

# 'Broadway Meets Vivaldi' offers unique blend to draw new audience

An unusual blend of classical music and popular Broadway show tunes will come together this weekend as the Garvin County Choral Society and Sinfonietta presents "Broadway Meets Vivaldi" at the Pauls Valley High School auditorium Sunday at 4 p.m.

The concert will include Antonio Vivaldi's "Gloria," as well as selections from the Broadway musicals "Wicked," "Beauty and the Beast" and "The Sound of Music."

Steve Freeman, choir member and general manager for the GCCSS, said the unique combination of musical genres is designed to entice area residents to attend a concert of music they may be more familiar with, and perhaps expose them to something new in the process.

"It's due in part to our desire for more people to come to their first GCCSS concert," Freeman said. "Many people have no knowledge or understanding of classical music, which is normal. But we want them

to try it at least once, and we figured adding some very popular musical hits from 'Beauty and the Beast' and 'The Sound of Music' would attract new folks to the audience."

Now in its second year, the GCCSS has produced several local concerts and musical performances featuring professional and student soloists and musicians backed

by a choir of singers from throughout Garvin County.

Many of those local choir members say they have reaped rich, new experiences through the performances, just as they hope audiences have.

"I have thoroughly enjoyed every minute. During my first dress rehearsal I was so mesmerized by the orchestra that I completely missed my

cue to sing," choir member Jeanne Balcerak said. "They are fantastic! I have enjoyed working with the talented choral singers and the musicians that accompany us during practice."

Others, like choir member Michelle Williams, never imagined themselves singing classical music pieces in Latin before joining the non-

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Vicki Rennie rehearsing a piece from "The Sound of Music" with members of the children's choir in preparation for Sunday's "Broadway Meets Vivaldi" concert presented by the Garvin County Choral Society and Sinfonietta.

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## Concert

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profit choral society.

"I never thought I'd be able to sing in a choir and definitely not a classical community choir," Williams said. "This has been the absolute best experience and I have gained so much more confidence and so many friends."

Choir member RexAnn Lawson Freeman Patton said the experience has not only stretched her boundaries it has allowed her to connect with a younger generation.

"Being vintage, learning the choral part of Vivaldi's 'Gloria' has been a tremendous stimulus for my brain," Patton said. "Singing selections from 'The Sound of Music' is reminiscent of 40 years of teaching elementary/early childhood children, and learning songs from 'Beauty and the Beast' enables me to sing with my 7-year-old granddaughter some of her favorite songs."

Tickets for Sunday's concert are \$20 in advance and can be purchased online at [garvincountysings.com](http://garvincountysings.com) or at the Pauls Valley Chamber of Commerce, 120 E. Paul Ave. Tickets are also available at the door for \$25 each. Children 19 and younger are admitted free. The Pauls Valley High School auditorium is at 601 North Street.