

The Peninsula Singers

Number of employees:

0--we compensate our music leadership team members as contractors

Number of volunteers:

35-40 singers including 7 Board members.

What is your Mission Statement?

Through our music, The Peninsula Singers will entertain, uplift, and inspire our singers and audience. We want to make music that is special for everyone in our community.

What is the main source of your funding and what percent of your funding does that source provide?

Our main source of funding is donations and a grant from the Door County Community Foundation--these represent 90% of our revenue. Singers pay seasonal dues of \$25 per person, and this provides the remaining 10% of our funding. We do not charge admission to our concerts, but solicit freewill donations from attendees.

What is the geographic scope of your services throughout Door County?

Singers come from throughout Door County. Our audiences are mainly from northeast Wisconsin.

Explanation of how you serve Door County including primary programs your organization offers to the community.

The Peninsula Singers is a community choir that has been providing high quality choral (four-part harmony) music to Door County audiences for more than 46 years. Participants are not professionals but are community members who come together for the sheer joy of singing. The current choir of approximately 40 members prepares and performs two concerts annually, one in May and one in December. The music selections vary from traditional, classical or sacred choir pieces to popular show tunes and new secular compositions.

Singers come from throughout Door County and reflect the county's demographics. High school choir students are invited to participate alongside the adults. Young people are encouraged to carry on the tradition. However, the bulk of singers are in the 55+ age range. Singing gives older adults an opportunity for social engagement, a sense of belonging, and the ability to do something that they love and which brings satisfaction. As any singer will tell you, performing brings individual joy, thrill of accomplishment, and peace of mind.

Our twice-yearly concerts involve two performances each, one at a northern location and one in Sturgeon Bay. Concert attendance has been in the range of 150-300 people. There is no admission charge, but we do solicit donations at each concert. Per our vision statement, we want to keep our performances accessible to all Door County music appreciators.

Our music leadership team includes an Artistic Director, Assistant Artistic Director and Accompanist, all of which are paid positions. The leadership team are accomplished and talented musicians.

How would you define the impact your organization is making in Door County?

The Peninsula Singers is a somewhat unique part of the rich music performance community in Door County. It is a community choir made up of non-professional singers whose repertoire focuses on choral music as an art form. Opportunities to perform and hear choral music are more limited than in past decades. As church choirs dwindle, The Peninsula Singers keeps choral music as an art form alive and offers the opportunity for both church attenders and non-attenders to sing and listen.

Research has shown that singing in a community choir provides mental health benefits to participants, particularly older adults. It has even been ""prescribed"" as a part of regimens to treat depression. Learning music assists older adults in preserving cognitive abilities, as well.

But the impact can perhaps best be expressed as Paul McCartney once did: ""I love to hear a choir. I love the humanity...to see the faces of real people devoting themselves to a piece of music. I like the teamwork. It makes me feel optimistic about the human race when I see them cooperating like that."

What is your annual budget?

Our annual budget is approximately \$9,000 per season for a total of \$18,000.

If you were to receive a donation from 100+WWC, how would that donation be used?

The funds would be used for operational support: compensation of music leadership team and guest musicians/accompanists, purchase of music/practice tracks, publicity, concert programs, renting storage space for the music library.