



MOHAWK VALLEY CHORUS
P.O. Box 612
AMSTERDAM, NEW YORK
12010
www.mohawkvalleychorus.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – November 7, 2024

Mohawk Valley Chorus will be
Swingin' at Santa's Place
at their annual holiday concerts

AMSTERDAM - The Mohawk Valley Chorus will kick off its 2024-2025 season with their annual holiday concert series in Johnstown (December 7th) and Amsterdam (December 8th).

David M. Rossi directs the 50-member adult choir in *Swingin' at Santa's Place*, with Luanne Hawk as accompanist. The MVC Kids choir, under the direction of Amanda Grab, is special guest artist.

The concert program includes arrangements of sacred Christmas carols *Oh Come, Oh Come Emmanuel, God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen, Oh Holy Night* and *Silent Night (Sleep in Heavenly Peace)*; the Hanukkah song *Hanorat Halalu*, arranged by Blanche Chass; holiday pop standards *It's the Most Wonderful Time of the Year* and *Sleigh Ride*; Irving Berlin's *Snow* (from the film *White Christmas*); *Cantus*, a sacred anthem composed by John Rutter; and Kirby Shaw's jazzy *Swingin' at Santa's Place*. Rossi will also invite audience members to join the chorus for Handel's *Hallelujah Chorus*, an MVC tradition.

Tickets are \$20 for general admission and \$15 for senior citizens and students. There is no charge for children ages 12 and under. Tickets are available in advance from chorus members and at the door before each performance: 3 p.m. Saturday, December 7, at Johnstown High School; and 3 p.m. Sunday, December 8, at Amsterdam High School.

Doors open 30 minutes before each performance.

About the Mohawk Valley Chorus

The Mohawk Valley Chorus (MVC) came into existence when two organizations combined in 1948 -- the Mohawk Mills Glee Club first conducted in 1935 by John A. Gillies, and the Mohawk Carpet Mills Ladies' Glee Club, formed by director Reginald Harris in 1941. Early financial support came from Mohawk Carpet Mills, which became Mohasco Industries, Inc. The group incorporated as the Mohawk Valley Chorus in 1962, financially self-sufficient and under the direction of Carl M. Steubing. Subsequently the chorus was directed by Henry F. Sullivan; John H. Nethaway started in 1979 and served for 30 years.

David M. Rossi, MVC's current director, has been leading the chorus since 2009. Luanne Hawk is accompanist. Presently the chorus has over 50 members from Albany, Fulton, Montgomery, Schenectady, and Saratoga counties. The group rehearses Monday evenings from 7-9 pm at the Horace J. Inman Senior Center in Amsterdam. Membership is open to anyone who likes to sing, although prior choral singing experience is extremely helpful. Annual membership dues are \$60.

There are also student performing groups affiliated with the Mohawk Valley Chorus. This season the MVC Kids Choir will be participating in the December holiday concerts; Amanda Grab is MVC Kids director and Stephanie Boice is manager.

Coming Up in 2025

Next year will be Mohawk Valley Chorus' 90 year anniversary! MVC is planning a very special pops concert on March 9th, with co-conductors David Rossi (current MVC director) and John Nethaway (former MVC director); and a May 18th performance of Amsterdam composer Maria Riccio-Bryce's *Requiem: What Remains is Love*, under Rossi's direction.

Check our website www.mohawkvalleychorus.org or our Facebook page www.facebook.com/MohawkValleyChorus for further details about these upcoming performances!

Need more info? Have questions? Contact us at mohawkvalleychorusinfo@gmail.com or 518-573-7799.

Saratoga Arts made this program possible with an Arts Grant Education funded by the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Kathy Hochul and the New York State Legislature.

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Practice, practice!! From 11/4/2024 MVC rehearsal



MVC Director David Rossi conducting at 11/4/2024 rehearsal ... the Inman Center's Christmas decorations are helping us get into the holiday spirit!



Some of our fabulous basses enjoying break time during 11/4/2024 rehearsal!



MVC accompanist Luanne Hawk and director David Rossi after 11/4/2024 rehearsal



MOHAWK VALLEY CHORUS

PRESENTS OUR 2024 CHRISTMAS
CONCERT SERIES

Swingin' at Santa's Place



David M. Rossi, Director
Luanne Hawk, Accompanist

Featuring **THE MVC KIDS**
Amanda Grab, Director

Sat 12/7 @ 3 pm
JOHNSTOWN
HIGH SCHOOL

Sun 12/8 @ 3 pm
AMSTERDAM
HIGH SCHOOL

\$20 general admission

\$15 students/senior citizens

Free for children age 12 and under

Tickets available from any chorus member or at the door

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