

ENCORE EXTRA

August 2025



Celebrating Creativity for Older Adults Since 2007

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A LETTER FROM OUR CEO

From Ireland to Record Breaking Fall - What a Season!



What an incredible few weeks it's been! I just returned from the most wonderful experience leading 136 Encore travelers across Ireland, where we sang our hearts out from Dublin to Galway. The music we made together, the friendships we built, and the memories we created will last a lifetime.

And now, as we launch into our fall semester this week, I'm thrilled to share that we've reached a historic milestone—**over 2,200 registrations** for the first time in Encore history! This incredible achievement is a testament to our growing community and the transformative power of music in later life.

None of this would be possible without our amazing team. A huge shout-out to our dedicated coordinators who keep everything running smoothly, our talented conductors who inspire us week after week, and our incredible Encore Central Team members who work tirelessly behind the scenes. You are the heartbeat of this organization.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE —————>

Mark your calendars for these exciting upcoming events:

- **Chautauqua Camp** - An inspiring musical retreat awaits the week of August 24
- **State of the Encore** - September 25th at 4:30 PM on Zoom
- **Annual Celebration Brunch** - October 18th at 11:30 AM at the Mayflower- tickets go on sale September 2
- **Trips and Camps Launch** - September 11th via email and video

I'm incredibly proud of the culture we've built together—the attitudes, the respect, and the genuine care everyone shows for one another. We're working hard every day to create a place of true welcoming and belonging, and it absolutely shows in everything we do.

Here's to another fantastic semester of making music, building community, and creating joy together!
Happy singing!

Joshua Vickery

Chief Executive Officer, Encore Creativity for Older Adults



State of
Encore

State of Encore
September 25 @ 4:30 PM EST
Get a behind-the-scenes look at
Encore's annual report.

[JOIN ZOOM](#)

Last Chance to Sing This Fall – Registration Closes August 30!

Time is running out to join us for the Fall 2025 season, and registration closes this Friday!



Rehearsals began earlier this week, with in-person and virtual ensembles in Chorale, ROCKS, Broadway, and more — no auditions required! Whether you're a seasoned performer or singing for the first time, Encore offers a joyful, welcoming space to connect, grow, and perform.

Don't miss your chance to raise your voice and be part of something truly inspiring this fall!

REGISTER TODAY

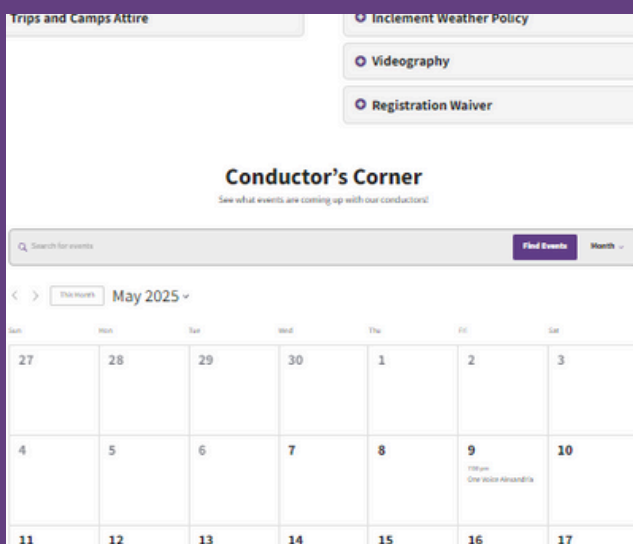
ENCORE EXCHANGE

Where Voices Meet Repertoire

Encore Exchange is a new forum for singers to dive deeper into the music we perform. Each month, we'll gather to talk about our current and upcoming repertoire: why it was chosen, what makes it meaningful or challenging, and how it resonates with us as performers. It's a space for open conversation, reflection, and collaborative feedback across semesters. What pieces have grown on you? What would you love to explore next? Bring your thoughts, your voice, and your curiosity. Join us at the next Encore Exchange — and be part of the conversation behind the music.

- **Wednesday, August 20 | 4:30-5:30 PM EST** *Sacred and Secular: Finding Common Ground in Choral Music with Kathryn Harsha*
- **Wednesday, September 3 | 4:30-5:30 PM EST** *Rocks repertoire with Jeff Dokken*
- **Wednesday, October 1 | 4:30-5:30 PM EST** *Broadway repertoire with Joey Clark*

[ZOOM LINK](#)



CONDUCTOR'S CORNER

Ever wonder what your Encore conductors are up to outside of rehearsals? Visit the [Singer's Page](#) to explore a calendar of upcoming concerts, performances, and events featuring Encore's talented conductors!

[SINGERS PAGE](#)

A NOTE FROM ETHAN LOLLEY

Dear ENCORE Singers,

I am fresh off from Encore's tour of Ireland, and I'm still humming along to "The Auld Triangle." What a beautiful country with the kindest of people who LOVE music! If you didn't join us for Ireland, I hope you enjoyed the Motown of Detroit, the history of Washington College, or the 6 weeks of incredible summer sessions across the country!

As we gear up for our LARGEST ever semester of singing in a week, I am filled with such gratitude and joy from the over 2,000 singers who will be joining Encore. From my favorite Broadway show Hair, to the British rock and roll of Queen, to the beautiful tune of Finlandia, there is something for everyone at Encore!

Thank you for helping us build community through song each and every week.

Sing on!

-Ethan Lolley

Artistic Director for Production



Encore ROCKS with ACCO

September 25th at 7:30p.m. EST

at the Miracle Theatre in Washington, DC

[LEARN MORE](#)



THE ENCORE EFFECT: TRANSFORMING LIVES THROUGH SONG

ENCORE CREATIVITY'S NEWEST PODCAST

Discover the powerful role of music in life's second act.

The Encore Effect shares inspiring stories from Encore singers and expert insights from the fields of neuroscience, gerontology, and the arts.



Listen and subscribe on
your favorite platform!

ENCORE EFFECT

GET READY TO TUNE IN ON AUGUST 25TH!

SINGING IN IRELAND



A heartfelt thank you to all our singers who made this month's Encore trip to Ireland, a bright and harmonious success. Your enthusiasm and beautiful voices truly lit up the concert halls during our wonderful performances. We hope you're carrying that joy—and new friendships—into the summer!



A NOTE FROM MARY ANN EAST

Hello Singers,

Welcome to August; a time of new beginnings as kids head back to school for new adventures and we head into a new season of singing together! It's also National Wellness Month! I can't wait for cooler weather to enjoy time outdoors in my yard or on a walk with my dog. As we come back together to sing, reconnect with friends, and make new ones, I encourage you to consider how singing with Encore is part of your health and wellness routine each week. Welcome back and welcome to our new singers! I'm excited to get to know you.

Sincerely,

Mary Ann East

Artistic Director for Lifelong Learning and Research



ARTISTIC MASTERCLASSES

Encore University's September Artistic Masterclass

Introduction to Sightsinging and Solfege

Wednesday, September 10 7:30-9pm ET on Zoom

Do you know your Do Re Mi's? Then you know solfege! Join Artistic Directors Kathryn Harsha and Mary Ann East for an introduction to sightsinging using this system of learning pitches.



REGISTER NOW



ARTISTIC MASTERCLASSES

Encore University's Artistic Masterclasses

Join Us for Upcoming Sessions!

Introduction to Sight Singing and Solfege - Kathryn Harsha
and Mary Ann East

Date: Wednesday, September 10 at 7:30-9:00pm EST on Zoom

Poets of our Fall Repertoire - Dr. Grace Sikorski

Date: Wednesday, October 29 at 7:30-9:00pm EST on Zoom

We Sing of Home – composer Tim Takach

Date: Wednesday, November 3 at 7:30-9:00pm EST on Zoom

[**LEARN MORE**](#)

UPCOMING ARTS AND HEALTH RESEARCH MASTERCLASS

Effects of Virtual Singing during the COVID-19 Pandemic: Research Study

with Sounds Good Choir, Chicago

Date: Monday, September 29 at 7:30-9pm ET on Zoom

Choir is Good For You!—Recent Advances in the Science of Choral Singing

Join the co-founders of Sounds Good Choir and the Good Memories Choir (Chicago) for an enlivening talk about the leading edge of our understanding about what choral singing does to promote well-being. Learn about brain science, community-building, and more! The talk will include a report from the “skinny branches” of a study currently in the data-analysis phase. Sounds Good Choir began as an Encore affiliate in 2016 and currently offers 9 choirs in the Chicago area. The organization’s research team includes partners from Northwestern and Rush Medical Centers. The team’s first article, a lookback study at online programming during the Covid lockdown, was published in April 2025 in the Journal of Alzheimer’s Disease.

ZOOM LINK

You are Cordially Invited to Our



ANNUAL CELEBRATION BRUNCH

Join Encore Creativity for awards, performances,
and great food alongside your fellow singers as we
celebrate our Encore year and raise support in our
mission!

.....

SATURDAY

OCTOBER 18 @ 11:30AM

.....

The Mayflower DC

1127 Connecticut Ave NW, Washington, DC 20036

TICKETS ON SALE SEPTEMBER 2nd!

In-Person Tickets: \$75

Livestream Tickets: \$25

Table Tickets: \$850

<https://encorecreativity.org/celebration>

Encore Awards 2025



Partner of the Year

Recognizing an organization that has shown an incredible spirit of collaboration, partnership, and a commitment to furthering our collective efforts

AARP

Joseph & Kelly Luquire Philanthropy Award

Recognizing extraordinary charity and goodwill that helps Encore live out its mission

Marcie Meditch

Larry Kelly Volunteer Award

Recognizing those who have gone above and beyond, with time and talent to support arts and older adults

Debra Brown DeLone

Encore Awards 2025



Jeanne Kelly Artistic Award

*Recognizing those that have contributed to
building an inclusive and excellent artistic
community*

David Simmons

Dr. Gene Cohen Arts & Health Award

*Recognizing those that have furthered the link
between health, wellness and creativity and
inspired the Encore dream*

Suzanne LaFollette-Black

ENCORE SPOTLIGHT

Suzanne LaFollette-Black

Board Member

Interview conducted by Howard Gradet

Suzanne LaFollette-Black is a gerontologist based in Pinehurst, North Carolina, who recently accepted the invitation to join the Encore Board of Directors.

She sees herself as a networker, bringing the story of Encore to organizations in North Carolina and beyond, helping Encore to build sustainability, momentum and expansion, focusing on developing programs that enhance musical experience for those experiencing cognitive decline.

Suzanne co-founded the Sentimental Journeys Singers of Cape Fear (Wilmington, NC), and the Encore Melody Makers of Orange County Department of Aging (Chapel Hill).

Suzanne has a rich and deep background in music: she has sung in performance and played clarinet, piano, and pipe organ since childhood. A music scholarship helped pay her undergraduate fees (Northern Arizona University), minoring in clarinet. She sings with the Moore County Chorale Society, her church choir, and, until recently, Encore Chorale of Cape Fear/Wilmington, and Encore Rocks!

When she's asked what music has meant to her throughout her life, she is quick to answer—Everything! She loves all genres of music, and knows that music brings inspiration, happiness, fun, well-being and community to those who sing, conduct or play an instrument.



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As a gerontologist, Suzanne knows that the magic of music builds relationships and lifelong friendships, provides a sense of belonging, and improves brain health.

Suzanne is the proud grandmother of four, inspiring them to learn music, and three adult kids. Now based in Pinehurst, NC, she was formerly of Wilmington, and originally from Window Rock, AZ, on the Navajo Indian reservation.

She is a gerontologist, a professional volunteer with AARP (she was introduced to Encore by Dr. James Brooks, Encore Board vice president and National Director in AARP's Office of Community Engagement), delegate to the NCSTHL (North Carolina Senior Tar Heel Legislature, a force assembled to ensure that older adults from all walks of life are able to age with choice), co-lead of Affording Aging with the Master Aging Plan (All Ages, All Stages, NC), "and other volunteer stuff."

Suzanne is passionate about the mission of Encore, and what it brings to empower folks with the magic of music.

SAVE THE DATE



August Town Hall

August 28 at 4:30 p.m. EST

Join our monthly Town Hall for all the latest news about Encore.

[**JOIN ZOOM**](#)



Encore University Fall 2025 Semester

Details will be released August 29

Registration opens September 4

Classes start the week of October 6



2026 Summer Trips and Camps Registration Opening

September 11th, 2025 EST

Learn about next summer's events!



Annual Celebration Brunch

October 18, 2025 at 11:30a.m. EST

at Mayflower Hotel in Washington, DC

[**MORE INFO**](#)

SIX SIMPLE WAYS TO SUPPORT ENCORE



Monthly Giving



Employer Match



Community Fund



Gift in Honor



IRA MRD



Stock

SHAPE ENCORE'S FUTURE WITH A LEGACY GIFT

Legacy giving ensures the music continues for decades to come!

Encore's Legacy Circle is the special recognition of those who have designated gifts to Encore via their will, living trust, or another part of their estate plan.

Did you know that you can help someone find joy and community through music? When you support Encore, you do just that. Your gift makes a difference in the lives of Encore singers. Give monthly, quarterly, or through a legacy gift in your estate plan.

Gifts of All Sizes Make a Difference!

[More Information](#)

If you have included Encore in your estate plan, please reach out to joshua@encorecreativity.org for inclusion and recognition in Encore's concert programs!

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art for all



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Anne Arundel
SENIOR PROVIDER GROUP



WESTMINSTER
AT LAKE RIDGE
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