

MARCH 2023

# ENCORE EXTRA

*Celebrating Creativity for Older Adults Since 2007*



## **Hello Encore Singers & Supporters!**

Living in Florida most of my life, spring is a new thing for me. I was so surprised by the cherry blossom tree just outside my window, and I just love how daffodils are springing up in my yard. This time of year is one that reflects growth, blooming and new beginnings. I hope that you will continue to find ways that you can engage with Encore Creativity and blossom to your full creative potential with us.

**Read More On Next Page** →

I want to give a huge thank you to the conductors and team members that donated time and talent to our first annual Scholarship Cabaret. We raised thousands of dollars and had a blast doing it—and I think our audience had fun as well! Thanks to your support and rave reviews, expect a second annual Cabaret next February. I know we will continue to make a way for all to participate in our programs, regardless of financial means.

We are in the process of launching multiple new programs in Lewes, Delaware; Cleveland, Ohio; and an evening program in Rockville, Maryland in partnership with the Rockville Senior Center. As part of our mission to provide singing opportunities to all older adults 55 and over, it is our hope to offer more night and weekend programs for those who still might be working. There will be lots more information about this in the next few months.

I am excited to tell you that we have over 100 singers who have already made a deposit for our Cleveland ROCKS camp. This is going to be a BLAST! You will find more details, including the full schedule, in this newsletter. It's not too late to join us for this ROCKin' camp! In April, we will be hosting a special Zoom informational meeting about camps that will also include Chautauqua and Washington College.

Tickets are on sale for concerts; there is a ROCKShop fundraiser Saturday, April 1 where we will rock 'n' roll the night away; and I hope you have marked your calendar for our annual celebration and gala Saturday, May 20.

We believe that music, singing, and community are vital to good health and well-being. Thank you for being a part of this organization!

*Joshua Vickery*

Chief Executive Officer, Encore Creativity for Older Adults



[Click here now for tickets!](#)

A watercolor illustration of purple and pink flowers with green leaves, positioned in the top left corner of the page.

# Annual CELEBRATION & GALA

**MAY  
20  
2023**

**STARTING AT 6 PM**

Awards, performances, great food, and spending time with your fellow supporters—all celebrating our Encore year!

**BLACKWALL BARN & LODGE**

329 Gambrills Rd. Gambrills, MD 21054

[Join Us](#)

A watercolor illustration of purple and pink flowers with green leaves, positioned at the bottom of the page.



## Dear Encore Creativity Singers,

I have greatly enjoyed seeing, and singing with, all of you in rehearsals this semester!

Having visited 21 of our 32 ensembles in the last seven weeks, I am so impressed with your commitment to this semester's Chorale, ROCKS, and Arts for Life programming, your personal preparation and enthusiasm for singing, and the skillful musical direction of your conductors. I see our conductors supporting your musical growth with kindness, humility, and empathy

every week, and I'm grateful they've chosen to share their time and talents with us here at Encore Creativity.

If you haven't seen me in your rehearsal yet, you will! There's still lots of great music-making ahead and I look forward to building community with each of you soon.

As we move into the second half of our semester, I'd like to personally invite you to continue expanding upon your musical education by participating in our Masterclass Series.

Gerrod Pagenkopf, the assistant music director for the world-renowned vocal ensemble Chanticleer, presented our first masterclass Wednesday, January 25 to great acclaim. In his 'Singing Soundly' masterclass, Gerrod taught 175 enthusiastic Encore Creativity singers his preferred vocal warm-up and cool-down exercises, breathing techniques, tips for releasing tension for singing, and so much more!

And just this past Wednesday, March 1, Erin Freeman, the artistic director and conductor for the City Choir of Washington, presented a masterclass connecting the choral sound with conducting gesture. If you've ever wanted to learn how to conduct, you won't want to miss Erin's masterclass. She had our singers up and conducting like professionals in no time!

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If you missed these previous masterclasses, don't worry—they're still available for you. All masterclasses are recorded and offered as a digital download on our website quickly after the live event for viewing on-demand. Check out the Encore University page on our website for the links!

And coming up Wednesday, March 29, Zeina Azzam, the current poet laureate for the City of Alexandria, Virginia, will present a masterclass on the process of creating, and sharing, poetry of all types. Learn more about this masterclass later in our newsletter and be on the lookout for registration information for Zeina's presentation soon!

Take care!

*Brian Fontaine-Isaac*

Artistic Director, Encore Creativity for Older Adults



## Thank you!

Thanks to your support, the Scholarship Cabaret was a huge success! Your kind donations of over \$11,000 will help to give the gift of singing to all who seek it—and our team of talented conductors and special guests had so much fun performing for you!

If you missed it, you can still take part! [Sign up on the registration page](#) with a suggested minimum donation of \$50 toward our scholarship fund, and you'll receive a link to the **archived recording** in your email receipt!

# SPRING 2023 PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE



**Tickets are now live!** Go to the Performances section on our website to reserve your seats for spring concerts, and share with your friends and family!

## **APRIL 15**

**Encore Chorale of Southern Maryland**

## **APRIL 19**

**Encore Chorale of Southern Maryland**

## **APRIL 20**

**Encore Chorale of Ashburn**

**Encore Chorale of Wilmington**

## **APRIL 21**

**Encore Chorale of DC**

## **APRIL 22**

**Encore Chorales of Fairfax, Reston, and Ashburn, and Sentimental Journey Singers**

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**Encore ROCKS at Washington Conservatory at Glen Echo Park**

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**Encore Chorales of Schweinhaut Center and Washington Conservatory at Glen Echo Park**

## **APRIL 23**

**Encore Chorales of Goodwin House Bailey's Crossroads, Alexandria, and Arlington**

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**Encore Chorale of Cape Fear and Sentimental Journey Singers of Cape Fear**

—

**Encore Chorales of Frederick and Asbury Methodist Village**

—

**Alexandria ROCKS, DC ROCKS, and Fairfax ROCKS**



**APRIL 24**

**Encore Chorale of Schweinhaut  
Center**

**APRIL 25**

**Encore Chorales of Goodwin  
House Bailey's Crossroads  
and Arlington**

**APRIL 28**

**Encore Chorale of  
Santa Clarita**

**Encore Chorales of Baltimore  
and Columbia**

**APRIL 29**

**Encore Chorales of Frederick  
and Asbury Methodist Village**

**Encore Chorales of Baltimore  
and Columbia**

**APRIL 30**

**Annapolis ROCKS and  
Gaithersburg ROCKS**

**Encore Chorale of  
New York City**

**Encore Chorale of Annapolis**

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For a complete schedule,  
please visit our website!

To reserve your seats,  
please visit our website!

**Spring 2023  
Performance Schedule**

**Get Tickets to a Spring  
2023 Performance**



# A Sneak Peek of Next Semester!

We have so many new programs in the works for the fall!

## **Encore Chorale of Lewes, Delaware**

Encore Creativity comes to Sussex county! Our venue will be the Lewes Public Library for our second program in Delaware. We can't wait to get started!

## **Encore Chorale of Cleveland, Ohio**

We're not just going to ROCK Cleveland for a week in the summer—we'll be a fixture of Cleveland's arts community. The Encore Chorale of Cleveland, Ohio will be starting in the fall semester of 2023. [Join our information session July 12](#) to learn more!

## **Encore Chorale of Rockville Senior Center in Maryland**

The Rockville Senior Center, which first hosted Encore for our Scholarship Cabaret, will now join us again for an Encore Chorale! The Encore Chorale of Rockville Senior Center will be Encore's newest evening program. If you can't quite find time for Encore during the day, we'll meet you in the evening! The Rockville Senior Center program will be on Mondays at 6 p.m.

## **Encore Comes to Pompano Beach, Florida**

Encore Creativity singers are in the north, the west, the east, and now in the south! We're hosting an information session on our first programs in Florida. [Join us March 15 at 10 a.m.](#) for a presentation all about Encore in Pompano Beach!

[Join Us](#)





# Encore ROCKS in Cleveland This Summer!

You won't want to miss this ROCKin' camp that will take you to the heart of rock 'n' roll history in Cleveland, Ohio July 9-13! We'll rehearse great music under the direction of Encore ROCKS Director Jeffrey Dokken, tour the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame, and join together for fun activities in the city. If you have not paid a deposit yet, it's not too late to join us! Registration for the full amount is open now, but spots are limited, and they're going fast!



**Not sure if you're ready to ROCK?** Take a look at the schedule below to see all the details of our trip. It's going to be a blast!

ROCKS Cleveland Camp 2023						
Time	Sunday, July 9	Monday, July 10	Tuesday, July 11	Wednesday, July 12	Thursday, July 13	Time
8:00am to 9:00am	Travel to Cleveland, OH	Breakfast - Ambassador Ballroom	Breakfast - Ambassador Ballroom	Breakfast - Ambassador Ballroom	Breakfast - Ambassador Ballroom	8:00am to 9:00am
9:00am to 9:45am		Movement, Mobility, and Stretching - TBA	Movement, Mobility, and Stretching - TBA	Movement, Mobility, and Stretching - TBA	Check out from Renaissance Hotel	9:00am to 9:45am
10:00am to 11:30am		ROCKS rehearsal in Ambassador Ballroom	ROCKS rehearsal in Ambassador Ballroom	ROCKS rehearsal in Ambassador Ballroom	ROCKS rehearsal in Ambassador Ballroom	10:00am to 11:30am
11:30am to 12:30pm					Lunch - Ambassador Ballroom	11:30am to 12:30pm
1:00pm - 1:30pm	Check-in at Renaissance Hotel	River Cruise	Short cocktail party at Rock and Roll Hall of Fame	Free time	Concert warm-up in Renaissance Hotel (TBA)	1:00pm - 1:30pm
1:30pm to 2:00pm					1:30pm to 2:00pm	
2:00pm to 2:30pm					2:00pm to 2:30pm	
2:30pm to 3:00pm					2:30pm to 3:00pm	
3:00pm to 3:30pm	General welcome - Ambassador Ballroom	Dinner on your own	Dinner on your own	Dinner on your own	Finale concert in Renaissance Hotel (TBA)	3:00pm to 3:30pm
3:30pm to 4:30pm	ROCKS rehearsal in Ambassador Ballroom				3:30pm to 4:30pm	
4:30pm to 5:00pm	Travel back to Renaissance Hotel				4:30pm to 5:00pm	
5:00pm to 5:30pm	Opening night reception and dinner - Ambassador Ballroom	Dinner on your own	Dinner on your own	Dinner on your own	Travel home	5:00pm to 5:30pm
5:30pm to 7:30pm						5:30pm to 7:30pm
7:30pm to 8:30pm	Free time	Evening entertainment - TBA	Evening entertainment - TBA	Optional visit to Cleveland Art Museum		7:30pm to 8:30pm

[Click Here to See Full Schedule](#)

Excited about the schedule? Make sure to **reserve your spot** today!

[Reserve Your Spot](#)



## Zeina Azzam and the Creative Process

**Wednesday, March 29**  
**7:30-9 p.m. ET**  
**\$15 per person**

Encore University's monthly Masterclass series returns for our third installment at the end of this month with Zeina Azzam, the current Poet Laureate for the City of Alexandria.

Zeina will present a masterclass on the process of creating and sharing poetry of all types. Whether you're interested in the creative process, learning how to channel emotion into words, or curious about poetry in general—and the poetry that sometimes creates the lyrics we sing—Zeina's presentation will take you on a deep dive through creative writing.

[Register](#)



### **Missed a previous masterclass?**

Masterclasses are archived and available to you on-demand with your registration!

You can register for access to those masterclasses now, and the recorded videos will be sent to you in your email receipt.

### **Previous Masterclasses:**

- [Singing Soundly with Gerrod Pagenkopf](#)
- [Conducting and Choral Sound with Erin Freeman](#)



ROCK 'N' ROLL ALL NITE ON APRIL 1

# ROCKS FUNDRAISER

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Please join us April 1 for a celebration of the music we all love. Encore singers from all over the DMV will be rocking out to the sounds of local band Gary and the Groove, as they play music from the 50s through the 80s. Whether you show your moves on the dance floor, or just sit and tap your feet, you'll be singing along to the soundtrack of our lives!

The ticket price is a suggested minimum donation of \$60, but you can graciously choose to donate more. Your ticket includes all food (snacks, pizza, salads, dessert); beverages (beer, wine, and soft drinks); live music; great company; and a guaranteed good time. Attendance is limited to about 100 people, so be sure to reserve your spot soon. All proceeds will go directly to Encore's new ROCKS Fund and will support the program as it continues to grow.

**Date:** Saturday, April 1, 7-10 p.m. (doors open at 6:45 p.m.)

**Location:** Rockville Senior Center (1150 Carnation Dr., Rockville, MD 20850)

**Parking:** free and plentiful

**Attire:** Anything goes! Masks are optional.

If there's anything better than live music from a rockin' band, it's adding a roomful of Encore singers who love a good time

[Get Your Tickets](#)

# Partner Spotlight



## Anita Irvin

Executive Director, Insight Memory Care

Anita Irvin is the executive director at Insight Memory Care Center, a nonprofit adult day health and resource center providing specialized care, support, and education for individuals with cognitive change and their care partners. Encore Creativity is lucky to partner with Insight Memory Care for our Brain Health Initiatives. We asked Anita a few questions about her career and her work at Insight.

### **How has your background gotten you to where you are today?**

I have been in the field of long-term care for over 25 years in a variety of settings, including skilled nursing facilities, memory care communities, and assisted living communities. I joined Insight in 2019 and have since led us through the last few pandemic years to come out stronger! Seeing the challenges our families face drives me to make sure we continue to provide quality programs, and really find creative solutions to meet their needs where they are. Sometimes that's having their loved one in our day center 5 days a week, other times it's just a listening ear that can help guide through a tough situation. I also became even more personally invested in our mission as my dad was diagnosed two years ago. Nothing can prepare you for the challenges of becoming a caregiver, and that experience makes me truly appreciate Insight's mission and the need for our services.

### **What does Insight's partnership with Encore Creativity mean to you?**

We are so grateful for our partnership with Encore Creativity! For many of our families, even early after receiving a diagnosis, social situations can become challenging. Friends are well-intentioned, but might not always understand unusual behaviors or know how to respond to the repeated questions or word-finding difficulties. Sadly, it is easy for many families living with dementia to become isolated, thinking it's easier to just stay

**Read More On Next Page** →

home than deal with social stigmas or the challenge of new environments. Programs like the Sentimental Journey Singers offer such wonderful opportunities for families to be able to participate in activities in a safe and supportive setting. Many of our participants love to sing, participated in choirs as a child, through their faith community—or sing just for fun—and it's amazing to be able to offer that experience that they can still participate in without fear of judgment. Care partners can connect on their shared journey, and everyone feels like a part of the community through this group. That doesn't even cover the benefits that music can have for those living with dementia too!

### **How can we as singers and individuals support those with cognitive change, Sentimental Journey Singers, and Insight Memory Care?**

Don't be afraid to ask how you can help. If you have a friend or family member living with or caring for someone with dementia, it can be a lifeline to still have friends that check-in and offer to help. Socialization has been shown to help slow the progress of dementia—so set-up a regular phone call, lunch date, or take the person on a walk so the care partner has a free minute to themselves. No matter how small it feels, keeping someone with dementia socially engaged is a big deal.

Of course, you can also feel free to share with your community about the resources that Encore and Insight offer! Many of our families hear about us through word-of-mouth, so help us keep spreading the word! Check out our [event calendar](#) to see what's coming up. This spring we're offering movie screenings, author lectures, and community education programs on Better Brain Health and more. Come to a class, Encore's spring concert, and invite a friend!

### **Anything else you would like to add?**

Again, we're just so grateful for our partnership with Encore Creativity. As we opened our Sterling location just over a year ago, you all were eager to help us engage families in that new area while still maintaining the group in Fairfax too. We cannot thank you enough for your support and look forward to how we can continue to collaborate in the future!

# Save the Date

## UPCOMING EVENTS



### March Town Hall March 16 at 12 p.m. ET

Join Joshua and Brian to learn about everything happening at Encore and to hear questions from your fellow singers.

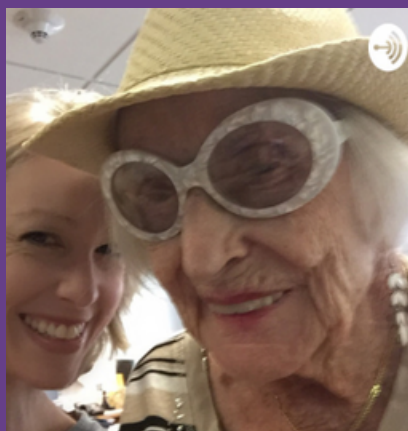
[Join Us](#)

### Camp Info Session April 18 at 12 p.m. ET

Get all the information about our upcoming summer camps at our zoom info session next month. Get the link in the April newsletter!

[Camp Info](#)

## Encore in the News



### N2CreativeAging Podcast

An interview with Joshua Vickery, in a wonderful conversation about Encore Creativity's national choral programs for older adults.

[Listen to the Interview](#)

# Join Us This Summer

SAVE THE DATE



## Washington College Camp June 25-29

Chorale and ROCKS members are welcome to join us for this camp!

[Register](#)



## Cleveland ROCKS July 9-13

Rehearse and perform great music and see the sights of Cleveland.

[Register](#)



## Rivers of Europe Cruise July 30-Aug. 14

Cruise across the great rivers of Europe with your fellow singers.

[More Info](#)



## Chautauqua Institute Aug. 27-Sep. 1

Join us for our annual summer choral institute!

[Register](#)

# Support Us This Season

MAKE A GIFT TO ONE OF OUR FUNDS

[Make a Donation](#)



## Annual Fund

Each year Encore must raise dollars to offset the costs of operating this amazing organization. This year we need \$200,000 in charitable contributions and are 72% to our goal with \$145,401 in donations. If you would like to give to the annual fund please consider helping us reach that goal.



## Scholarship Fund

We've raised \$22,833 for this fund supporting singers who may need financial assistance with program tuition. \$190 helps one singer with full semester tuition, \$99 covers tuition for an Encore University semester, and \$800 to \$1,600 can assist a singer with a summer camp program.



## The Jeanne Kelly Fund

We're 83.3% to goal with \$50,032 in donations for this year and need your help! In honor of our founder and her legacy, this fund supports initiatives in several areas of focus including the expansion of arts and wellness programs, talent recruitment and retention, the expansion of Encore University, and more.



## ROCKS Fund

You've helped us raise \$19,249 to support our ROCKS programs. Encore ROCKS ensembles are non-auditioned rock & roll groups for adults over the age of 55. All concerts are free and open to the public. Consider donating to fund to help us run these programs in Maryland, Virginia and DC.



Follow us on social media!



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## Thank You to Our Sponsors and Funders



The John A. Hartford Foundation



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