

2017 TCCW Board of Directors

Sue Ahearn is a retired educator who spends much of her time singing for City Choir, serving on the board, and enjoying golf, grandchildren and travel. An assistant section leader, she is also coordinator of the board's Development Committee. The focus of this group will be to strategize and develop a fundraising plan that will help ensure financial stability for The City Choir.

Erin Bowers is a patent examiner at the US Patent and Trademark Office. Originally from New Orleans, she received a Ph.D. in chemical biology in 2011 from Johns Hopkins University. She lives in Washington, DC with her husband and her cat.

Nora Cobo is the Associate Director for Development at President Lincoln's Cottage, located on the grounds of the Armed Forces Retirement Home in Washington. She has served in a fundraising capacity for other local nonprofit organizations such as the Latin American Youth Center and Center for Inspired Teaching. A member of the choir since 2013, she also volunteers with the Central American Resource Center (CARECEN) as a citizenship teacher and is the co-founder of Petite Curves Ahead, a fashion and lifestyle blog. Nora is working on a Master of Business Administration degree from the Robert H. Smith School of Business at the University of Maryland, College Park. She holds a Master of Arts from the School of International Service at American University and a Bachelor of Arts from Southwestern University.

Michael Doan, a first tenor, joined City Choir in 2015 after singing previously with Choralis and the Capitol Hill Chorale. He previously served on the board of Washington Men's Camerata, in which he still sings. Mike, who is editor of our Allegro newsletter, is a retired editor who had been on the staffs of Associated Press, U.S. News & World Report and the Kiplinger Washington Editors. He is also an actor with the Prizery Summer Theater in South Boston, Va., and narrates concerts and operas for Opera NOVA in Arlington.

Cita Furlani, Treasurer, served three years as president before her election as treasurer. She has been singing with Robert Shafer since 1997. As the daughter of a professional musician, she was musically trained at a very early age, on piano and violin and, later, vocal studies. But as a teenager, she turned to science instead of music for her career. Early in 2012, she retired as Director of the Information Technology Laboratory at the National Institute of Standards and Technology. Throughout her career, she found her "re-creation" through music, especially singing, both professionally and as a volunteer.

Barbara Greene, Vice President, an active volunteer singer for more than four decades, serves as Alto 2 section leader. She has also served as board vice president and fundraising chair. Going forward, she will remain the liaison to our Season Underwriters and an active member of the new Development Committee. In addition, She takes the lead on logowear and logo merchandise sales for the chorus.

Barbara has been a generalist with a BA from Mt. Holyoke College and an MBA from the University of Maryland and especially enjoyed her work in the qualitative market research field with master focus group moderator, Naomi Henderson. Barbara also spent ten years as an active volunteer with Chorus America, writing the Chorus Connections columns for *The Voice* and managing the one-on-one buttonhole sessions at the annual conferences. She is currently editor of TCCW's Singer News & Notes.

Meg Hemingway, General Manager, is a founding member of City Choir, has been a long-time member of the board and has sung with Robert Shafer for many years. Now retired, she was a Peace Corps Volunteer in Guinea before she worked as a staff member at the Peace Corps headquarters in Washington. She continued her career in DC as a Senate staffer and at small and large law firms in the area. She likes to play golf and tennis and enjoys travel.

Barbara Esposito Ilacqua, a City Choir founding member, is retired from the United States Secret Service. Majoring in music (piano, organ and voice), she has taught private piano instruction and was once a church music director in Cincinnati and assistant director in the Dallas/Plano area. Currently, she is on the music staff of the Cathedral of St. Thomas More, Arlington, VA. Barbara has sung with many choruses on both the national and international levels. In addition to having studied voice in England, she sings as a summer member with a church choir from Beckenham, England in its assignments as 'choir in residence' at various cathedrals throughout England. Barbara was a participant in the Grammy-winning live recording of Benjamin Britten's "War Requiem" under the direction of Robert Shafer.

Thelma Leenhouts, who has sung with Robert Shafer since the Oratorio Society of Washington days (1988), also sings in the choir at the National Presbyterian Church and is a frequent soloist for the Sunday Chapel services at Ingleside at Rock Creek (Presbyterian Home). She serves as the Soprano I section leader and has been a member of City Singers, the outreach group of City Choir, for several years. Thelma received her B.A. in speech and theater from Hope College in Holland, Mich., an M.A. in rhetoric and public address and a Ph.D. in speech communication, both from the University of Michigan. She has taught at several colleges and universities in Massachusetts, Kentucky, and Wisconsin. She worked for the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (4 years) and the Department of Education (26 years) from 1981 to July 2011, when she retired from federal service. Now she is a licensed DC tour guide and conducts tours for the Guide Service of Washington.

Betsy McWhirt is the Director of Volunteer Operations for the USO, overseeing volunteer initiatives that cover 190 USO locations in the United States, the Pacific, Europe and Southwest Asia. Previously, she was the Director of Roots & Shoots for the Jane Goodall Institute, an international youth community service program that focused on people, animals and the environment. In 1992, Betsy was part of the founding staff of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, DC,

where she created the volunteer program and helped open the institution to an international audience. She holds a Bachelor of Music degree in Voice Performance from the College-Conservatory of Music at the University of Cincinnati, Ohio, and a Masters Degree in Fine Arts in Arts Management from The American University. Betsy studied at the American Institute for Musical Studies in Graz, Austria, and has sung with the Washington National Opera, Nashville Opera, Cincinnati Opera, City Choir and The Washington Chorus.

Carol B. Perez, President, joined City Choir in its first season and has served previously as Alto 1 section leader. As a psychiatrist, she has operated a solo practice for 21 years in addition to her work in hospital, clinic, university, and jail settings. She holds faculty appointments at two area medical schools, and she served on the American Psychiatric Association's Patient Safety Committee. Previous board experience includes North Ridge Homeowner's Association (including presidency) and the Armenian Missionary Association of America. She and her law professor husband Tony are the proud parents of Allie (Social Worker at a DC non-profit agency) and Nick (Marine 2nd Lieutenant).

Lynne Price, Membership Coordinator, has sung with Bob Shafer since 1997 in both the Washington Chorus and City Choir. She spent 40+ years teaching French, Latin, and English in the Frederick County (Maryland) public schools and Latin at Hood College. Lynne holds a B.A. and an M.A. from Western Maryland (now McDaniel) College, an M.Phil. from Cambridge University, and a Ph.D. from the University of Maryland, College Park.

David Robinson, Secretary and Legal Counsel, has his own legal practice in Georgetown, primarily administrative law and the regulation of natural gas pipelines in Alaska. Previously, he was a partner with the DC law firm Patton Boggs and then a senior partner with its successor firm, Squire Patton Boggs. A graduate of Hamilton College and Yale Law School, David also attended Union Theological Seminary as a Rockefeller fellow. Before moving to Washington, he and his wife, Sandy, were fellows of the Robert F. Kennedy Foundation, working together on a Montana Indian Reservation to establish a locally controlled school district. David has sung in Robert Shafer's bass sections since 1975 and was once a trombonist and member of his college brass choir.

Gus Schumacher, a co-founder of the board, is vice president of Wholesome Wave, a Bridgeport, Conn.-based nonprofit working on nutrition incentives for diet-impacted vulnerable families. From 1997 to 2001, he served as President Clinton's Under Secretary of Agriculture for Farm and Foreign Agricultural Services. Previously, he was administrator of USDA's Foreign Agriculture Service and was a senior agri-lender for the World Bank. From 1985 to 1991, he was Commissioner of Food and Agriculture in Massachusetts. A graduate of Harvard, he studied at the London School of Economics and was a research associate in agribusiness at the Harvard Business School, working with Professor Ray A. Goldberg.

Susan Holaday Schumacher has been music librarian for City Choir the past few years. She earned an undergraduate degree at the University of Chicago in music and musicology and sang in operetta and opera in New York for 10 years. Later she received a communications degree at Boston University, worked at the National Press Club and taught writing. After earning a special ed degree at American University, she taught at Lab School in Washington and is now a tutor. She has sung with Bob Shafer since the Oratorio Society.

Amy Durant Solomon was a market researcher for Yankelovich, Skelly & White in New York and National Analysts in Philadelphia before moving to Washington with her husband Eric. She has also sung with the Oratorio Society of New York, Mendelssohn Club of Philadelphia and the Washington Chorus. She is a graduate of Wells College in Aurora, N.Y., and once worked for Lillian Hellman as a housekeeper. The couple has a daughter, Sarah, born in 1991.

Scott Williams is a public affairs practitioner who advises Fortune 100 companies. Formerly president of Russell Williams and BSG Worldwide, Scott is a former press secretary to retired Senator Sam Nunn of Georgia, former Montana Senator Max Baucus, Chief House Majority Whip Barbara B. Kennelly and former New York Representative Peter A. Peyster. He is also a former segment producer for ABC News/Good Morning America. As an entrepreneur, he is founding partner of the Capitol City Brewing Co. Scott is also on the board of the Washington Revels.

Debra D. Wynn has been a soprano with The City Choir of Washington since 2007 after singing with Bob Shafer for 7 years with The Washington Chorus. A native of Oregon, she holds dual graduate degrees in German Literature and Librarianship and Information Management and works as a rare materials cataloger at the Library of Congress. Prior to moving to Washington, she worked in academic libraries in the Pacific Northwest and in Japan. While in Nagoya, Japan, she also sang with the Meikyo Chorus. She has been a City Choir board member since 2013 and currently manages the choir's Facebook page.