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Christmas

BY

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ON BROADWAY AND FILM



ORCHESTRA & CHORUS

DEC 4, 2021 | 7:30PM | DEC 5, 2021 | 3PM

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2021-22  
SEASON

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## A Message From Our Concert Partner

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# Bringing Classical Music to Life Holiday Greetings from the VSA Board!



After two years of extremely unsettled times, it is with joy and relief that we come together to welcome in the holiday season once again. There is so much to be grateful for. We are blessed to live in the United States, where we know the true meaning of freedom. We all call home to one of the most beautiful parts of the country: just glance at the snowy mountains every day to feel the lift in your soul. We are also extremely lucky to have so many talented volunteer musicians in our midst to provide stirring holiday music for us to share.

I admit that the holiday concert is one of my favorites. I suspect it's also a favorite of many in the orchestra and chorus. There's something extra-special about Christmas carols sung by candlelight. And the songs themselves conjure up wonderful memories from childhood and throughout the years—waiting for Santa, watching my own children discover the wonder of the holidays, celebrating with friends and family, the FOOD (oh, the FOOD), and the hope that one day the world will truly be at peace.

The music from this concert is likely familiar to everyone but Mr. Scrooge, chosen from popular Broadway musicals and Hollywood movies. For instance, who among us hasn't heard Bing Crosby sing *White Christmas*? And kids in the audience will likely recognize the music from one of the newest holiday movies, *Polar Express*...and so much more!

From all of us who volunteer for the VSA, we wish you a peaceful and joyous holiday season, surrounded by friends and family once again!

by *Hartland H. Clubb, Jr.*, President (Delta) 2010  
with  
*Priscilla Fry*, Treasurer (Grand Junction) 2008  
*Brenda Anderson*, (Cedaredge) 2018

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*Christmas Eve*  
Friday, December 24  
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Christmas on Broadway and Film  
SAT DEC 4, 2021 | 7:30PM  
SUN DEC 5, 2021 | 3PM  
ORCHESTRA & CHORUS



Can you dig it? VSA chorus sings the 70s  
SUN MAR 27, 2022 | 3PM  
CHORUS

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Music from the beloved Disney movie Fantasia!  
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ORCHESTRA

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ORCHESTRA



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SUN APR 24, 2022 | 3PM  
ORCHESTRA



## **MIKE KERN** **Orchestra Conductor**

Michael Kern has conducted the VSA Orchestra since 1993. He is a graduate of Butler University (located in Indianapolis, IN) with a bachelor's degree in music education and a master's degree in music composition. At Butler, he studied jazz string bass with David Baker, nationally-known jazz educator and head of the Indiana University School of Jazz.

Kern played string bass and electric bass guitar professionally for many years in all genres, from polka bands to jazz ensembles to symphony orchestras. He

has performed with with Marvin Gaye, Freddie Hubbard, Wes Montgomery, Doc Severinson, and Buddy DeFranco.

During the summer of 2001, Kern attended the prestigious International Workshop for Conductors in Kromeriz, Czech Republic. Formed by Dr. Harry Hurwitz of the University of Toronto and Artistic Director Maestro Kirk Trevor, the workshop offers musicians opportunities to gain experience rehearsing and conducting professional full orchestras. During an intensive two-week period, attendees prepare six major orchestral works for performance with the Bohuslov Martinu Philharmonic of Zlin, Czech Republic, which partnered with the workshop.

Kern is currently the regular bassist with Take Five, a Western Slope jazz and blues group, and plays in other small ensembles as opportunities arise. He is retired from teaching instrumental and vocal music in public schools.



## **KATY KRISTOFFERSEN** **Chorus Conductor**

Katy Kristoffersen's 20 years of experience in coaching and teaching are backed by undergraduate and master's degrees in music education. Since 2010, Kristoffersen has expanded her practice into mindfulness coaching and loves to incorporate these techniques into all areas of teaching. "Mindfulness is a multi-faceted, dynamic practice that can elevate every part of our day-to-day life."

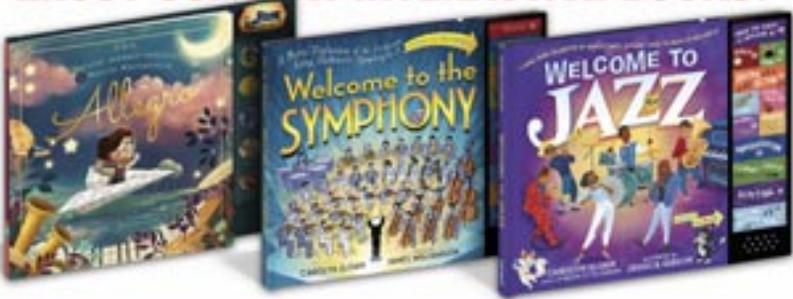
She's been pleasantly surprised to discover how effectively she's been able to integrate a mindfulness practice into her experiences as musician, director, and collaborator. Her intuitive approach for composing, arranging, playing piano, and singing, facilitate her desire to make music accessible and fun for all. "Music is fundamentally about joy, and I look forward to being a part of the joy the VSA brings to our communities."

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for the  
*Holidays*



# ORCHESTRA ROSTER

## Conductor

Michael Kern (Ouray)  
‡ *Mark & Nora Kniskern*

## Concertmaster

Debra TenNapel (Montrose)  
‡ *The Houlihan-Perryman-TenNapel Families*

## Violin 1

Kay Woods (Paonia)  
Stephanie Helleckson (Paonia)  
Hannah Wieder (Montrose)  
Olivia Lindsay (Cedaredge)  
Lindsey Meewis (Montrose)  
DJo Lowell (Cedaredge)  
‡ *Dr. Mary Kleinsorge, DC*

## Violin 2

Nora Kniskern (Delta)\*  
Rachael King (Austin)  
Emma Gomez (Montrose)  
Naomi Lee (Montrose)  
Dawnell Cook (Montrose)  
Julie Martensen (Montrose)  
Talitha Costello (Grand Junction)  
Lois Drysdale (Delta)  
Maggie Cline (Olathe)  
Tasha Pratt (Montrose)  
Vince Farnsworth (Montrose)  
‡ *San Juan Foot & Ankle Center*

## Viola

Anwen Borgo (Montrose)\*  
Dan Lamar (Montrose)  
Barb Kremiski (Grand Junction)  
Carly Willey (Montrose)  
Carter Smith (Grand Junction)  
‡ *Bill Starnes*

## Cello

Mary Novak (Grand Junction)\*  
Beth Pertz (Delta)  
Esther Alsum (Paonia)  
Brent Helleckson (Paonia)  
‡ *Mary Novak*  
‡ *Superlative Concrete Seal*

## Contrabass

Mike Kristoffersen (Ridgway)  
Laura Payne (Montrose)  
‡ *Welcome Western Colorado*

## Flute/Piccolo

Edie Burgess (Eckert)\*  
Desiree Simler (Delta)  
‡ *Kathryn Kubinyi Family & Friends*

## Clarinet

Holly Burgess (Montrose)\*  
Stacey Ryan (Montrose)  
‡ *Glen Hast*  
‡ *Rounds & Brooks CPAs PC*

## Bass Clarinet

Karla Miller (Palisade)

## Bassoon

Carol Franklin (Grand Junction)\*  
Toru Arisawa (Grand Junction)  
‡ *Ramona Good*

## French Horn

Monica Phillips (Montrose)\*  
Sheri Williams (Cedaredge)  
Clint Miller (Palisade)  
Jake Miller (Grand Junction)  
‡ *Marble Roots, LLC*

## Trumpet

Dave Reddish (Montrose)  
Janet Myers (Cedaredge)  
Kendra Sitton (Montrose)  
‡ *Vectra Bank*

## Trombone

Cindy Swanson (Montrose)\*  
Leda Stinson (Delta)  
Christian Pfretzschner (Grand Junction)  
‡ *Avis Rental Car*

## Tuba

Gary Miller (Ouray)  
‡ *Annie Lindsey*

## Timpani

Anne Clayton (Delta)

## Percussion

Pat Olson (Grand Junction)  
‡ *Dr. Mary Vader*

## Piano/Keyboard

Anne Koehler (Montrose)  
‡ *Roger Whitehouse*  
‡ *Cedar Point Health*

\* *Denotes principal chair*  
‡ *Denotes section underwriter*



## CHORUS ROSTER

### Conductor

Katy Kristoffersen (Ridgway)

♪ *Mary Corboy*

### Accompanist

Sharon Clark (Cedaredge)

### Soprano 1

Diane Balk (Montrose)

Aspen Bue (Montrose)

Kaitlynn Hurford (Montrose)

Carol Mulvaney (Montrose)

Mary Redmond (Montrose)

### Soprano 2

Kathy Foglesong (Montrose)

Charlotte Heath (Montrose)

Ann Holmes (Montrose)

Julie Laube (Montrose)

Sarah Morales (Montrose)

Amiee Rawlings (Montrose)

Demeris York (Delta)

♪ *Hendrika (Ricky) Cegielski*

### Alto 1

Brenda Anderson (Cedaredge)

Haley Benson (Cedaredge)

Judy Bunyard (Montrose)

Sara Jenlink (Cedaredge)

Sue Warren (Montrose)

### Alto 2

Cheryl Harshman (Montrose)

Dianne McCully (Cedaredge)

Chris Munday (Montrose)

Marka Wellington (Cedaredge)

♪ *Sprague Mayger & Priscilla Fry*

### Tenor 1

Sam Kevan (Austin)

Bonnie Koehler (Delta)

Kevin Pulsipher (Delta)

Anna H. Strong (Montrose)

### Tenor 2

Vern Davis (Hotchkiss)

Jon Heath (Montrose)

Judy Lokey (Montrose)

Vince Snowbarger (Ridgway)

♪ *Dr. Sam and Lana Kevan*

### Bass 1

Nathan Howe (Montrose)

Keith Laube (Montrose)

Bob McCormac (Cedaredge)

♪ *The George Miller Family*

### Bass 2

Rod Bunyard (Montrose)

Hartland Clubb, Jr. (Delta)

Robin Nicholoff (Hotchkiss)

John Thrasher (Delta)

♪ *In Memory of Aron Cegielski*

♪ *Denotes section underwriter*

Does the music have your heart racing?

Come see us!





## **DEBRA TENNAPEL**

### **Concertmaster**

Debra TenNapel has presided as concertmaster for the VSA since 2005 and as conductor of the Valley Youth Orchestras (VYO) since 2010.

Saying “goodbye” to her will not be easy: with her family, she is relocating to Great Falls, MT in early 2022. While she is making every effort to smoothly transition her various regional musical roles, she will leave behind big musical shoes to fill.

Her musical life has intertwined with so many others along the Western Slope in the past 16 years through teaching, playing, and directing. In 2006, she founded a “strolling strings” string quartet called the “Cedar Strings.” She performed with the Grand Junction Symphony Orchestra. She became involved with the VYO as a mentor for her daughter, Kendra. With Delta County Commissioner Bruce Hovde, she co-founded the Pops in the Park concert in Cedaredge, which has become the VSA’s signature season kick-off event and grown to include Montrose. In 2010, Debra became the director of the VYO, and at one point, her youngest daughter, Julia, played violin under her baton. She took the VYO orchestras to the prestigious Music in the Parks competition in Denver in 2016 and earned high awards.

Since 1986, Debra has continuously taught private lessons to students from 3 to 93. When she and her family moved to Montrose in 2013, she began teaching privately at Precedence Music Academy.

Several of her private and VYO students have also advanced to play with the VSA and have been deeply inspired by Debra to continue their musical studies in college as performance majors, music education majors, or in other music-related fields—students like Patrick DaCosta, Rosalee Walsh, Nicole Jafferis, siblings Jacob and Stephanie Helleckson, and more. Current VYO/VSA Orchestra members Anwen Borgo and Olivia Lindsay are considering pursuing music in college as well.

“We all need to pass on the baton when it’s time, and this area is ready for such a transition,” Debra said. “Over the past 16 years, I have experienced so much musical growth, made wonderful friendships, and created countless memories while living in this beautiful state. I am so grateful that all of it is a part of my life story.”

Her final performance with the VSA will be at the February 2022 concert.



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## IN MEMORIAM

### Lu Vorys

I first met Lu Vorys when I was seven, in a sunny room filled with violins. With a warm smile and infinite patience, she introduced me to the magical world of music, one note at a time.

Like many of her hundreds of students, Lu was my gateway to orchestral music, a role she joyfully embraced. In 1999, she co-founded the Valley Youth Orchestra to gift the experience of orchestral playing to budding string players in the North Fork Valley. And for those of us who were too young? An empty cabin and Lu's gentle patience ensured that even the youngest of us experienced the joy of playing together.

Lu's musical legacy is powerful and far-reaching. When she moved to the North Fork Valley in 1987 to raise her family, she joined the Valley Symphony, serving as concertmaster for several years. I doubt she ever imagined that we'd be in our 50th season playing masterworks like Beethoven's 6th Symphony, but without her, we would never have reached these heights.



*Lucia Rogers Vorys  
(2/21/1926 - 5/31/2020)*

In 2015, I was privileged to play as Lu's stand partner during her final season with the VSA Orchestra. She was older than I remembered, and she couldn't see or hear well anymore. It was my turn to patiently share fingerings and bowings, show her where we were starting, and tell her when to stop. Lu passed away in 2020 at 94, but I still find her markings in our first violin parts. My students learn their notes on the same violins on which she patiently adjusted my seven-year-old fingers, and her well-worn Suzuki books grace my shelf. Lu's musical legacy shines through every VSA and VYO performance, as bright as her patient smile during my very first lesson.

Your student and friend,  
*Stephanie Helleckson*

# CHRISTMAS BY CANDLELIGHT

## On Broadway and Film

### CONCERT PROGRAM

Orchestra

#### **Sheep May Safely Graze**

By Johann Sebastian Bach

Arranged by Matt Riley

Chorus

#### **Ding! Dong! Merrily on High**

By Thoinot Arbeau

Arranged by Howard Helvey

Orchestra

#### **Music from Frozen**

Music and Lyrics by Kristen

Anderson-Lopez and Robert Lopez

Arranged by Bob Krogstad

Orchestra and Chorus

#### **Christmas on Broadway**

Arranged by John Higgins

Chorus

#### **Dance of the Sugar Plum-Fairy**

By Peter Ilyich Tchaikovsky

Arranged by Jeff Funk

Orchestra

#### **Sleigh Ride**

By Leroy Anderson

Chorus

#### **Christmas Time is Here from A Charlie Brown Christmas**

Words by Lee Medelson

Music by Vince Guaraldi

Orchestra and Chorus

#### **White Christmas**

Words and Music by Irving Berlin

Choral Arrangement by Mac Huff

Band Accompaniment by John Moss

**Intermission**



Orchestra

#### **Fantasia on We Three Kings**

By Brian Balmages

Chorus

#### **Dashing Through the Snow: A Jingle Bell Spectacular!**

Words and Music by James Pierpont

Arranged by John Leavitt

Chorus

#### **O Holy Night**

Text by Placide Clappeau, Translation by John

Sullivan Dwight, Music by Adolphe Adam,

Arranged by René Clausen

Orchestra and Chorus

#### **Polar Express**

Words and Music by Glen Ballard and Alan Silvestri

Arranged by Audrey Snyder

Orchestra

#### **A Most Wonderful Christmas**

Arranged by Robert Sheldon

Chorus

#### **The Christmas Song**

Music and Lyrics by Mel Torme and Robert

Wells, Arranged by Mark Hayes

Orchestra and Chorus

#### **Let There Be Peace on Earth**

Words and Music by Sy Miller and Jill Jackson

Arranged by Jay Rouse

Orchestrated by Richard Kingsmore

Orchestra and Chorus\*

#### **Hallelujah from Messiah**

By George Frederic Handel

\* We invite all former members of the VSA  
Chorus to the stage to sing Hallelujah

## PROGRAM NOTES

### *Christmas by Candlelight - In Broadway and Film*

The tradition of singing carols dates back before recorded history. The word “carol” actually means “dance or song of praise or joy.” Thousands of years ago, Europeans sang songs to celebrate the changing of the seasons, in particular at the winter solstice, which normally falls on December 22, the shortest day of the year. Songs were crafted to welcome the return of the sun. Sadly, the tradition of singing carols in other seasons has not survived.

Our Christmas concerts traditionally commence with candlelight guiding the chorus to join the orchestra on stage. Then together our nearly 100 musicians perform a variety of music from different genres, including an array of traditional carols, hymns, and spirituals, along with modern-era secular seasonal selections. This year we’re featuring Christmas on Broadway and film, as tunes and soundtracks from these mediums have become instantly recognizable and integral staples of the end-of-the-year festivities we communally share.

## OUR HISTORY

In 1970 a small group of classical musicians met in the parlor of Wilma and Charles Lowell's Eckert home. By 1982, there were 30 musicians practicing once a week in Delta and performing four annual concerts. Over the years, the group has progressed, growing in size and musical ability.

In the late 1990s and early 2000s, the Grand Mesa Singers and the Christmas in the Valley Chorus were seasonal contributors, mainly at Christmas concerts. In 2002, these choral groups combined, and the Valley Symphony Orchestra (VSO) became the Valley Symphony Association (VSA) to include both orchestra and chorus.

Since then, the groups each present their own performances and team up for the traditional Christmas concerts, all of which comprise the VSA's seasonal subscription of October through April concerts performed at the Montrose Pavilion.

Today, the VSA's 60+ instrumentalists and 35+ vocalists hail from throughout the North Fork, Uncompahgre, and Grand Valleys. Together, VSA musicians kickoff each season in early September with free Pops in the Park concerts in Cedaredge and Montrose. These outdoor shows are a gift to the regional community that supports the all-volunteer performing arts organization.

The VSA takes pride in their history of bringing classical music to life on the Western Slope, their commitment to keeping classical music vital, and their goal of building future audiences.



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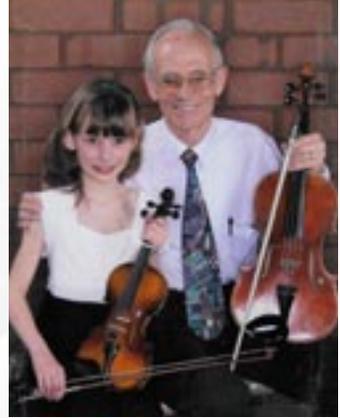


"We are so proud of you and this amazing accomplishment. Serving 50 years is a beautiful milestone!" Dr. Chuck Alexander



## FEATURED MUSICIANS

**Dan Lamar (Viola)**  
**Hannah Wieder (Violin)**



*Dan and Hannah in 2012*

Dan Lamar began his musical journey in Seattle in 1949 at the age of 6. His parents sacrificed and were determined to provide music lessons for Dan. Blessed to live in the creative Seattle area, he played in the orchestra through grade school and high school. He attended Seattle Pacific University and performed in the symphony while he earned his degree in engineering science. Three years later he completed his master's degree in physics.

In 1997, with wife Nancy and their children, the Lamars moved to Montrose and immediately got involved playing the violin at church and singing in the choir. He soon joined the VSA, picked up the viola for the first time, and fell in love with it. It is now his instrument of choice.

Dan's love of music and cherished appreciation for his exposure to musical opportunities in his youth led him to become integrally involved with the Valley Youth Orchestra (VYO) in January, 1999, in its earliest stages as well as its growth and development since. He has thoroughly treasured mentoring and sharing his passion for the violin and viola with young people.

Hannah Weider, Dan's granddaughter, moved to Montrose with her family in 2010. Dan felt especially blessed when 7-year-old Hannah showed interest in the violin. She soon found an inspiring musician in her grandpa ("Didi" to his grandkids) and begged to start lessons with him.

She quickly got involved in the VYO in 2011 and advanced to the VSA in 2019. For her high school graduation in 2021, Hannah presented a stunning senior recital to showcase her talent. An added gift to the audience, family, and themselves, she and Dan performed a duet at the recital.

With VSA Concertmaster Deb TenNapel as her teacher, Hannah continues to press into the instrument she loves and is considering continuing in music when she starts college in 2022. She enjoys being surrounded by other musicians who are passionate about the enrichment that music has brought their lives.



*Dan and Hannah  
in 2021*

Music has proven a strong bond between these two. Dan takes great joy in knowing that his musical legacy has been passed on and will continue to be shared through Hannah. They beautifully embody the VSA's goal to ensure that future generations will enjoy the legacy of live orchestral and choral music that celebrates the human spirit.



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## FEATURED MUSICIANS

### Chris Munday, Alto 2

Growing up, Chris sang in her church's youth choir, adult choir, and several small groups. Prior to moving to Montrose, she performed in a distinguished seminary choir for 12 years. Soon after becoming a Colorado resident in 2013, she was missing the discipline of people working together to create a beautiful finished choral product—one that they and others could enjoy. Then, a friend invited her to audition for the VSA Chorus. A member since 2016, she has enjoyed the experience immensely and is a fixture in the chorus' alto 2 section.



Married in 1976, Chris and husband Robert (rector of the Montrose All Saints Anglican Church) along with their daughter have lived in Wisconsin, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, and Illinois. Robert likes to say, “We’d never lived west of the Mississippi, and now we live west of the Rockies.”

“It takes a lot of work to produce our concerts, but what good and worthwhile thing doesn’t? I hope audiences enjoy listening to the concerts as much as we enjoy singing them.”



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**Locals love local** - Community Bulletin Group

*"After spending months closed due to effects from the pandemic, the Fox Theater in Montrose reopened last month with a slate of new films."*

- Josue Perez, Journalist Product Manager

**Dark Skies Community** - Dark Skies Group

*"Montrose is a central location in Western Colorado, and is surrounded by some of the country's darkest night skies."*

- Aaron W, NABUR member

**Niagara Community Garden** - Agriculture Group

*"Hello, plant people! Just wanted to let you know that Niagara Community Garden is taking applications for the 2021 season."*

- Aleta L., NABUR member

**Little Blue Creek Canyon Project** - Local Affairs Group

*"What concerns do you have with the project? Do you feel the road should be open eight hours a day, rather than the scheduled five?"*

- Josue Perez, Journalist Product Manager

**Discussion on Meat-Out Day from a  
Beef Producer's Perspective** - Food Group

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- Cally H., NABUR member



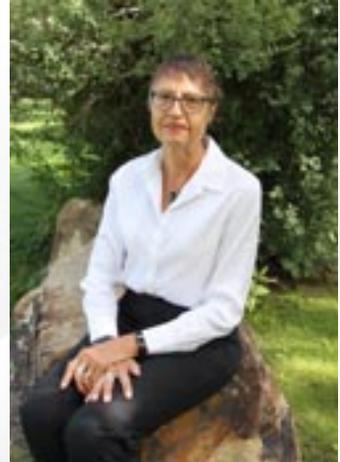
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## FEATURED MUSICIANS

### Bonnie Horn Koehler, Tenor I

Since 1988, Bonnie sang with various choral groups that joined the orchestra in 2002 to become the Valley Symphony Association. “We sang the full *Messiah* every other year, wore white shirts and dark pants/skirts, and each bought our own copy of the full score.”

She grew up in northwest Iowa on a registered Holstein dairy farm, where classical music played in the barn to calm the cows. A beneficiary of the robust vocal and instrumental music programs offered in Iowa school systems, she learned intervals in elementary school, sang madrigals and studied music theory in high school, and sang the full *Messiah* in the county chorus by age 15. A musical high point was in 1979 when her choir was invited to sing the *Haggadah* with the Tifereth Israel Synagogue for Passover.



In 1982 she moved to the Western Slope when her husband was recruited by Colorado-Ute Electric Association CEO Girts Krumins (a VSA founder) to build the 345 power lines from Craig/Hayden to Farmington. She was the Delta County Health Officer and director of the Delta County Health Department from 1983 until her retirement in 2016.

Her love for the VSA began with her first rehearsal with Mike Kern. “We were working on *For Unto Us* and the chorus was struggling with the precise rhythms of ‘...and the government shall be upon his shoulders...’

In frustration, Mike stated that this was the Handel version--not the Bobby Darin/Mack the Knife swing version--of the *Messiah*, and proceeded to sing the passage, finger snapping and swinging the rhythm to emphasize his point. I was hooked!”

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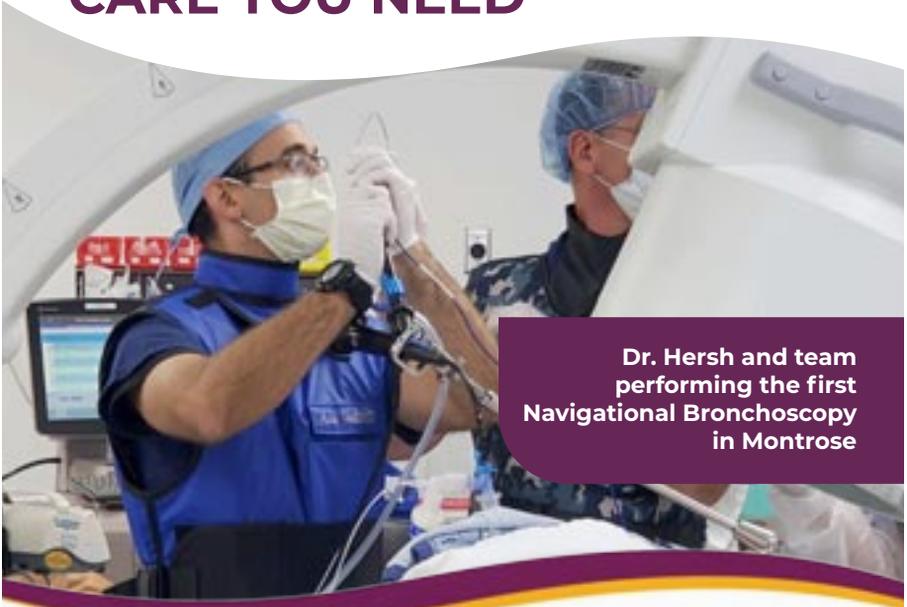
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