If you have a concern or wish that you would like to have the board address, you can enter it here!

On AmblerStationSingers.com is a page called "**Singer's Resources**."

You can get to that page by clicking on "**About**" page and scrolling to the bottom. There you will find the singer's resources link. It is password protected.

*At left* is a current screenshot of the page. The first section is a list of our current songs. Clicking on any of those songs will take you to a version of the song that closely resembles the version we are performing.

Under that is a new link called "**Learning Tracks by Parts**" Here we are building a list of the songs broken down into their sections. A few are up there and more to follow.

Next on the list are some other handy resources.

**Meeting Minutes** - Want to know what the board has been up to? Each time we have a meeting, the minutes of that meeting are posted on line for everyone to see!

**Gift Card Collection** - This is a list of the gift cards we have collected for our next concert. It is there so our volunteers don't duplicate their efforts.

**Promo Graphics and Pics** - These are pictures and graphics if you need to print out a poster or flyer.

**Pre-Order Shirts!** - Here you can order shirts for our next printing.

## BIO'S

Each issue we are going to run a couple of Bio's. Here are this months!

### Sandi Dziel



Sandi Dziel has a long history of working behind the scenes in the entertainment industry. For the last 35 years, she has been the person that

### *Sandi continued...*

"you don't see" that makes the magic happen. Most in Ambler Station Singers know her for her help with set ups and teardowns, and as group photographer, but may not know that she has done over two thousand shows, many for national acts, and served every roll from spot operator, to handling explosives and special effects. Her quiet nature belies the fact that it was only a last year that she gave up her motorcycle license!

### John Dziel



(1982 picture)

John Dziel first entered the sound business in 1971, founding the company DAE. In the mid 1970's, DAE provided sound reinforcement equipment for many shows in the Allentown / Bethlehem area. These shows included every possible act from Rick Derringer to Thin Lizzy. In addition, DAE provided equipment for many touring club acts as well. In 1976, John and DAE expanded their business to include concert lighting. All in all, John did sound, lighting, show production and pyrotechnical for over 2000 shows and 135 national acts, spanning 25 years.

## FUND RAISING

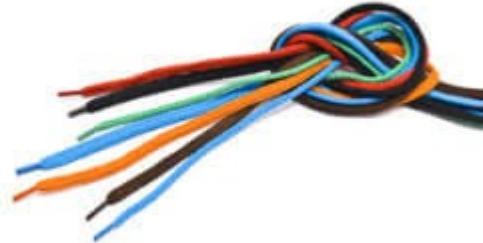
Please Remember that our Fundraising concert at Trinity Episcopal Church is coming up on December 8th and we need as many donations as we can get to keep us going into Spring!!!

*cont..*

### **Fund raising cont...**

The donations can be in the form of gift cards, gift baskets, etc that we can raffle off to fundraise. PLEASE do your best to gather them....don't forget to post what you have gotten on our website.

In addition to outside sponsorship, we also have several internal fund raisers like our chocolate sales and our weekly 50/50.



One of the disadvantages of being a "new" group is that we don't have much in the way of money. In fact, to say we are on a "shoestring" budget might be too optimistic! Our budget is more like the little plastic aglet on the end of the shoestring! All these fundraisers help cover our costs which among other things include; Rent, Insurance, Sheet music, ASCAP fees, Accompanists, Equipment repairs, and a host of miscellaneous administrative costs. All these fundraisers help bridge the gap between the dues collected, performance fees, and the actual cost of operations. As a non-profit, our financial goal is to get to \$0 !



**Hooray  
for the  
Holidays**

featuring holiday music from the stage  
and screen presented by

**Ambler Station Singers**  
*Under the direction of Lisa VanHeldorf*

**December 8  
at 3:00 pm**

Trinity Episcopal Church  
708 S. Bethlehem Pike  
• Ambler, PA

[www.amblerstationsingers.com](#)

**- FALL SHOWS -**

**Saturday November 24 (time TBA)**  
Ambler Main Street Concert  
Ambler Pennsylvania 19002

**Sunday November 25th, 3:00 PM**  
Gwynedd Estates (Private)

**Thursday and Friday November 29-30**  
Caroling 5-7 p.m Morris Arboretum  
100 E Northwestern Ave  
Philadelphia, PA 19118

**Thursday December 6 (time TBA)**  
Santa's arrival at Ambler Station

**Saturday December 8th, 3:00 PM** Trinity Episcopal Church  
708 South Bethlehem Pike, Ambler PA 19002  
Free Public Concert, Everyone is invited !!

**Wednesday December 12 7:30 PM**  
Christ's Home, Warminster (Private)

**Friday December 14 7:30 PM**  
Upper Dublin Library 805 Loch Aish Ave.  
Ft. Washington, PA 19034

**Saturday December 15 9-11 AM**  
Ambler YMCA 1325 McKean Rd  
Ambler, PA 19002

**Friday January 4th 6:00 PM**  
Church on the Mall (Private)

**Wednesday, January 9th, 7:00 PM**  
Ft. Washington Estates (Private)