

Susquehanna Valley Chorale announces concert season schedule

NCPA Staff
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Susquehanna Valley Chorale's new Conductor and Music Director, Caleb Hopkins

Susquehanna Valley Chorale

Lewisburg, Pa. — The Susquehanna Valley Chorale (SVC) is pleased to announce its 2026-27 concert season and the start of a new chapter with Conductor and Music Director Caleb Hopkins.

Hopkins was selected for the role following the retirement of beloved Conductor Bill Payn in the spring.

New adult singers are encouraged to audition on Sept. 8 and 15 by appointment. Additional information can be found below.

To kick off the season, the SVC will present “Spooky Spectacular” on Sunday, Oct. 25 at 3 p.m. at Zion Lutheran Church in Sunbury. The presentation will feature spooky works from Bach to Mendelssohn and Mozart. Despite the scary theme, this performance is family-friendly and would be a great time to introduce the SVC to children and grandchildren!

On Dec. 13 at 3 p.m. at Zion Lutheran Church in Sunbury, the SVC will present “A Carol Celebration,” revisiting some pieces in the Christmas library that will combine British elegance with Spanish flair. From Ceremony of Carols to Carols and Lullabies, there will be something for everyone.

Then, on March 7 at 3 p.m. at Rooke Chapel at Bucknell University, the SVC will bring Rachmaninoff’s “All Night Vigil” to life, considered by many to be the best piece of a cappella music ever written. This work will transport you to a state of meditative serenity and spiritual reflection.

Finally, to end the season, the SVC will present “Don’t Worry, ‘B’ Happy!” in early May (dates, times, and locations will be confirmed at a later date). Linked by the same letter of the alphabet, the finale will

feature some favorite Top 40 songs presented in a fresh and elevated way. Expect to hear Bob Marley, Bobby McFerrin, The Beatles, Beyonce, and the Bee Gees like never before!



A family photo with Caleb Hopkins
Susquehanna Valley Chorale

Meet Caleb Hopkins

After 30 years of devotion to SVC, Bill Payn has passed the baton to Caleb Hopkins, marking the start of a new chapter in the Chorale's story.

Caleb brings a deep background in both music education and performance. He is currently an assistant professor of music and director of choral activities at Bucknell University, where he conducts the University Choir and teaches conducting, voice, vocal pedagogy, theory, and more.

He also serves as music director at Rooke Chapel and has performed as a soloist in works including Pärt's "Passio," Brahms' "Ein deutsches Requiem," Bach's "St. John Passion," and Mendelssohn's "Elijah."

Tickets

A season subscription costs \$85 and consists of four "freestyle" tickets that can be used at any SVC concert in any combination. Adult tickets are \$25 and student tickets are \$10. Youth under the age of 12 always receive free admission. Tickets are available on SVC's website, SVCmusic.org or by calling 570-547-0455.

Adult singers (ages 16+) auditions

New singers ages 16 and up are welcomed into the Chorale twice every season through auditions with Conductor Caleb Hopkins. Singers auditioning should be prepared to sing a selection of their choice, do some simple vocalization, and undergo a friendly assessment of their knowledge of a musical score.

The next round of auditions will be Tuesday, Sept. 8 and Tuesday, Sept. 15, by appointment only; rehearsal to follow at 7 p.m. Those who are considering auditioning but are still undecided are welcome to attend an open rehearsal on Sept. 8, and audition the following week. Music will be provided for anyone observing the rehearsal.

The chosen piece should demonstrate the performer's range and vocal abilities. Please choose from simple arias by composers such as Handel, Mozart, etc. or art songs by Britten, Schubert, Fauré, Amy Beach, etc. or a sacred selection including spirituals arranged by Burleigh or similar. Musical theatre selections are also welcome, though a mix of belt and head voice in performance is preferred.

Annual membership dues are \$65.

To schedule an audition, or ask questions, please use the form on the SVC's website or call or email Adam Dietz at 570-847-3166, misterdietz@aol.com

Auditions and weekly rehearsals are held at First Baptist Church, 51 S. Third Street, Lewisburg, Pa.

For more information about SVC, visit SVCmusic.org.

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