



MOHAWK VALLEY CHORUS
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Mohawk Valley Chorus commemorates its 90th anniversary at March 9th pops concert

Current director David M. Rossi and former director John Nethaway join forces for “As Long As I Have Music”

AMSTERDAM - When David M. Rossi, director of the Mohawk Valley Chorus, asked his predecessor, John Nethaway, to be guest co-conductor for MVC's upcoming 90th anniversary pops concert, Nethaway graciously accepted the invitation.

Rossi and Nethaway are joining forces for “As Long as I Have Music,” on Sunday, March 9th, at 3 pm at Amsterdam High School. Accompanying the chorus are pianists Luanne Hawk and Kimberly Nethaway, bass player Randy Jennings, percussionist Russ Meyer and French horn player Paula Mroz.

The concert features a variety of jazz, show and gospel tunes, as well as some perennial MVC favorites.

Selections include an arrangement of Rodgers & Hammerstein's “You'll Never Walk Alone”/“Climb Ev'ry Mountain”; the John Carter/Mary Kay Beall piece “Silver Wings”; “Home” and “Everybody Rejoice” from “The Wiz”; A Chorus Line's “What I Did for Love”; the Quaker hymn “How Can I Keep From Singing,” arranged by Gwyneth Walker; Louis Prima's “Sing, Sing, Sing”; the gospel tune “I Will Sing,” by Rosephanye Powell; Jeffery L. Ames' “In Remembrance”; “Always Look at the Bright Side of Life” from the musical “Spamalot”; and the medley “Way Down Yonder in New Orleans,” arranger Mac Huff's homage to Dixieland

jazz. Also featured is the seminal choral piece “Brothers,” written in 1967 by former MVC director Carl Steubing.

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.

Doors open 30 minutes before each performance.

MVC’s 90 years in the “Rug City” - a brief history and timeline

The organization now known as the Mohawk Valley Chorus originated in 1935 in the city of Amsterdam. Approximately 50 employees of the Mohawk Mills carpet factory formed the new all-male Mohawk Mills Glee Club. Several years later, female factory workers at Mohawk Mills joined a woman’s singing group; the groups merged in 1948 to form the Mohawk Mills Chorus.

Mohawk Mills, owned by the Shuttleworth family, provided financial support for the chorus. As carpet production moved out of Amsterdam, financial support from Mohawk Mills/Mohasco declined, and Mohawk Valley Chorus formally incorporated as a non-profit entity in 1962. Here is a brief timeline of MVC’s history and leadership:

- 1935 *Mohawk Mills (men’s) Glee Club forms; John A. Gillies is director*
- 1940 *Reginald Harris becomes director*
- 1941 *Mohawk Mills Ladies’ Choral Club forms*
- 1948 *Mens’ and ladies’ groups merge into Mohawk Mills Chorus*
- 1960 Carl Steubing hired as new director
Mohawk Mills industry’s official sponsorship ends
- 1962 *Mohawk Valley Chorus formally incorporates*
- 1968 *Henry F. Sullivan becomes director*
- 1979 *Director John Nethaway’s 30-year tenure begins*
- 2009 *Current director David M. Rossi joins MVC*

MVC today

This is David Rossi's 15th year as director ... and this non-profit community chorus continues to rehearse and perform in the city of Amsterdam.

Presently MVC has between 50-60 singers 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. No auditions are required. Annual membership dues are \$60. Rehearsals run from September through May. Each season MVC performs a Christmas concert, a pops concert and a classics concert.

Coming Up After the Pops Concert ...

For its final concert of the season, on Sunday, May 18th at 3 pm, at St. Ann's Episcopal Church in Amsterdam, MVC will perform Amsterdam composer Maria Riccio-Bryce's beautiful *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.

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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**Mohawk Valley Chorus presents
our 90th anniversary pops concert**

As Long As I Have Music



***Directed by
David M. Rossi and John Nethaway
Accompanied by
Luanne Hawk and Kimberly Nethaway***

***Sunday, March 9, 2025 @ 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 and at the door***

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