I’m thrilled to announce that the Jacksonville Children’s Chorus (JCC) has just celebrated a very significant milestone as we moved into our new headquarters in the heart of downtown Jacksonville. This year has brought an abundance of exciting experiences already, with many more to look forward to as we settle into our new space. I would like to express our sincere gratitude to VyStar Credit Union for their generous contribution to creating an iconic space for our growing music education programs in Jacksonville.

We are excited to be a part of the ongoing revitalization in the downtown area and look forward to having a perfect long-term home for the Jacksonville Children’s Chorus. Our new space is not only a beacon of children’s art in our community, but it will allow us to sustain and grow our programs for years to come. Additionally, our new home allows us to host events and artistic performances like the Yale Spizzwinks, which inaugurated our new event space in March with their traveling concert ensemble. Our space is also available for private events, The Downtown Jacksonville Art Walk, and ongoing performances throughout the year.

The JCC is not only committed to artistic excellence, but also to the overall health of our city. For the past few years, we have worked tirelessly with local visionaries toward the beautification of our city’s downtown neighborhood, which we now call home on Main Street.

We are also excited to announce the 3rd annual choral day camp, SING! Jax Summer Camp on Monday, June 5 through Friday, June 9, 2023. This will be a fun-filled week of music, singing, and dance workshops available to rising fourth through eighth-graders. On the final day of camp, all campers will perform in a concert showcasing what they have learned and experienced at the SING! Jax Summer Camp. Visit jaxchildrenschorus.org for more event information, and as always, the JCC Family is so grateful for your ongoing support.

With gratitude,

Darren Dailey
President & Artistic Director
THOUGHTS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

I learned of the Jacksonville Children’s Chorus after being nominated as a contestant in River City Dancing with the Stars. What began as an exciting whirlwind adventure of learning how to dance, while fundraising for The Chorus, has since become a true passion for the organization’s mission that has led me to serve as Vice Chair of the Board of Directors. It takes a village to raise a child, and it truly takes the support of a community to foster the future leaders we need for tomorrow. Funding JCC and their programs is about so much more than providing children with a strong choral music education. It has been a true honor hearing from children and parents alike about how JCC programs are enriching their lives, and the impact they have made for so many families throughout the First Coast.

It has been a banner year so far for JCC as they now get to call their new, beautiful, state of the art facility in the heart of Downtown Jacksonville “home”! The SING statue marking their front entrance at Main and Forsyth has quickly become a fun landmark for the local community. I can’t wait to see what the future holds as I know for certain it will be bright!

Susana Cruz

As a native and lifelong resident of Jacksonville, few organizations have so much importance to our community as the Jacksonville Children’s Chorus. The JCC helps shape the lives our city’s youth in a way that’s not only positive to them, but to our community as well. These young people are taught the value of practice, hard work, and the value that everyone of us can bring to a collective goal. The JCC is a critical component in the mending of our community’s neighborhoods from a very young age, where all of us can meet and find friends with people from different parts of the community. These are lifelong lessons that also instill pride and sense of ownership in our youth. What’s better is that the children are a wonderful showcase of our great city to the rest of the world!

Jesse Shimp

There are several compelling reasons why I am excited to join the Board of Directors for the Jacksonville Children’s Chorus and support their move to the new space in the downtown VyStar parking garage building. First and foremost, I am passionate about the arts and firmly believe that music has the power to bring people together and enrich our lives. The Jacksonville Children’s Chorus has a long history of providing exceptional choral performances and educational opportunities for its members and the community. Secondly, the new space in the VyStar building offers tremendous potential for growth and development for The Chorus. The location is easily accessible and provides ample space for rehearsals, performances, and other events. Additionally, being in the heart of downtown will allow The Chorus to engage with a broader audience and contribute to the vibrant cultural scene in Jacksonville. Overall, I am thrilled to be part of this exciting new chapter for the JCC and look forward to working with the board and the community to help the organization thrive in its new home.

Allison Hollander
A SWEET SOUND HAS RETURNED TO DOWNTOWN JACKSONVILLE

From the moment I walked in this new building, it felt like home. I can’t believe we’ve finally made it here! I am so excited and look forward to many long-lasting memories here. I absolutely love the sound we make in this room. It sounds angelic! I love all the free space we have and the office area where we are able to chat and do homework. Thanks to Mr. Dailey, Mrs. Dorothy, Mrs. Sachiko, etc. for letting this happen. I love you all so much and can’t imagine what it would be like without y’all here.

- Aubrey K.

Wow! Look at this place! My favorite is the carpet. It smells so fresh and clean in here! I can’t wait to sing (sing, sing, sing, sing)! It makes my heart happy that we are in a new place (I promise I’ll keep it clean)! It was fun in the other places, but I think this one finally feels like home (and I love the acoustics)! Like me and [my fellow singer] Christian say, this place is practically perfect in every way!”

- Emmalee G.

This space makes me so happy! Having been in the choir for 8 years (half my life), it’s definitely been a fun adventure moving from the rehearsals at JU, to the basement of the building downtown, to the Florida Ballet, and finally here. While each of these places were fun while they lasted, our new space truly feels like ours. That is something no other space has felt like. Walking in here was honestly like a fever dream. This place that was talked about for so long is finally real. It feels absolutely amazing to see what the JCC has become. This building already feels like home after the first rehearsal, and I can’t wait to make so many new memories in our new home.

- Maggie T.

This space feels and looks incredibly professional - super organized and well thought out. You can tell that the design really had the children’s best interest in mind (the table, kitchen, workspace). It doesn’t feel cramped at all - spacious! It feels very at home and comfortable. It brings out the desire to get to work and sing! Such amazing acoustics and lighting. Personal to the JCC brand - unique!

- Kenzie Q.
2023 SENIOR SINGER HIGHLIGHTS
Where will they go from here?

• Has been a member of the JCC for 2 years
• Will be attending Reformation Bible College in Orlando next year, and then plans to pursue a degree in Children’s Literature. Her hope is to one day teach in Classical School.

“I decided to join JCC after I quit piano lessons. I have always loved singing, but it wasn’t until a couple years ago that I started to consider joining the chorus. But now I can’t imagine not being in a choir. I have grown so much thanks to JCC, and I have learned so many valuable skills, such as sight singing. I have also been exposed to many genres of music. I am so thankful for everything I have learned and all the opportunities I have been given through JCC.”

Katie Mosier
Member of Touring Choir
Switch Hitter! (She can switch between Soprano and Alto)

• Has been a member of JCC for 8 years
• Will be attending USF, and is planning to study Communications so that she can pursue a career in Public Relations or journalism.

“JCC opened me up to once-in-a-lifetime opportunities and gave me the resources to learn and grow in music with others, who ended up becoming some of my closest friends who I now consider family. I loved going on tour and being able to experience parts of the world I never thought I’d get to sing at and see, and I will always cherish the space JCC provided for me to grow as an individual, and its part in creating lasting friendships and musical skill at such an early age.”

Mackenzie Queen
Member of Touring Choir
Alto

• Has been a member JCC for 8 years
• Will be attending the University of Florida and plans to double major in Music and Mathematics.

“I joined the JCC to learn and be immersed in music. I stayed because I made friends and felt I was creating art that I really enjoyed and that others could too.”

Nathan Otwell
Member of Touring Choir
Alto
Tenor in Voices of Jacksonville
The Jacksonville Children’s Chorus (JCC) has graced the community with fourteen annual concerts aptly titled “Lift Ev’ry Voice & Sing.” The 2023 edition was a clear demonstration of – as printed in the program booklet -- artistic excellence, accomplishment and pride.

From Training Choir to Touring Choir to Intermezzo Choir, Concert Choir and the Voices of Jacksonville, musicianship, artistic discipline and pure love of music and singing flowed from the risers, through the auditorium, and straight to the hearts of enraptured patrons.

This year’s Historically Black College or University (HBCU) Guest Choir, Hampton University Chamber Choir, was nothing less than exquisite. The voices, the artistry, the skill and precision with which the singers shared their gifts with the audience was simply perfection. Truly, the standard of excellence maintained over their one hundred and fifty year history is musicianship at its finest. Accolades to Director Omar J. Dickenson for upholding the standard for my mother’s alma mater.

It has been my pleasure to attend these special concerts over the past several years. In fact, it’s a highlight among the activities I participate in during Black History Month. My favorite point during the concert is the singing of James Weldon Johnson and John Rosamond Johnson’s “Lift Ev’ry Voice and Sing.” The Roland Carter arrangement, without fail, brings chills. I have fond memories of my husband and me performing that same arrangement when we were in college. It is indelibly printed in our hearts and minds. Darren Dailey is a masterful Director, and I enjoy following his Westminster Choir College-trained commands.

Without question, I was deeply honored to participate this year as an Emcee, alongside community steward and friend Kemal Gasper. What a special afternoon sharing excerpts from Dr. King’s writings. Such a fulfilling experience for all. Heartfelt thanks to the Jacksonville Children’s Chorus for the opportunity to join the performance.

Sincerely,
Cheryl Amos Riddick
AVP Engagement
Jacksonville Transportation Authority
UPCOMING EVENTS

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 28, 2023
DEERMEADOWS BAPTIST CHURCH | 4:30PM
The JCC’s one-day event to honor local students who have been recognized by their music educators for their singing ability, musical aptitude and strong work ethic.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2023
ST. PATRICK’S CATHEDRAL, NEW YORK, NY | 7:00PM
A City Singing at Christmas featuring the Jacksonville Children’s Chorus and Voices of Jacksonville.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2023
HENDRICKS AVENUE BAPTIST CHURCH | 2:00PM
Come out and enjoy various Holiday favorites and sing-alongs performed by the Jacksonville Children’s Chorus, Voices of Jacksonville.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2024
HENDRICKS AVENUE BAPTIST CHURCH | 2:00PM
An annual celebration of Black History Month and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. featuring all JCC performance choirs with special guest choir.

FOR FULL CALENDAR OF EVENTS AND TICKET INFORMATION, PLEASE VISIT WWW.JAXCHILDRENSCHORUS.ORG.