

# *We are the Music Makers*

**SATURDAY  
MAY 17**

**3:00 PM**

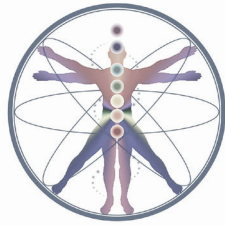
**Linde Center  
for Music  
and Learning  
at Tanglewood**

**CELEBRATING 35 YEARS OF  
BERKSHIRE CHILDREN'S CHORUS!**



Learn more at [berkshirechildrenschorus.org](http://berkshirechildrenschorus.org)





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## We Are The Music Makers

3:00 PM | May 17, 2025

### Tanglewood's Linde Center for Music And Learning

Hosted by Tanglewood as part of the *TLI Close To Home Mini Festival*

Presented by: Jon & Sara Budish and Blue Q  
and in partnership with: Stonehouse Properties LLC and Fluff Alpaca

*Please remember to silence all mobile devices!*  
*No flash photography is permitted during the performance.*

For more information about **Berkshire Children's Chorus**,  
including our mission, registration, and donation links,  
please visit our website or scan the QR code on this page.



[berkshirechildrenschorus.org](http://berkshirechildrenschorus.org)



## Welcome from the Board President

35 Years.

A lifetime of music.

Decades of singing - of connection - of community and friendship. Years of uplifting art – and uplifting each other. So many years that we now have the children of the original Berkshire Children's Chorus in our midst as singers themselves.

When I first found the Berkshire Children's Chorus community, I was looking for an artistic opportunity for my daughter and never imagined I would also find an artistic home and community for myself. I walked my daughter in to meet Artistic Director, Ryan LaBoy, in a quiet church in Sheffield, and three years later here we are...at Tanglewood. It has been quite the ride.

Three years ago, this intrepid group had triumphantly made its way through the pandemic and had a mighty nine singers showing up every week to be together and join in song. We were still meeting (AND REHEARSING!) in masks – and taking everyone's temperatures at each rehearsal to make sure we were caring for our community as best we knew how. The drive to be in person and connect after the hardship of COVID was strong and, with Ryan at the helm, that little group not only connected – but thrived through the strength of community and music.

Since then, we have grown, and grown, and grown again! Our mighty 9 has turned into a robust 40 – in three locations! We first tipped our toes into the Pittsfield Community with our pilot program “Play and Sing” – and suddenly had 14 more singers! This year we have added a third location in North Adams – and those new members are joining us here at Tanglewood today – for their first show with Berkshire Children's Chorus.

I have spent my life in the arts – much of it focused on how to create artistic opportunities for children. I can say without hesitation that the experience being created at Berkshire Children's Chorus is unparalleled – from the sense of belonging and community in the room, to the purpose and drive felt as the singers find their artistic voices and share them in our community, to the incredible choral music being shared in beautiful performance spaces throughout Berkshire County. This artistry radiates out into the families and community we are surrounded by- we are so much more than the sum of our parts. The chorus is leaning into what it means to create an artistic home for the children and families of Berkshire County.

We have so much ahead of us as an organization – so many wonderful and exciting plans. We would love to have you as a part of our extended family – either as a singer, a volunteer, a donor – or even a board member!

J.M. Barrie famously wrote “If you cannot teach me to fly, teach me to sing.” Come fly with us – for the next 35 years.

With gratitude and thanks for joining us here today,

*Jennie M. Jadow*

Jennie M. Jadow  
Board President

## Welcome from the Artistic Director

### A REFLECTION FROM NANCY LODER, FOUNDER OF BERKSHIRE CHILDREN'S CHORUS

“As I began my work in the SBRSD, I had a great desire to create a Children's Chorus in our local community—to really and truly make a community chorus where singers from my school district and neighboring districts could come together and sing. Hence, the beginning of the Berkshire Children's Chorus. The Chorus started in Sheffield and then grew into Great Barrington. As we grew, we were able to eventually take trips to other nearby places—even performing at Carnegie Hall!—and to begin our travels abroad to Italy, Germany, France, and England. We were also lucky to work with some really fine children's choral composers, like Henry Leck and John Rutter. In the long run, I was the lucky one who dreamed it up, but I had massive support to make those dreams come true!” – Nancy Loder

### THE CHORUS TODAY: BUILDING ON A LEGACY OF COMMUNITY AND MUSIC

Today's performance, *WE ARE THE MUSIC MAKERS*, celebrates Berkshire Children's Chorus's decades-long legacy of dreaming, building, and singing with our children at the center. We are thrilled to make our debut solo performance at The Linde Center as part of the Tanglewood Learning Institute's *Close to Home Mini Festival*. For this occasion, we would like to share some new music with you: *The Dream Keeper*, *Here Comes the Sun*, *Spark and Breath*, and *We Are the Music Makers*—each selected as a vibrant expression of our present growth!

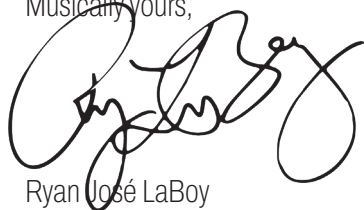
This success, beautifully captured in Jennie Jadow's letter, is built on a foundation established over the past 35 years. In addition to having Nancy Loder with us today—whose biography (p. 12) and reflection above exemplify her warmth and commitment to building community through music and singing—we are thrilled to welcome back a special chorus of alumni. It is exciting and meaningful to celebrate their enduring legacy as we simultaneously welcome singers from our new North Adams rehearsal location. Today, the past and future collide, creating a kaleidoscopic view of the Chorus and serving as a heartfelt testimony to the belief that we all are the music makers!

During our performance, we will also honor one of the Chorus's greatest champions, Alice Maggio, whose longtime connection to BCC serves as a bridge from the past to the future. From singing with her sisters in the Chorus as a child to eventually serving as Board President, Secretary, and Member at Large—Alice has led with wit and grace, exemplifying the very best of Berkshire Children's Chorus. In gratitude for her, Nancy, our alumni, and our storied past, we sing songs "from the vault," including: *O Music*, *This Shall Be for Music*, *Yo Le Canto Todo El Día*, *The Storm is Passing Over*, and *Al Shlosha D'varim*—each selected as a precious reminder of our musical heritage.

In West African culture, there is an *adinkra*, or symbol, called *Sankofa*, which means "to retrieve." One version of the adinkra depicts a bird looking back over its shoulder, sometimes grabbing an egg with its beak. It is often associated with the proverb, "It is not wrong to go back for that which you have forgotten," and this message is apropos to our performance today. *WE ARE THE MUSIC MAKERS* represents not only our flying into the future, but also our commitment to carrying the stories and songs that have brought Berkshire Children's Chorus this far. We are so thankful for all the singers, conductors, pianists, guest musicians, parents, friends, families, and audience members we've had over the years, and we cannot wait to see what the future holds.

Thank you for celebrating with us today!

Musically yours,



Ryan José LaBoy  
Artistic Director

## We Are The Music Makers Program

**O Music** Lowell Mason, arr. Patrick M. Liebergen  
*Featuring BCC Alumni & North Adams Pilot Program Singers*

**This Shall Be for Music** Mark Patterson  
*Featuring BCC Alumni*

**Oye** Jim Papoulis

**Yo Le Canto Todo el Día** David L. Brunner

**"The Dream Keeper," from *Trilogy of Dreams*** Rollo A. Dilworth

**Here Comes the Sun** George Harrison, arr. Podd & Podd

**The Storm is Passing Over** Charles Albert Tindley, arr. Barbara W. Baker

**Spark and Breath** Timothy C. Takach  
*Featuring North Adams Pilot Program Singers*

**Founder Spotlight: Thank you, Nancy Loder!**

**Al Shlosha D'varim** Allan E. Naplan  
*Featuring BCC Alumni & North Adams Pilot Program Singers*

**Board Member Spotlight: Thank you, Alice Maggio!**

**We Are the Music Makers** Jordan Ricks  
*Featuring BCC Alumni*

## Texts & Translations

### O Music

Lowell Mason, arr. Patrick M. Liebergen

O music, sweet music, your praises we will sing!  
We will tell of the pleasure and happiness you bring!  
Music, music, let the chorus sing!

### This Shall Be for Music | Mark Patterson

Poetry adapted from Robert Louis Stevenson

I will make you brooches and toys for your delight,  
Of birdsong at morning and starshine at night.  
I will make a palace fit for you and me,  
Of green days in forests and blue days at sea.

And this shall be for music, when no one else is near,  
The fine song for singing, the rare song to hear,  
That only I remember, that only you admire,  
Of the broad road before us, and the roadside fire.

I will bring you gifts of gold with the autumn leaves,  
Precious gems and treasure troves with the buds of spring.

### Oye

Jim Papoulis

VERSO:  
*Está solo,  
Llorando en silencio,  
En la oscuridad.  
Está soñando,  
Deseando con esperanza,  
Por la oportunidad.*

*¡Escúchalos!  
¡Escúchalos!  
Ellos te llaman.*

VERSE:  
They are alone,  
Crying in silence,  
In the dark.  
They are ringing,  
Wishing, full of hope  
For the opportunity.

Listen to them!  
Listen to them!  
They are calling you.

CORO:  
*¡Oye!*

*¡Oye!*  
Can you hear them calling?  
We are calling to you

*¡Oye!*  
Are you listening?  
*¡Oye!*  
Can you hear them calling?  
Can you hear us?

VERSO:  
*Escúcalos,  
Míralos,  
Escucha lo que tratan de decir.  
Están en búsqueda,  
Del camino,  
Pequeños voces,  
Llamándote.*

*Escúchalos!  
Escúchalos!  
Ellos te llaman.*

CORO

PUENTE:  
*¡Oye!*  
Are you listening?  
*¡Oye!*  
Can you hear us?

I can hear you calling!  
*¡Oye!*

CORO

CHORUS:  
Hey! Are you listening?  
*Escuchando?*  
Hey!  
*¿Puedes escucharlos llamar?*  
*Te estamos llamando*

Hey!  
*Escuchando?*  
Hey!  
*¿Puedes escucharlos llamar?*  
*¿Puedes oírnos?*

VERSE:  
Listen to them,  
Look at them,  
Listen to what they are trying to say.  
They are searching,  
On the path,  
Little voices,  
Calling you.

Listen to them!  
Listen to them!  
They are calling you.

CHORUS

BRIDGE:  
Hey!  
*Escuchando?*  
Hey!  
*¿Puedes oírnos?*

*¡Puedo escucharte llamando!*  
Hey!

CHORUS



## Yo Le Canto Todo El Dia

David L. Brunner

*Ya me voy de corazón,  
Ya me voy con un tambor,  
Yo le canto todo el día  
con cariño y alegría,  
Ya me voy con un tambor,  
con cariño y emoción.*

I am going with all of my heart,  
I am going with a drum,  
I sing to you all day long,  
with affection and joy,  
I am going with a drum,  
with affection and emotion.

## The Dream Keeper

Rollo Dilworth | Poetry adapted from Langston Hughes

Bring me all of your dreams,  
You dreamers.  
Bring me all of your  
Heart melodies  
That I may wrap them  
In a blue cloud-cloth  
Away from the too rough fingers  
Of the world.

## Here Comes the Sun

George Harrison, arr. Matt & Adam Podd

Little darlin', it's been a long, cold, lonely winter,  
Little darlin', it feels like years since it's been here.  
Here comes the sun.  
Here comes the sun, and I say, "It's alright."

Little darlin', the smiles returning to their faces,  
Little darlin', it seems like years since it's been here.  
Here comes the sun.  
Here comes the sun, and I say, "It's alright."

Sun, sun, sun, here it comes!

Little darlin', I feel that ice is slowly melting,  
Little darlin', it seems like years since it's been clear.  
Here comes the sun.  
Here comes the sun, and I say, "It's alright."

## The Storm is Passing Over

Charles Albert Tindley, arr. Barbara W. Baker

Have courage my soul,  
And let us journey on.  
Though the night is dark,  
And I am far from home.  
Thanks be to God,  
The morning light appears.  
The storm is passing over,  
Hallelu!

## Spark and Breath

Timothy C. Takach

Inside our hearts,  
Lives a restless fire.  
All we need is a spark and a breath,  
And the flames rise higher.

## We Are the Music Makers

Jordan Ricks | Poetry adapted from Arthur O'Shaughnessy

We are the music makers!  
We are the dreamers of dreams!  
The movers and the shakers,  
Of the world forever it seems.

One with a dream at pleasure,  
Shall go and conquer a crown!  
And two with new song's measure,  
Can trample a kingdom down.

A breath of inspiration,  
Life of each generation.  
A wondrous thing, our dreaming,  
Unearthly, impossible seeming!

Therefore today is thrilling,  
Bringing to pass as it may,  
A past year's late fulfilling,  
Dreams that were scorned yesterday!

Bring us your sun, your summer!  
Teach us your song's new number!  
Awaken those that slumber to hear our cry,  
We cry:  
We are the music makers!

## About Berkshire Children's Chorus

Celebrating its 35th anniversary season, **Berkshire Children's Chorus** uses music to spark new friendships between singers in grades 3-8 from across the Berkshire region. Weekly rehearsals, offered in both Sheffield and Pittsfield (and recently piloted in North Adams!), feature the development of individual self-confidence and teamwork skills, as well as music reading, ear training, and vocal technique. The Chorus was founded in 1990 by **Nancy Loder** and is currently led by **Ryan José LaBoy**. Recent performance highlights include *Lessons & Carols* at Williams College, *Fauré's Requiem* with Trinity Lenox Music Series, *The Sounds of Music* with Berkshire Concert Choir, *Cántame un Cuento* with Berkshire Immigrant Center and LitNet, *Circles* with Pittsfield-based visual artist Elizabeth Nelson, *The Ballerina and the Clown* with singers and dancers from Bard College at Simon's Rock, and a co-commission, "O Colored Earth" by Steve Heitzeg, with Stockbridge Sinfonia. The Chorus also has a multi-year partnership with Sheffield-based ukulele manufacturers, The Magic Fluke.

## People

### **Berkshire Children's Chorus** (Spring 2025)

Chloe Arya  
Alexander Blackwell  
Stanley Burke  
Sammy Cestone  
Sabina Cudal  
Sarah Ehrich  
Ryleigh Fillio  
Magleidy Florez Anaya  
Yinoska Florez Anaya  
Braxton Gladu  
Wyatt Gladu  
Ava Glendon  
Fiona Guy  
Mayté Guzman  
Caelen Hayes  
Montanna Inesta

Valentina Mendoza  
Natalia Morales  
Joeselle Ocran  
Jynelle Ocran  
Linda Quiroga  
Astacia Root  
Isabella Rosales  
Colaine (Lainey) Rosier  
Betsy Russo  
Shea Ryan  
Sidney Sholley  
Kennedy Smith  
Janice Sutherland  
Henrietta Turner



### **BCC North Adams Pilot Singers**

Milania Alcombright  
Felix Burrow  
Jubilee Chen Clark  
Oona Drmacich-Flach  
Kal-El Lawson  
Lena Luchi  
Flint Parker  
Gage Ritcher  
Vivian Rower  
Eden Whitman

### **BCC Alumni Chorus**

Ashleigh Catsos Yager  
Emily Crawford  
Kate Gladu  
Jessica Hupp  
Kristin Ide  
Christa Joy  
Andrea Lawrence  
Megan Lawrence  
Jordan Loder  
Jamie Lovejoy  
Alice Maggio  
Eliza Maggio  
Emily McCormick  
Paz Petersson

### **Board**

Jennie Jadow+, president  
Alice Maggio\*, past-president & secretary  
Melissa Agosto+, treasurer  
Nicole DeLorey+  
Andrea Lawrence\*  
Smitty Pignatelli  
Scott Shreve  
Amanda Watroba+

\* = BCC alumni; + = Chorus family member

### **Staff**

Ryan José LaBoy, artistic director  
Aaron Likness, pianist  
Charles Tsui, pianist (North Adams pilot)  
Christina Freund, office manager  
Diana Lotero, production assistant

### **Community Partners**

All Saints Episcopal Church (North Adams)  
Church on the Hill (Lenox)  
Festival Latino (Great Barrington)  
The Magic Fluke Co. (Sheffield)  
Music at Trinity Lenox (Lenox)  
Red Lion Inn (Stockbridge)  
Tanglewood Learning Institute (Lenox)  
Williams College (Williamstown)

## Additional Info about Today's Performance

### Artist Bios

#### **Nancy Loder | BCC Founder and Founding Artistic Director**

One of Nancy Loder's earliest musical memories involves collecting neighborhood kids in junior high to form a makeshift "band" for Fourth of July parades, much to the delight of parents on the block! This early passion for engaging children with music led to her work as a music teacher in the Southern Berkshire Regional School District. Beyond her initial project creating a folk dance day, she established and directed numerous choruses across elementary, middle, and high school levels, including select ensembles like Baker's Dozen, Countdown, Madrigal Singers, Retro, and Dial Tones. Annual musicals such as South Pacific became a staple. To truly extend their work into the community, Nancy founded the Berkshire Children's Chorus in 1990, uniting young singers from various schools in a shared love of music.

#### **Ryan José LaBoy | Artistic Director**

Ryan José LaBoy is a singer, conductor, and community musician based in Pittsfield, MA where he serves as Artistic Director of Berkshire Children's Chorus and Berkshire Concert Choir. Previously, he served as Choir Director at Bard College at Simon's Rock (Great Barrington, MA), Director of Choirs & Voice at North Hennepin Community College (Brooklyn Park, MN), and Founding Music Director of ComMUSICation (St. Paul, MN) – an El Sistema-inspired music program focused on social justice and youth empowerment. As a singer, Ryan has performed with The Sound Between Ensemble (New York), Unitus Ensemble (Boston), Border CrosSing (St. Paul), MPLS (imPulse) (Minneapolis), VocalEssence Ensemble Singers (Minneapolis), and Ember Choral Arts (New York).

Ryan holds degrees in Choral Conducting and Music Education from the University of Minnesota and Westminster Choir College, and is currently a doctoral student at Teachers College, Columbia University. His research is located at the intersection of community arts and public health, including practices of community music, the advent of social prescribing in Massachusetts and the United States, and the transformative power of singing together.

#### **Aaron Likness | Rehearsal & Performance Pianist**

Aaron Likness is a pianist based in upstate New York, hailed for "superb clarity" and "effortless elegance" in performances of a wide variety of classical, avant-garde, and contemporary music. Recent seasons have included appearances across the US and Europe with Boston Musica Viva, Callithumpian Consort, International Contemporary Ensemble, Sound Icon, PROTOTYPE Opera Festival, and violinist Diamanda Dramm. A graduate of the New England Conservatory of Music and the University of North Carolina, Likness serves on the music faculty of Bard College at Simon's Rock.

#### **Charles Tsui | Rehearsal Pianist, North Adams**

Charles Tsui is an accomplished collaborative pianist based in the Berkshires where he is an Artist Associate in Collaborative Piano at Williams College. Formerly Assistant Professor at Missouri Valley College, he held the Dr. Phillip Sisk Memorial Piano Chair with Topeka Symphony Orchestra and was the collaborative pianist for Youth Chorus Kansas City. He has performed internationally in China, England, Hong Kong, Japan, South Korea, Taiwan, and across the U.S. Charles holds a Doctor of Musical Arts from the University of Missouri-Kansas City.

## Donors

### Thank you for your support!

Berkshire Children's Chorus could not exist without contributions from community members who recognize the importance of our work. We are so grateful to our donors for supporting us year after year. The following people contributed between January 1, 2024 and January 16, 2025. Thank you! Asterisks indicate members of the Board of Trustees.

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#### **Bards \$50-101**

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Crystal & David Desnoyers  
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 Rev. Scott & Majorie Shreve\*  
 Harrison J. Weisner

## A Special Thanks to our Performance Venue

### Linde Center for Music and Learning

Tanglewood Learning Institute  
 Mark Rulison, production manager

We are so honored to be part of the inaugural TLI Close to Home Mini Festival.  
 Thank you for inviting us to share our Berkshire-made music at Tanglewood!

### Rehearsal Venues

Old Parish Church (Sheffield)  
 Jill Graham, pastor  
[firstuccsheffield.org](http://firstuccsheffield.org)

### The Common Room at Zion Lutheran Church (Pittsfield)

Joel Bergeland, pastor  
[acommonroom.org](http://acommonroom.org)

### All Saints Episcopal Church (North Adams)

Margot Page, deacon  
[allsaintsberkshires.com](http://allsaintsberkshires.com)

## Grant Support

This program is funded in part by grants from the following Local Cultural Councils, which are local agencies supported by the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency: Alford/Egremont, Cultural Council of Northern Berkshire, Lee, Lenox, Monterey, Mount Washington, New Marlborough, Pittsfield, Sheffield, and Stockbridge.

Berkshire Children's Chorus is also thankful for support from the following:

Massachusetts Cultural Council  
 Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation  
 Feigenbaum Foundation  
 Lee Bank Foundation  
 Williamstown Community Chest  
 Mary and Henry Flynt Grant and Fund for Williamstown

# SING WITH US!

**Berkshire Children's Chorus**  
**is now enrolling singers**  
**in grades 3-8 for September 2025**

**Choose from our three**  
**rehearsal locations.**



Scan code  
 to complete  
 Interest Form

[berkshirechildrenschorus.org/interest](http://berkshirechildrenschorus.org/interest)





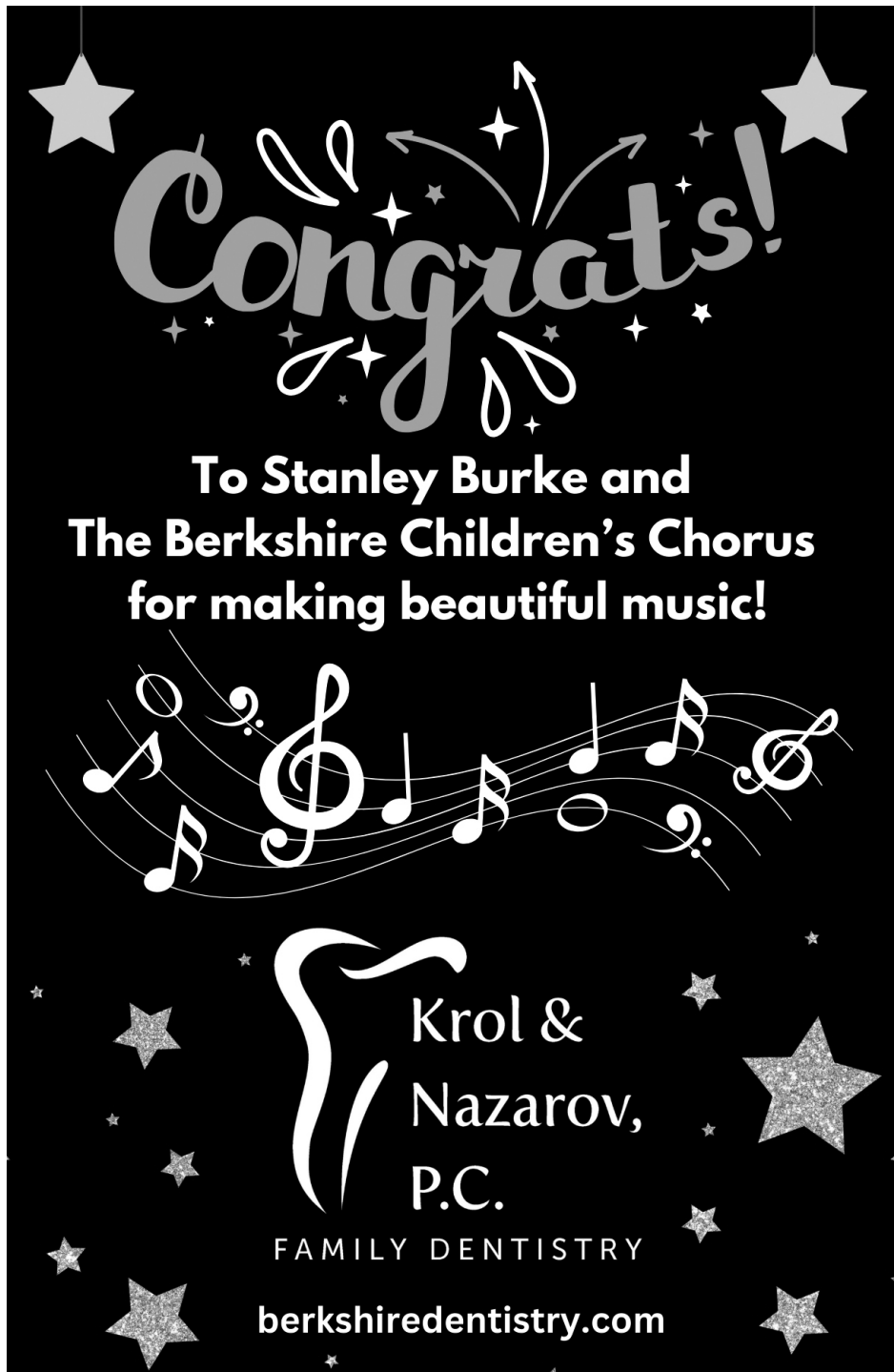
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support the  
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in the BCC"*



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**Congratulations**  
**Montanna!**

I am so proud of you.

Keep shining, keep smiling, keep being you.

I love you to the moon and back,

Grandma

Happy 35th anniversary  
Berkshire Children's Chorus

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**Contact Geoffrey Carter**  
[geoffrey@beatnestschool.com](mailto:geoffrey@beatnestschool.com)



**Cathedral of the Beloved**  
*where love comes first*

Who is Cathedral of the Beloved?

Building bridges from the margins to the mainstream, we are a community that celebrates and honors the beloved goodness in every human being, as we seek to practice loving God, neighbor and self.

- A weekly Sunday service and nutritious meal.
- Coffee, Conversation and Companionship at Pittsfield's Dottie's on Thursday mornings
- Pop-ups of warm winter outer wear and pastoral presence.
- And so much more...



Cathedral of the Beloved applauds  
The Berkshire Children's Chorus.

**Congratulations  
on a job well done!**

[www.Cathedralofthebeloved.org](http://www.Cathedralofthebeloved.org)

Facebook: Cathedral-Pittsfield

Cathedral of the Beloved  
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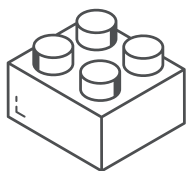
**Berkshire Interfaith Organizing**

**BIO congratulates Berkshire Children's Chorus on 35 years!**

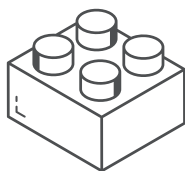
Berkshire Interfaith Organizing exists to connect our communities across lines of difference, so that we can identify common concerns, develop leadership through action, and win positive changes in our county.

For BIO, 2025 will be a year of action focused on Housing and Transportation issues. If your faith or values call you to advocate for justice, get in touch to learn more!

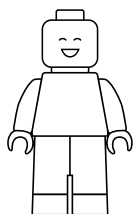
Send us a message at: [communications@biorganizing.org](mailto:communications@biorganizing.org)



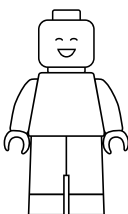
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