

25
years
Chorale
Children's Choirs
& Programs
2023-2024

Cantare:
Lifting Voices
Uplifting Lives

Give Us Hope

Danos Esperanza | 给我们希望
Children's Choirs | Spring Concert

Fri. May 3, 2024 | 6:00pm
Temple Hill Auditorium

Featuring Nova & Music Stars
Elementary Choirs of:
Cleveland | Franklin
La Escuelita | Laurel | Lincoln
Melrose Leadership Academy
& Piedmont Ave.



ph: 510.836.0789 | cantareconvivo.org | 501c3 non-profit organization

Letter from the Director



Singing in community is a life-changing experience. As you unite your voice with your fellow singers, you can feel the power and beauty of what your voices create together. You can also feel the strength that your own voice gains from the support of your friends singing around you. This experience helps our young singers believe in themselves and understand that they can use their voices to make a difference in our community.

The singers performing today are part of a legacy of 21,000 young people who have participated in Cantare's music education programs over the past 25 years. I am so proud of each singer who has been a part of our program, and for the way they foster compassion, understanding and connection in their communities. As the lyrics of our final song state:

"We are the future, help us believe... Give us hope and we'll show you the way."

Cantar en comunidad es una experiencia que cambia la vida. A medida que unes tu voz con la de tus compañeros cantantes, puedes sentir el poder y la belleza de lo que sus voces crean juntas. Además, puedes sentir la fuerza que tu propia voz aumenta, gracias al apoyo de tus amigos que cantan a tu alrededor. Esta experiencia ayuda a nuestros jóvenes cantantes a creer en sí mismos y comprender que pueden usar sus voces para marcar la diferencia en nuestra comunidad.

Los cantantes que se presentan hoy son parte de un legado de 21.000 jóvenes que han participado en los programas de educación musical de Cantare durante los últimos 25 años. Estoy muy orgullosa de cada cantante que ha sido parte de nuestro programa y por la forma en que fomentan la compasión, la comprensión y la conexión en sus comunidades. Como dice la letra de nuestra canción final:

"Somos el futuro, ayúdanos a creer... Danos esperanza y te mostraremos el camino".

在社区唱歌是一种改变生命的经验。当您与其他歌手的声音结合时，您可以感受到共同创造的美丽。当您感受到您的声音受周围歌声的支持时，您可以从中支取力量。这种经历帮助我们的年轻歌手建立对自己的肯定，并了解他们可以利用自己的声音为我们的社区带来改变。

今天表演的歌手是Cantare过去 25 年的教育项目，及所有曾参与的 21,000 名青年人的光荣历史的一份子。我深深为参与我们项目的每一位歌手感到自豪。他们在社区中培养同理心、加深对互相的了解，塑造紧密的人际关系，正如我们最后一首歌的歌词所说：

“我们是未来，帮助我们相信给我们希望，我们将为您指明道路。”

Julie Haydon, Director of Children's & Youth Choirs

Please silence your cell phones. Por favor silencien sus celulares. 请把手机静音。

Give Us Hope

Danos Esperanza • 给我们希望

Combined Children's & Youth Choirs

Quirimare

Traditional Venezuelan Folk Song

Juana, my friend, come and dance!

Juana, my friend, come and sing!

The frog in the banana fields, isn't he dancing? Isn't he singing?

Quirimare! Quirimare! Let's sing, let's dance!

Las Estrellas Musicales de Melrose

El Alegre Pescador

Traditional Colombian Folk Song

"The Happy Fisherman"

The tide is coming in
bringing the nets and hammocks
the canoes are returning to the
beach

The fisherman return
with their load of fish to sell
To the ports where their loved
ones await them

The moons joyfully awaits
with it's magic and splendor
the arrival of the courageous and
happy fisherman

The fisherman speaks to the moon,
The fisherman speaks to the beach,
The fisherman doesn't have a
fortune, but he has his fishing nets!

Lincoln Music Stars

Come Travel With Me

Scott Farthing

*Emi Ito, Alice Stewart, Yang Ye, Kaitlyn Luu, Conor Le, Sid Madom,
Brayden Cen; Ensemble*

Piedmont Avenue Music Stars

Count On Me

Bruno Mars, Phillip Lawrence & Ari Levine

Laurel Music Stars

Shine on Me

Rollo Dilworth

La Escuelita Music Stars

The Lion Sleeps Tonight

Solomon Linda, arr. Jeff Funk

Franklin Music Stars

Pick Yourself Up

Jerome Kern & Dorothy Fields, arr. Jill Gallina

Cleveland Music Stars

Rockin' Robin

Jimmie Thomas

Nova

Sing

Pentatonix, arr. Mark Brymer

*Abel Tesfamichael, Aria Manansala, A.J. Tippin-Johnson; soloists
Choreography created & taught by Ginger Dreicer & Zuleikha
Apigo-Maduli*

Student Awards

Combined Children's & Youth Choirs

Allundé, Alluya

Swahili Prayer Lullaby, arr. Salli Terri

O God of the sunrise, protect this child
Help the infant to grow,
and become a worthy member of our tribe

Give Us Hope

Jim Papoulis, arr. Francisco Nuñez

Cantare's
NOVA
Youth Choir

- Make new friends
- Perform in concerts and festivals
- Use your voice to make a difference

NOW ENROLLING GRADES 6 - 12 from any school!

TUITION FREE!

Sign up today!

cantareconvivo.org/nova-choir
Julie Haydon, Director
call/text: 510.529.1770
julie@cantareconvivo.org

Cantare
Lifting Voices
Uplifting Lives

*Students will be dismissed from designated areas at the end of the concert.
Parents and guardians, please stay seated and look for the signs for each school.*

Los estudiantes saldrán de las áreas designadas al final del concierto. Padres y madres, favor de permanecer sentados y luego buscar los carteles de cada escuela.

音乐会结束后，学生将在指定地点集合后解散。家长们请在座位上等候，寻找各学校的标志。

Mikhi Woodley, Percussion

Cleveland Music Stars

Rhonda Crane, Director

Peter Van Tassel, Cleveland Elementary Principal

Piano: Ray Capiral; Volunteer: Carol Copperud

Natalia Adam	Michael Fong	Reyna Martinez
Lucie Alvarado–Strasser	Gelila Gedle	Kaya Mattia
Genesis Beverly	Oliver Glenn	Ari McNamara
Nomin Boldbaatar	Michael Ha	Carolina Mejia–Giachino
Annaly Castilla	Elly Hetelson	Camora Miffin
Jacee Chen	Ethan–Michael Hollins– Mason	Sabine Parente
Naya Desouky–Halpern	London Johnson	Jax Phillips
Rekha Dinwoodie Kumar	Jacinta Luo	Nadia Pudoff
Julian Felix	Frieda Ly	Frieda Ramos–Junck
Maya Flores	Lillian Mark–Westlund	Audrey Santamaria Archer Simonetta

Franklin Music Stars

Conway Tan–Gregory, Director

Lusa Lai, Franklin Elementary Principal

Piano: Leon Chou; Volunteers: Leticia Aguilar, Loretta Dimitruck

Ellen Ait Benali	Anuheia Lopez	Bella Tran
Galelea Cisneros–Govea	Janeth Rojas	Kelly Troung
Harper Ho	Natalia Michelle	Ivy Vy
Edna Juong	Rosas–Toscano	Amia Wilson
Phyu Zin Khaingwin	Ashwini Sivananthan	Jody Yu

La Escuelita Music Stars

Ray Capiral & Julie Haydon, Co-Directors

Faris Jabbar, La Escuelita Elementary Principal

Piano: Matt Bourne; Volunteer: Danielle Mitchell

Ariel Alexander	Carmen Gaxiola	Alexandria McGilberry
Jay'veana Burton	Daisy Gonzalez	Hadasah Murillo
Tymer Cobbs	Sofia Gonzales	Jonathan Murillo
Adela Cuevas	Kevin Jimenez	Obed Murillo
Nikasia Dearborn	Halo Jones	Austin Oo
Linneah Deocampo	Nevaeh Jones	Sophia Rivers
Luke Forsblad	Khalil Key	Aminah Sayeed

May 3, 2024

Laurel Music Stars

Lydia Mills, Director

John Stangl, Laurel Elementary Principal

Piano: Ray Capiral; Volunteers: Cynthia Stewart

Adonis Coleman	Olivia Oh	Newlin Turner
Cameron Hall	Mollie Perham	Ranniyah Wellington
Angela Huy	Yaretzy Ramires	Skye Williams
Andrew Huy	Micaela Riley	Madison Wise
Brooklyn Johnson	Beatrice Spurlock	Tony Witt
Dante Millberg	Leon Sykes	Vincent Xu
Itzel Moran Monterosso	Winnie Tan	

Lincoln Music Stars

Conway Tan-Gregory, Director • Leila Motaei, Assistant Director

Mukta Sambrani, Lincoln Elementary Principal

Piano: Leon Chou; Volunteers: Judy Abe, Karen Jiang, Joyce Lei, Sonia Osborne, Fiona Zheng

Meiying Cai	Zoe Jawara	Ellie O'Young
Kyrie Abe	Ryan Jiang	Jackson Ou
Isura Adewole	Fred Katz	Wilson Peng
Miracle Adji	Heidi Ke	Alice Pham
Julie Battutya	Theodore Khadra	John Dwayne Saclolo
Ivy Cao	Ryan Kuang	Zarah Smith
Brayden Cen	Kevin Liang	Alice Stewart
Marco Chang	Kateley Lau	Bently Stewart
Bojie Chen	Conor Le	Cindy Su
Hailey Chen	Nathalia Le	Jason Su
Veronica Chen	Sean Le	Kaylee Ung
Yenphie Chen	Travis Le	Zulaykha Servia Valles
Jeremy Chu	Adylan Lee	Greta Van Blarcom
Winston Chu	Alice Li	Alyssa William
Apolena Cichlli	Cody Li	Emily Wong
Celina Deng	Jayden Li	Mindy Wu
Cindy Dang	Aiden Liang	ZhiHao Yang
Jacky Deng	Lavina Liang	Ziyng (Yanny) Ye
Youchen Deng	Anna Liu	Jasper Yearwood
Alex Fagnani	Sophia Liu	Emma Yee
Natalie Gao	Linh Luong	Caleb Yu
Tori Guan	Kaitlyn Luu	Ella Yu
Katherine Guo	Isabella Ma	Siqi Yu
Wendy Guo	Khloe Ma	Sapphire Zhao
Victoria Ham	Siddharth Madom	Benjamin Zhen
Jiayi He	Ivana Mai	Dennis Zhen
Karina He	Tristan Mei	Ellie Zheng
Lea Helli	Morgan Nguyen	Jaylene Zhou
Avery Hu	Tenzin Norgay	Eloy Zun Zhu Zhu
Emi Ito	Leywey Thomas Noubi	
Tenzin Jamgon	Cyrus O'Shea	

Las Estrellas Musicales de Melrose

Lydia Mills, Director

Jonathan Mayer, Melrose Leadership Academy Principal

*Volunteers: Jeff Obermeyer; Student volunteers: Zuleika Apigo-Maduli,
Analiza Nava-Lara, Naomi Wilson*

Apollo Apigo-Maduli	Wyatt Kendrick	Xiomara Rodriguez
Ixchel Bañuelos	Sonia Kupersztuch	Grayson Roxas
Quetzali Bañuelos	Mylaya Lindsey	Alina Soto
Quetzalli Cortez	Gabriela Martinez	Valentina Soto-Ramirez
Kahli Cox	Charlie McCasland	Janav Subramanian
Elise Fleischer-Ihn	Szirika Metzger	Cecilia Tenorio-Lara
Audrey Gamble	Pedro Nava-Lara	Selene Vasquez Luna
Rafael Garcia-Escobar	Luc Ryu Nguyen Maoki	Cal Waller Sanchez
Aida Hart	Alma Niemann	Malu Williams
Phoebe Jenny	Robert Obermeyer	Ginger Woloshyn
Amellali Jimenez Garcia	Sofia Obermeyer	
Aria Kashkooli	Lucia Rivera	

Piedmont Avenue Music Stars

Simon Russell, Director

Zarina Ahmad, Piedmont Avenue Elementary Principal

Piano: David Morales; Volunteer: Sandy Kurtz

Greer Mcgettrick, OUSD Music Teacher

Amaya Shapiro	Lily Gillen	Paloma Ordaz-Perez
Hanna Adeleke	Easton Glenard	Jerry Roper
Keyair Bunch	CloverJae'Elle Green	William Smith
Royce Chouteau	Kendrick Hundley	Makenzie Wilkins
Nicolai Clymer	Copernicus Leake	
Solomon Clymer	Maryann Lewis	

Nova

Julie Haydon, Director

Piano: Matt Bourne; Voice Coaches: Leila Moteai, Alex Taite

Zadie Ahn	Annella Hume	Leah Schatz*
Zuleikha Apigo-Maduli	Lanaya Jeffries	Nora Schatz
Lazarus Araya	Ife Johnson	Lily Smith
Ansel Cheung*	Oak Macchiavello	Ziah Smith
Avery Christian*	Aria Manansala	Lucía Spagat
Nayeli Corado	JP Manansala	Spalding*
Lua Cruz	Lulu Mercado	Tyvon Stitt*
Ginger Dreicer	Analiza Nava-Lara	Victor Tapia-Mills
Callie Frederick*	Sanae Nguyen Maoki	Abel Tesfamicael
Aurelia Garcia-Stavely	Diana Orozco	AJ Tippin-Johnson
Beatrice Harper	Edison Ou	Andy Wonas
Sam Harris-Odum	Mayahuel Palacios	Ariam Yonas
Jiali He	Prathana Pandey*	Ziqi Zhao
Olivia Heystek	Zhuge Pascual	
Sol Houser	Marisol Pellegrin-Alvarez	

** Nova Leadership Team*

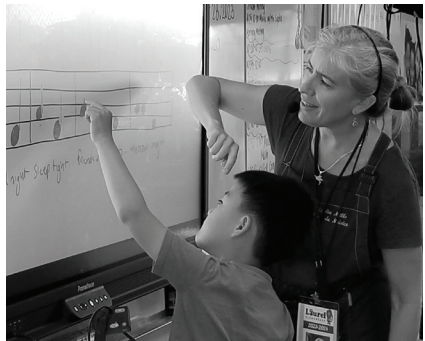
Cantare is a nonprofit choral music organization, founded in 1987 in Oakland, that engages over 2,650 participants ages 4 to 85 through three adult choirs and a variety of tuition-free music education and choir offerings for youth in under-resourced Oakland neighborhoods. Visit our website to find out more: www.cantareconvivo.org.

Cantare seeks to foster a diverse community of compassion and understanding across generational, cultural, and economic boundaries through the beauty and power of choral music.

Children's & Youth Programs

Classroom Music Education

- 95 weekly classrooms
- 8 partner schools
- TK-2nd fundamental music skills
- 3-6th interdisciplinary programs connect music with social studies & language arts
- Culturally responsive curriculum nurtures creativity, resilience & teamwork



Music Stars

- 8 after-school choirs, 3-5th grades
- Honor Choir sings with adult choirs
- Choir skills & music theory
- Students represent their neighborhoods in school & community concerts
- Repertoire celebrating the cultural diversity of Oakland



Sing Together! / ¡Cantemos Juntos! / 大家齐唱吧!

- TK-2nd grade newcomer students & families sing & play games with each other & school staff
- After-school programs in English & Spanish and English & Mandarin
- Builds language proficiency & school communities



Nova

- 6-12th grade advanced choir
- Students from across Oakland
- Voice coaching
- Leadership opportunities
- Annual tour
- Intergenerational performances with Cantare's adult choirs.



Summer Music Camp

- 2 weeks, 9am–3pm, Mon–Fri
- Rising 4-9th graders
- Musicianship, games & daily choir rehearsal
- Field trips
- Culminating concert
- 10-12th graders as counselors



We couldn't do any of this without our team of experienced, passionate Teaching Artists & Accompanists!

1999–2024

Evan Alparone
Rita Alway
Katerine Carmona
Arbelaez
Grisell Báez
Sue Bohlin
Matt Bourne
Paul Caccamo
Laura Camacho
Ray Capiral
Catherine Cheng
Minami Cohen
Rhonda Crane
Melanie DeMore
Bryan Dyer
Adam Flowers
Magda Garcia
Amanda Hahn
Jonathan Hampton
Annie Hargraves

Sarah Hawley-Snow
Marie Haws
Masumi Hayashi-Smith
Julie Haydon
Katie Hom
Katie Jenks
Carol Kerr
Rebecca Kleinmann
Arwen Lawrence
Robert Lee
Jorge Liceaga
Nancy Linford
Mary Jo Malabuyo
Kate McCarthy
Marian McGaw
Lydia Mills
Michael Morales
Brian Moran
Leila Motaei

Jonathan Napier-Morales
Kevan Peabody
Don Pribor
Kathy Quain
Simon Russell
Emily Ryan
Valentina Shaddox
Carolyn Spitz
Daniel Strychacz
Alex Taite
Conway Tan-Gregory
Geoffrey Torres
Erika Uribe
Jocelyn Van Vliet
Diana Walsh
Eli Wise
Roxana Yau
Benny Yu

25 Years of Cantare Children's Choirs

1999 – First after-school choir Cantare Samaritan Singers begins at Samaritan Neighborhood Center, dir. David Morales & John Thomas



2001 – After-School Choir Program moves to Lafayette Elementary

2003 – Julie Haydon, Director of Education & Outreach

2004 – All Star Singers begin at First Baptist Church, Oakland

2005 – Classroom Music Education Program starts at Lincoln Elementary



2005 – Summer Camp begins at First Baptist Church, Oakland

2005 – First All Star Singers tour to Los Angeles

2008 – All Star Singers win Gold Award at Heritage Music Festival, Anaheim

2010 – 10th Annual Concert ft. world premiere of Lee K... "Measuring the..."

2005 – Cantare wins Chorus America Education & Community Engagement Award

2007 – First Interdisciplinary Music Program begins at Lafayette Elementary, "Music of California History"

2009 – Nova Community Youth Choir Begins

2010 – parti... OUSE... Integ... Envir...



2007 – Honor Choir performs in Opening Ceremony of National Orff-Schulwerk Conference



2009 – All Star Singers win Esprit de Corps Award at Music in the Parks Festival



Past School & Community Partners

Bay Area Christian Connection (2009-11)
 Bay Area Community Resources (2009-15)
 Bridges Academy (2010-14)
 Emerson Elementary (2005-17)
 Samaritan Neighborhood Center/
 First Baptist Church, Oakland (1999-2006)
 First Unitarian Church Oakland (2006-09)
 Glenview Elementary (2009-13)

Global Family Elementary (2010-12)
 Harbor House (2013-18)
 Hillcrest Elementary (2018-20)
 Lafayette Elementary (2001-09)
 Manzanita SEED (2014-15)
 Markham Elementary (2009-16)
 Peralta Elementary (2010-18)
 Vincent Academy (2011-21)



Children's & Youth Programs



Current School & Community Partners

- Allen Temple Baptist Church (2016)
- Cleveland Elementary (2008)
- East Bay Asian Youth Center (EBAYC) (2006)
- First Presbyterian Church, Oakland (2011)
- Franklin Elementary (2021)
- Girls, Inc. (2022)
- Greenleaf Elementary (2010-12; 2022)
- La Escuelita Elementary (2014)
- Laurel Elementary (2019)
- Lincoln Elementary (2005)
- Lincoln Square Recreation Center (2006)
- Love. Learn. Success. (2009)
- Melrose Leadership Academy (2009)
- Oakland Leaf (2022)
- Piedmont Avenue Elementary (2021)
- Safe Passages (2023)
- YMCA of the East Bay (2023)



25th Anniversary
World pre-
sident
"The Holy"

2011 – Nova & Lincoln Music Stars perform at inauguration of Oakland Mayor Jean Quan



2015 – Daniel Strychacz, Director of Children's Choirs; Emily Ryan, Music Education Director



2013 – Cantare participates in O's MILE (Music Integration Learning Environment) Project

2014 – Nova performs at Sing-A-Mile-High Festival, Denver

2016 – Summer Camp returns at Allen Temple Baptist Church



2014 – Cantare wins Chorus America Education & Community Engagement Award

2017 – Julie Haydon Director of Children's & Youth Choirs; Conway Tan-Gregory, Director of Music Education

2018 – Nova wins First Place, Music in the Parks Festival



2023 – Sing Together! / ¡Cantemos Juntos! / 大家齐唱吧! class for newcomer students and families begins

2023 – Nova wins Gold Award at Heritage Music Festival, Anaheim

2019 – Choirs of America Festival, San Francisco

2020 – Distance learning (pandemic)



2024 – 25th Anniversary Celebration!

Celebrating our Alumni

As we celebrate 25 years of Children's & Youth Programs, we interviewed some of the participants...

Ryan Chen started singing with Cantare as a kindergartener at Lincoln Elementary in Oakland's Chinatown, and continued to sing with Lincoln Music Stars and Nova. Ryan graduated from UC Irvine in 2023. He works as a Mechanical Engineer with Northrup Grumann, while completing a Master's Degree in Engineering Management at UCLA.



Hessie Mae Cash Parham sang with Lafayette Music Stars and All Stars Singers, and at Oakland School for the Arts. She now works at the Black-owned Town Fare Cafe at the Oakland Museum of California, and is a certified College Coach and Mentor for PeerForward, a college prep program serving under-resourced high school students. Hessie has two AAs from the College of Alameda, where she studied to be a social worker.



Dayana Merino was born and raised in West Oakland. She sang with Lafayette Music Stars, All Stars Singers, and Nova. She earned a BA in Psychology and a Masters in Counseling with specialization in K-12 Schools from SF State, and is now a school counselor in Oakland schools. Dayana sings with Cantare's adult Chorale and serves on our Board of Directors.



Nova, 2019 (Ryan back, tallest)



Nova, Denver, CO, 2014 (Ryan back, tallest)

Ryan: My whole childhood was singing. From singing in Nova all throughout middle school and high school, I have met the most inspirational and loving friends who I can call family without hesitation. Nova changed my life by giving me a family who I could depend on, laugh with, and most importantly they accepted me for who I am.

Hessie Mae: I love the community of it all. You're learning your part, but at the end of the day you're a team. It's a family no matter if you know them or not. When we did the alumni Zoom call, it was a lot of people I'd never seen before, but because of this program I felt so connected to them *instantly*. It's the same if you're the audience, a piano player, or a staff member, or a mom, a driver, someone making sandwiches... No matter how small your role, 25 years is a lot.

Dayana: Expressing myself: I sing when I am happy, sad, mad, and confused. And singing brings me joy that I am creating something wonderful with a group of people. I always leave choir with a big smile on my face and my soul filled!

Favorite Cantare memory?

Ryan: The Sing-A-Mile-High Festival in Denver in 2014 gave me a bigger look at how big the choral singing world is. I didn't realize it before! I felt proud that I was in this amazing program, too. It was great to see so many choirs out there giving all these students a family, helping them learn about music and enjoy music.



All Stars Singers, 2009 Esprit de Corps winners! (Hessie back, center; Dayana middle, 2nd from left, black shirt)

Hessie Mae: All of the trips to Disneyland. My family couldn't ever afford it, so it was always a reminder that I made it, made it somewhere.

We also sang for senior citizens. Those were some of the beautifullest times of my life, because it felt like I was really doing something for them. Helping them through music. People think of Oakland as a bad place and don't think about the beauty people from this city bring.

Dayana: Performing with All Stars at Oakland's Woodminster Amphitheater in 2006, and watching the adult choir sing a Rogers & Hammerstein medley that captured my heart. I remember thinking, *One day I'm going to sing with them. That's my dream.* Years later, I joined the adult choir and sang that exact medley that I fell so desperately in love with!

What's the #1 thing you've taken forward from Cantare into the rest of your life?

Ryan: Nova made socializing and social awareness easier. Being with all the bigger kids in Nova and then becoming the bigger kid, was such a huge learning curve for me that I brought to college and my workplace. Everyone is coming from a different walk of life. Especially in my workplace now, I'm one of the youngest people again, but Nova made it easier for me to put myself out there and tell people how I am, and not be afraid to show them who I am.

Hessie Mae: When I was in choir, a lot of us were going through a lot in life, and didn't come from the best backgrounds. Choir was literally the only place we had to be safe. I try to provide that feeling wherever I go, and give back those feelings and places of comfort, that sense of *Safety, Care and Community.*



All Stars Singers, first Southern CA tour, 2005 (Dayana front, center hooded; Hessie 2nd row, 6th from left)

Dayana: Cantare is a family. The entire organization puts so much love and support into the children's programs! Chorale singers Bobbi and Don Scott came to see me perform in my first high school musical. Julie has always had space for me when I needed a shoulder to lean on. It takes a village to raise a child; they were my village. It brings me so much happiness to pay forward the support and love I received to the next generation.

Meet our Teaching Artists

Julie Haydon, Director of Children's & Youth Choirs | she/her



Julie began her service with Cantare in 2003, developing Cantare's after-school choirs, classroom music education programs and founding Nova. Under Julie's leadership, Cantare received the Chorus American Education and Community Engagement Award in 2005 and 2014.

Julie earned a Bachelor of Music in Flute Performance at Northwestern University and her Master's degree

in Music Education at Holy Names University, specializing in Kodály music education. She was previously the Director of Music Ministry at Trinity Lutheran Church and Board President of the Northern California Association of Kodály Educators. Julie is passionate about Cantare's mission of inclusivity and the power of choral music to bring together people from a variety of backgrounds.

Conway Tan-Gregory, Director of Music Education | he/him



Conway joined Cantare in 2014, teaching classroom music and directing after-school choirs. He now oversees the organization's Classroom Music Education programs.

Conway earned a Master's in Music Education with an emphasis on Kodály methodology from Holy Names University in Oakland. He has training in Orff-Schulwerk and curriculum that emphasizes the use of Modern Band styles, including rock, pop, reggae, hip-hop, rhythm & blues, and electronic dance

music. Conway is a professional keyboardist and music director in churches as well as musical theater throughout the Bay Area. He has presented lectures at regional and national music seminars on social-emotional learning through music education.

Conway, who was born in Malaysia and is trilingual, believes that music provides us with a language to speak from the heart and has the ability to bring people closer to one another.



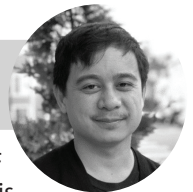
Lydia Mills, Teaching Artist | she/her



Lydia has specialized in teaching and performing music from the Andes region for over 25 years. She received her Master's in Music Education with an emphasis in Kodály in 2002. Besides teaching with children, Lydia has led teacher training programs in the Kodály approach throughout Latin America and the United States. Lydia has been an adjunct Music Education

Professor at Holy Names University in Oakland and currently teaches through the Universidad Panamericana in México City and directs the Musica Educa Kodály Institute in Santiago. She has published multiple music books for teachers and recordings of children's music in Spanish.

Ray Capiral, Teaching Artist & Accompanist | he/him



Ray is a pianist, composer and arranger, teacher, and avid knitter. He took up the piano in a self-directed course of study at age 15 and began teaching piano after graduating high school. He received his BA in Music Composition from UCLA, and has accompanied, performed and served as Music Director

in Los Angeles and the SF Bay Area. In addition to his accompaniment with Cantare and the Piedmont East Bay Children's Choir, he is currently the Collaborative Liturgical Accompanist (piano & organ) and Music Librarian at the Saint Ignatius Church at USF.

Rhonda Crane, Teaching Artist | she/her



Rhonda Crane began singing professionally in 1989, started touring in 1991, and has shared the stage with artists such as Robert Cray, Joan Armatrading, and Zap Mama. She served as a church pianist at age 16 at the historic Third Baptist Church in San Francisco, and as Choral Director and Minister of Music of Greater True Light Baptist Church in Modesto, CA.

While studying music (classical piano and viola) and education at San Jose State University, she sang in the opera AIDA with Grace Bumbry and organized the Rhonda Hudson Singers. Rhonda now sings with the R&B/

soul band CHELLE! and Friends and a *capella* group Chelle's Juke Joint.

She is Director of the Children's Ministry for Love Center Church and the Edwin and Walter Hawkins Music & Arts National Conference. Rhonda teaches piano and voice to children in San Francisco, Belmont, Oakland, and Berkeley school districts; world choral music in the Walnut Creek Community Arts Education program; and assorted music for Leap, Oakland Youth Chorus, and San Francisco Arts Education. She just loves teaching children to sing!

Leila Motaei, Teaching Artist | she/her



Leila teaches piano and vocal performance, improvisation and composition to children and adults of all ages in a variety of styles from classical to pop to blues. She creates repertoire with her students that's reflective of their personal taste, as well as different approaches to studying technique and theory that are fitted to each individual's learning style. Leila holds

a Bachelor's Degree in Music Theory/Composition with an emphasis in Piano Performance from UC Davis. She has been teaching, writing, recording and performing professionally for more than 15 years. She has also completed her Orff Schulwerk Pedagogy Certification.

Simon Russell, Teaching Artist | he/him



Simon Russell is a singer/pianist/composer/lyricist who has been performing for the last 37 years with some of the world's best musicians, including Sheila E, The James Brown Band, Rose Stone, Chris Cain, Kenny Neal, Tommy Castro, Curtis Lawson, Lady Bianca and Sy Smith. Simon performed in honor of Quincy Jones for Black History Month in 2013 and for Time Magazine New

York Icon of the Year Party in 2022. He recorded on Pete Escovedo's "Rythm Of the Night" CD in 2022 and music video 2023. Simon has toured nationally and internationally including Japan, Chile, Costa Rica, Argentina, Mexico, Alaska, The Caribbean, Canada and Switzerland.



Founder & Artistic Director

David Morales has been a professional choir director for 54 years. He directs Cantare's adult choirs, and led Cantare's first after-school youth choir at Oakland Samaritan Neighborhood Center in 1999. David has conducted large choirs with full orchestra and smaller ensembles of selected voices, performing music in traditional, contemporary and numerous ethnic styles.

Accompanists

Matt Bourne is a pianist who performs with many groups all around the San Francisco Bay Area. He works in choral music, opera, and musical theater, among other styles. He is the music director at Castro Valley United Methodist Church, and the pianist for several choral groups. He is also a conductor for theatrical productions at many local companies, as well as a piano teacher and a composer. He is a Bay Area native and a graduate of the music program at UCLA.

Leon Chou is a pianist, organist, violinist and violist based in the SF Bay Area. He first accompanied youth choirs in Albany Unified School District At UC Berkeley, he studied organ with George Emblom, and carillon up in the famous Campanile bell tower. He was a member of Cal Jazz Choir, and both directed the group and arranged music. Leon now plays organ at several Episcopal churches in the Bay Area and is Orchestra Manager of Berkeley Youth Orchestra.



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May 3, 2024

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