

Anything's Possible



Allegro

COMMUNITY SCHOOL OF THE ARTS

SEPTEMBER 2017-2018

ANNUAL REPORT

A MESSAGE

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends,

2017-18 was a year full of accomplishments and challenges. As the executive director of the Allegro Community School of the Arts, it is my pleasure to present this annual report to our benefactors. Because of your support, more than 250 students of all ages received instruction and 38 performances were offered to the public.

Allegro wrapped up its summer camp series and began preparations for the new school year. Scheduling private classes, which includes piano, voice, percussion, guitar, band and orchestra instruments filled up quickly. Our theatre program, the Allegro Community Players, began plans for a second performance. Amazing volunteers helped promote the school's performances by distributing flyers and posters to businesses and the general public, man refreshment stations and collected event donations. This year we awarded \$19,323 in financial aid to students; we gifted 3 acoustic pianos and 15 guitars.

Moving forward, we will continued to explore and pursue innovative and effective ways to best service the communities we serve. Thank you for being an integral part of Allegro's work to provide art instruction and expand a sense of the art community to all.

Sam Yoder
Executive Director



Sam Yoder, Executive Director and Co-Founder

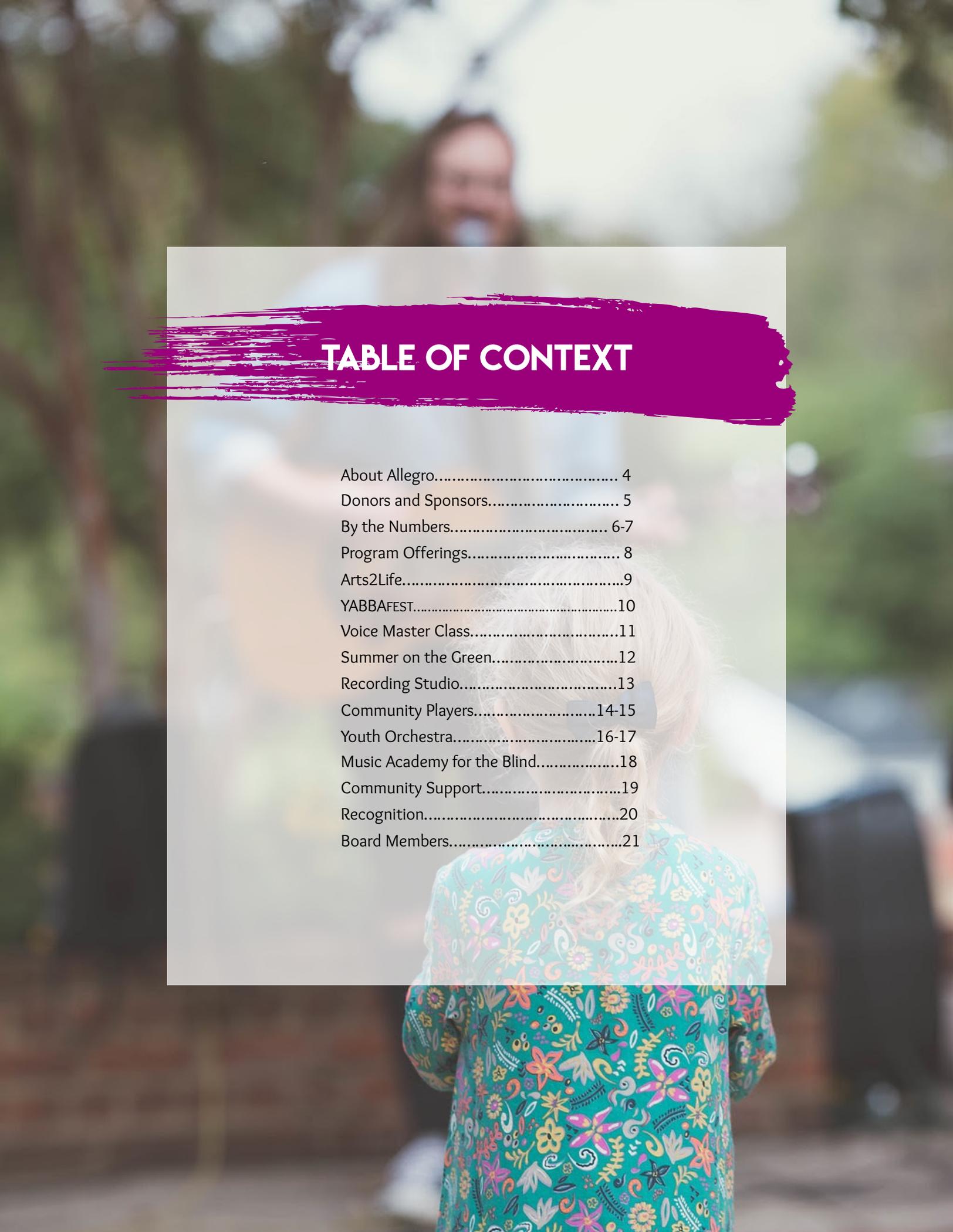


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ABOUT ALLEGRO

ABOUT US

Allegro is a non-profit arts school offering instruction in music, theatre, and the visual arts. To supplement the instruction we offer students a chance to perform equal to their skill level.

MISSION STATEMENT

VISION: A PLACE WHERE THE ARTS ARE A CORNERSTONE OF THE COMMUNITY AS WELL AS EVERY INDIVIDUAL LIFESTYLE.

MISSION: BRING THE ARTS TO LIFE!

- **Provide** the highest quality education and training in the arts for every student, regardless of circumstances.
- **Respond** to documented arts related community needs by creating unique services and educational opportunities.
- **Promote** “Music as Medicine” by providing Music Therapy, Creative Aging, and special programs for individuals with special learning requirements. GMU “Music and Wellness” program.
- **Share** the arts! Provide a variety of performance opportunities for all Allegro Students.
- **Increase** community appreciation of the arts by facilitating and collaborating with arts organizations and events, sponsoring and promoting the Fauquier Arts Council, and by sponsoring a variety of arts events for the benefit of the community.
- **Be** part of the entire community – not just the arts world. Actively participate with government, civic and private groups in promoting a growing, healthy, and vibrant community for everyone.

VALUES: "ALL WHO ENTER SHALL LEARN, LAUGH, AND BE LOVED".

- Allegro will be a safe and inviting place for everyone.
- Welcome Special Students into the Allegro family by designing programs to meet special needs: Academy for the Blind, Music Therapy, Severe Dyslexia, Learning Disorders, Creative Aging.

DONORS/SPONSORS

SPONSORS

PINK DIAMOND LEVEL

iSenpai.com

Town of Warrenton

PATH Foundation

HMN Photography* Official Photographer

LOEB Foundation

RUBY LEVEL

Allen Wayne**, Official Graphic Design & Printing

Virginia Commission of the Arts

Onsight Audio/Visual*

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EMERALD LEVEL

The Dermatology Practice of Lawrence Finkel, MD

Appleton Campbell

The Fauquier Bank

TURQUOISE LEVEL

Law Offices of Marie Washington

Puffenbarger Insurance

AMETHYST LEVEL

Blossman Gas

SOBO Mobile

AJAX Promotion

Warrenton Toyota

*in-kind donation

**partial in-kind donation



INDIVIDUAL SUPPORTERS

Debbie & Pete Eisele

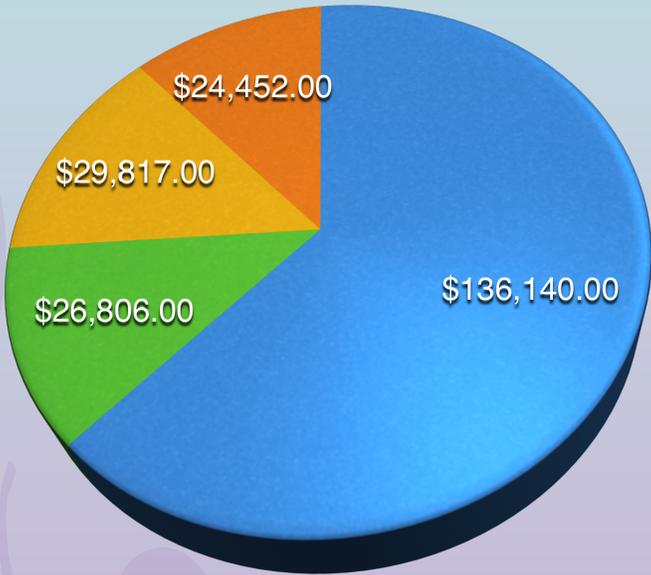
Linda Wright - JAFFRA

Linda Dick

BY THE NUMBERS

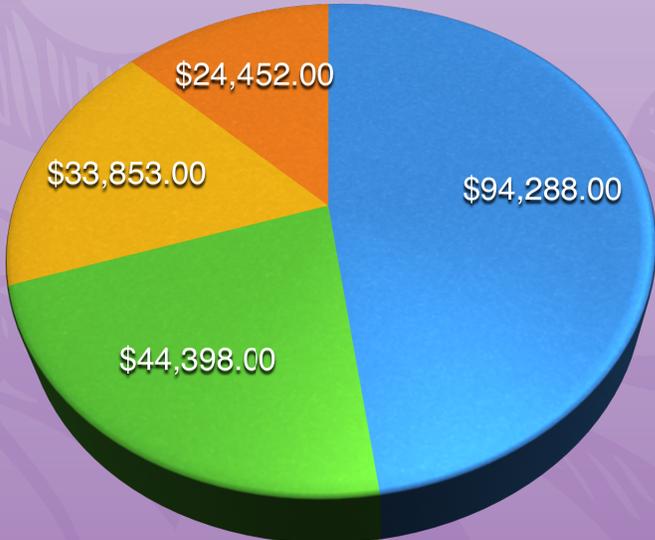
INCOME: \$217,214.00

● TUITION ● EVENTS ● FUND RAISING ● GRANTS



EXPENSES: \$199,698

● TEACHERS ● FACILITIES RENT ● OPERATING
● EQUIPMENT PURCHASES



BY THE NUMBERS

201
Volunteers

6,829
Volunteer
Hours

\$0.00
(ZERO)

Staff
Administration

1
Strawberry
Festival

2
Orchestra
Concerts

1
Teacher's
Concert

3
Studio
Recitals

1
4th of July
Parade

10
Theatre
Performances

38
Performances

1
Valor Award

7
Saturday Morning
Recitals

1
Christmas
Parade

1
Town Limits
Community
Event

3
Student
Concerts for the
Community

1
Make Music
Day

6
First
Fridays

13
Instructors

13
Programs
Offered

Instruments donated:
18
(pianos and guitars)

257
Students

\$19,323
in
Scholarships

PROGRAM OFFERINGS

PRIVATE INSTRUCTION

Piano - Voice - Percussion - Guitar - Band & Orchestra Instruments - Theatre - Visual Arts

MUSIC THERAPY

Encompasses social/emotional, cognitive and physical development on all levels.

ALLEGRO YOUTH ORCHESTRAS

ALLEGRO YOUNG PERFORMERS

Theatre - Dance - Music

ALLEGRO COMMUNITY PLAYERS

An audition theatre group for students and adults.

CHOIR AND VOCAL ENSEMBLES

Crescendo Choir - Forte Choir - IncrediBelles - Foundation of Music for Voice

CREATIVE AGING

Senior Adults actively participate in learning the arts.

VISUAL ARTS

Photography - Drawing - Portfolio Development

RECORDING ARTS

Study of Sound - Critical Listening Skills - Microphone Technique - Mixing Basics - Mastering Basics - Recording Computer Setup

ALLEGRO MUSIC ACADEMY FOR THE BLIND

With the addition of the braille equipment and various software we will be able to expand our program to reach additional visually impaired and blind adults and children.

ALLEGRO CERTIFIED PERFORMERS

Teaching musicians how to perform.

SUMMER CAMPS

COLLEGE PREP

A woman in a white dress is dancing with a young boy in a pink shirt and blue bow tie. They are in a formal setting with other people in the background.

ARTS2LIFE

a publication of Allegro Community School of the Arts

In later Winter, Allegro began planning for a signature electronic publication: **Arts2Life Magazine**. The publication highlights and promotes the myriad programs and community events the organization manages. The inaugural issue was released in April. Current readership is 1,200.

“JP - Want to dance?”
Using music as a
motivator

Creative Aging

Allegro students participate in Miss Ability Pageant

Summer Camp Guide

YABBAFEST

Young Adult Books, Bands and Author Festival



YABBAFest was scheduled in October and coincided with the Book Cellar's bookstore event on Main Street. The community continued to express their interest in a book store in Old Town and ACSA was pleased to offer something in this way. The event was sponsored by Lechner Ford in Marshall

YABBAFest showcased 30 local authors, book signings, publishing, audio books, recordings, creation of fictitious worlds, science fiction and illustrations by My Little Pony creator, Bonnie Zacherle, and panels. The main event was Pete the Cat, Eric Litwin, author and creator of the original Pete The Cat series, who entertained a sold-out crowd at Taylor Middle School. During the event, nearly 400 local children filled the aisles dancing along with Pete.

VOICE MASTER CLASS



In 2017, Allegro offered a new opportunity for its voice students, a Vocal Performance Master Class held on a Saturday morning. Students were divided into small groups of 2-3. They performed in 5 stations led by coaches who were both from Allegro and some who had been invited due to the skills they held.

They focused on getting a piece performance ready. This included feed back on interpretation of lyrics, stage performance, working with a microphone, engaging with the audience and working with an accompanist. The participants presented a community recital to family and friends 3 weeks later. This event was under the direction of Randi Puckett, Allegro's Vocal Chair. Ten Allegro voice students participated in the class.



SUMMER ON THE GREEN

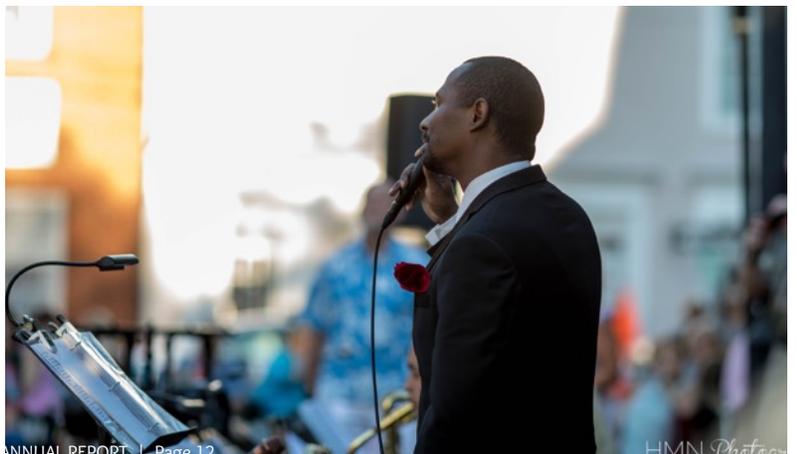
In April, Allegro was approached by then Warrenton Town Manager, Brannon Godfrey, and asked to takeover the Bluemont Summer Concert Series. Having provided weekly entertainment for four decades, the Bluemonts organization was dissolving. Rather than see the community musical event end, Sam and Lachelle quickly stepped to the plate and took over the seven-concert series, rebranding it the Allegro Summer on the Green Concert series. Beginning July 7, they coordinated seven concerts despite weather conditions and other unforeseen circumstances including a gas leak and power outage for the community. Bluemont volunteers partnered with Allegro's volunteer crew to help execute events.



HMN Photography + Films

“As a child, my parents always took me to the concerts. It was a joyous occasion to be on the courthouse lawn with the street blocked off. It was fun to be outside with family and friends with a picnic setting. I always get excited when I get the calendar for the Summer, so I can make sure I book my schedule around the concerts i want to attend.”

— Marie Washington



ALLEGRO

RECORDING STUDIO



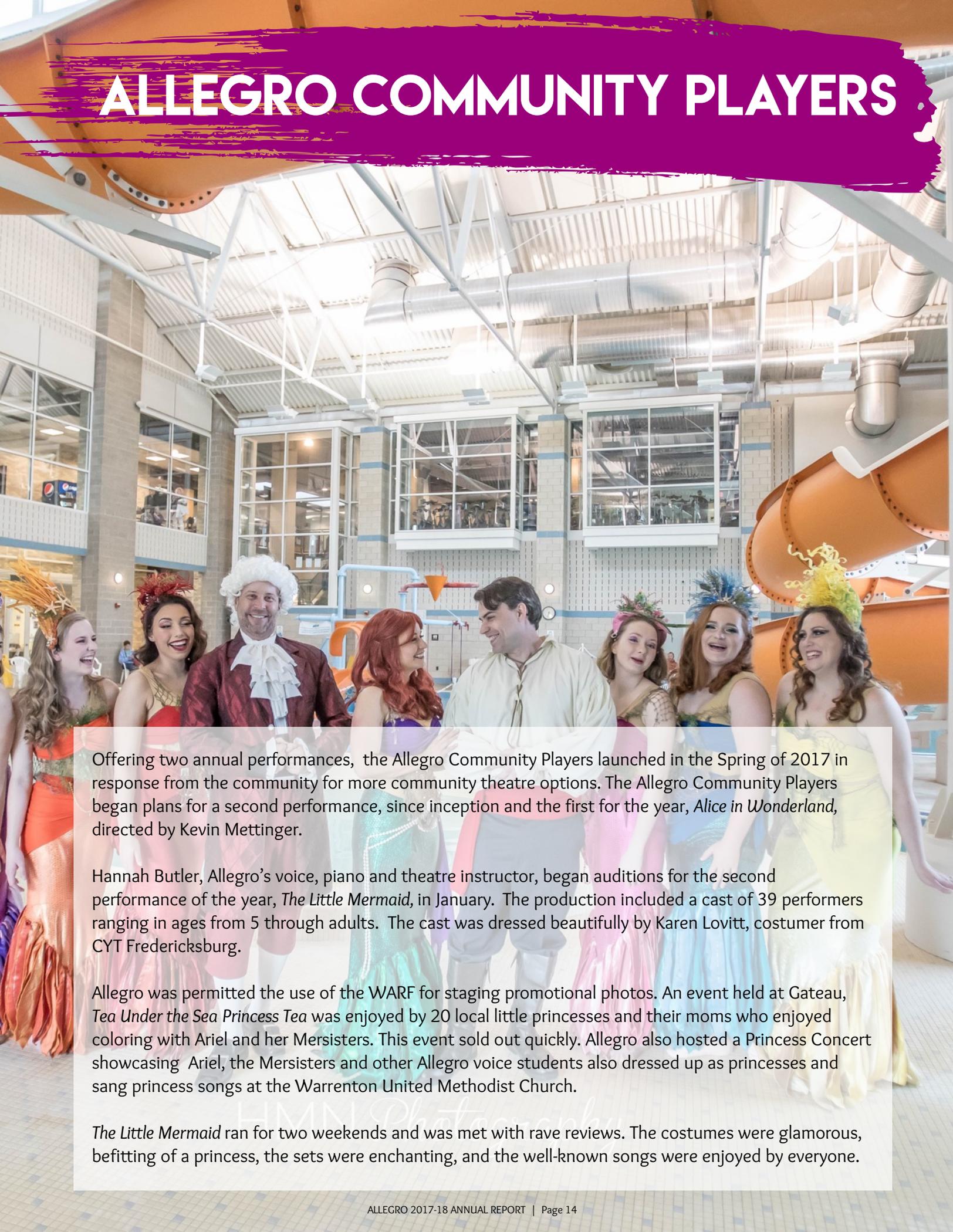
Country House Studios was formed 1995 in Prince William County. Housed in an 1832 Vintage Farm House located in farming country near Nokesville, the studio initially focused primarily on commercial music recording projects, often in conjunction with other studios in Nashville. Later, a “Voice Over” suite was added, and the studio, acting as a subcontractor for several Amazon publishing houses, recorded approximately 135 book titles all of which were given world wide debuts by Amazon. The studio was fortunate to have built a client list sufficient to operate as an independent, “word of mouth” studio.

Because of the affiliation with world class studios, CHS was equipped with world class equipment, including Neuman, AT, Blue, Shure and other mics as well as both digital and analog gear.

In 2017, the studio was moved to The Allegro Community School of the Arts, where it continued the work began in 1995. At the new location, the studio has recorded a commercial book narration as a subcontractor for Hachette Book Group, located in New York City. The book ranked #1 or 2 on several of Amazon’s best seller lists. In addition, there are several original music projects currently on-going, and several on-site recording projects have been completed, with more scheduled.

Recording arts has been added to the list of subjects offered by Allegro, and, in addition to the commercial recording services, the studio is available for Allegro students to hear alarmingly accurate feedback regarding the quality of their performances. The alarming part happens because very few people actually know what they sound like to other people! This allows users to finely-tune their vocals, instruments, and even voice when in the studio.

ALLEGRO COMMUNITY PLAYERS



Offering two annual performances, the Allegro Community Players launched in the Spring of 2017 in response from the community for more community theatre options. The Allegro Community Players began plans for a second performance, since inception and the first for the year, *Alice in Wonderland*, directed by Kevin Mettinger.

Hannah Butler, Allegro's voice, piano and theatre instructor, began auditions for the second performance of the year, *The Little Mermaid*, in January. The production included a cast of 39 performers ranging in ages from 5 through adults. The cast was dressed beautifully by Karen Lovitt, costumer from CYT Fredericksburg.

Allegro was permitted the use of the WARF for staging promotional photos. An event held at Gateau, *Tea Under the Sea Princess Tea* was enjoyed by 20 local little princesses and their moms who enjoyed coloring with Ariel and her Mersisters. This event sold out quickly. Allegro also hosted a Princess Concert showcasing Ariel, the Mersisters and other Allegro voice students also dressed up as princesses and sang princess songs at the Warrenton United Methodist Church.

The Little Mermaid ran for two weekends and was met with rave reviews. The costumes were glamorous, befitting of a princess, the sets were enchanting, and the well-known songs were enjoyed by everyone.



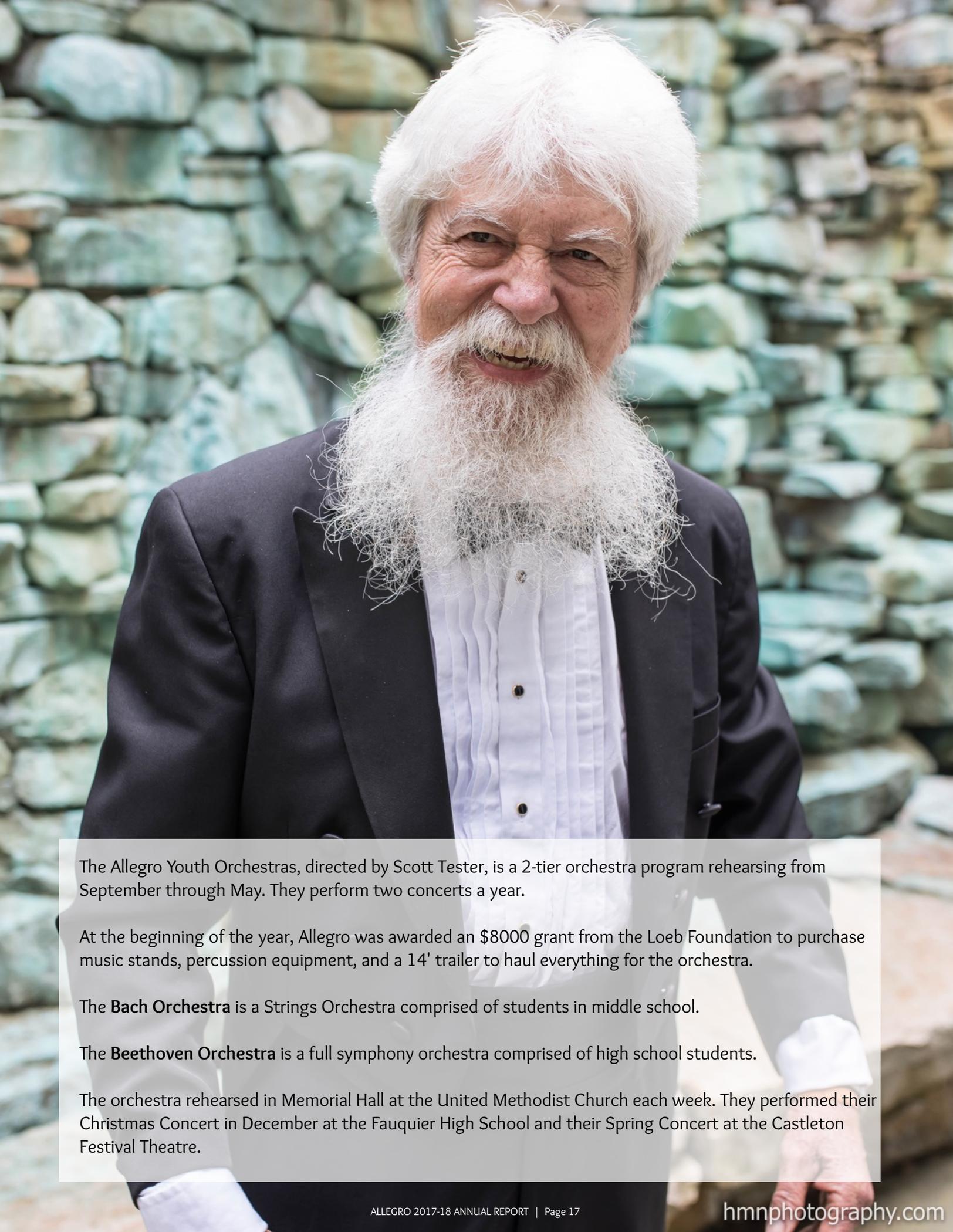
ALLEGRO YOUTH ORCHESTRA



hmnphotography.com



hmnphotography.com



The Allegro Youth Orchestras, directed by Scott Tester, is a 2-tier orchestra program rehearsing from September through May. They perform two concerts a year.

At the beginning of the year, Allegro was awarded an \$8000 grant from the Loeb Foundation to purchase music stands, percussion equipment, and a 14' trailer to haul everything for the orchestra.

The **Bach Orchestra** is a Strings Orchestra comprised of students in middle school.

The **Beethoven Orchestra** is a full symphony orchestra comprised of high school students.

The orchestra rehearsed in Memorial Hall at the United Methodist Church each week. They performed their Christmas Concert in December at the Fauquier High School and their Spring Concert at the Castleton Festival Theatre.

ALLEGRO

MUSIC ACADEMY FOR THE BLIND



At the end of this fiscal year, Allegro was excited to announce the release of a Rice Krispie advertisement featuring Allegro student Eme Mitchell. Eme was chosen from a nation-wide search of their members by the National Federation of the Blind. Because of Eme, Allegro saw the need to offer instruction to the blind and visually impaired students in braille music, launching the Allegro Music Academy for the Blind. The Rice Krispie advertisement, filmed in and around Allegro showcasing Old Town Warrenton, featured Eme and promoted their campaign to include braille stickers with their Rice Krispie Treat product. The company made a \$1000 donation to Allegro in the Fall of this year.



COMMUNITY SUPPORT

The Allegro mission statement emphasizes giving back to the community, which it did throughout the year in the following ways:

- September 2017: Bark Blvd at First Friday; Allegro co-sponsored Bark Blvd on the side of their building to promote pets during the September Dog Days of Summer.
- December 1: The IncrediBelles performed during the Christmas Parade; Allegro ran sound for the parade announcements at the Court House.
- December Weekends: Gum Drop Square; Allegro provided sound for local entertainment, Fridays-Sundays.
- Dec 31: First Night Warrenton. Allegro offered the Allegro Cellar Door space as a venue for the event. Performing throughout the evening from Allegro were instructors Bob Swift (piano), Scott and Kathy Tester (violin and flute), and student and Allegro Board Member Scott Cookin.
- April 26: The IncrediBelles performed the National Anthem for the Fauquier Chamber Valor Awards.
- April: Lachelle Yoder, Program Director, was invited to present The Arts in Fauquier County to the Leadership Fauquier Class.
- May 19: Warrenton Spring Festival; Allegro served as the Entertainment Sponsor, helping to secure performers for the event, providing and running sound.
- May 26: Strawberry Festival; IncrediBelles sang the National anthem.
- EOTW (Experience Old Town Warrenton) First Fridays: Provided local performers a stage from which to perform.
- June 29: Warrenton Parks and Recreation Warrenton Town Limits; coordinated Family Stage entertainment.
- July 4: July 4th Parade coordinated by the Civilians Club; Provided and ran Sounds; IncrediBelles sang with Fauquier Community Band.
- As Allegro Program Director, Lachelle Yoder, was a member of the Experience Old Town Warrenton board of directors, one of her duties was Gum Drop Square which she, with other volunteers from Town set up, managed, and successfully ran.



RECOGNITION

At the December 12, 2017 Town Council Meeting, the Council members honored Allegro with a resolution for their contribution to the Town of Warrenton.

RESOLUTION BY THE TOWN OF WARRENTON

A Resolution Recognizing Sam and Lachelle Yoder and the Allegro Community School for the Arts for their Contributions to the Town

WHEREAS, Allegro was founded in 2007 with the original name of Briar Patch Kids, with a focus on early childhood education, they moved to their Old Town Warrenton location in 2014 growing to offer music instruction, glee club, youth orchestra and chamber ensemble, and

WHEREAS, Co-founders Sam and Lachelle Yoder have become an integral part of the community and can be seen at numerous events such as Farm Fresh Days at the Warrenton Farmers Market, Warrenton Christmas Parade, First Friday's, and Warrenton Town Limits just to name a few, and

WHEREAS, Lachelle and Sam were instrumental in the formation of an Arts Council, uniting local arts organizations in their quest to improve the quality of life in our community, and

WHEREAS, the arts provide innumerable benefits to individuals, relieving stress, enhancing cognitive abilities, and providing a creative outlet for citizens, Sam and Lachelle have played an important role in making Warrenton a better place to live, and

WHEREAS, Sam and Lachelle both work tirelessly and selfishly to bring the arts to our community and in 2016 they brought the world wide celebration of Make Music Day to Eva Walker Park drawing several hundred attendees and exposing youth and adults, and

WHEREAS, music ignites all areas of childhood development, Allegro donated a piano that became the very first Piano in the Park which encouraged kids of all ages to explore their musical talent, inner performer and explore a local park, and

WHEREAS, the continual amount of innovative and creative ideas that Sam and Lachelle continue to implement exposes youth to arts at a young age, their Broadway Camp was an out of the box way to teach youth about the ABCs of theatre while having fun, and

WHEREAS, Allegro has dozens of activities throughout the year and their programs reach thousands of Town and County residents and through entertainment, education and community partnerships, they develop the whole artist, and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Town Council of the Town of Warrenton, recognize and deeply appreciates the contributions of Sam and Lachelle Yoder and the Allegro Community School of the Arts to the Town, the overall education and enrichment of its citizens and bring the arts to life.



RESOLVED this 12th day of December 2017


Powell L. Duggan, Mayor

BOARD MEMBERS

ALLEGRO BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Sam Yoder - Co-Founder & Executive Director

Jennifer Puffenbarger - President

Debbie Eisele - Past President

Aimee O'Grady - Communications Officer

Lachelle Yoder - Co-Founder & Programs Director

Lynda Bruni

Robert Pace

James Cornwell

Larry Finkel

Scott Gookin

Danica Low

Tabatha Mitchell

Nick Spyros

ALLEGRO ADVISORY BOARD

Rick Davis

Bill Reeder

Heather Stinson

The Honorable Jill Vogel



HMN Photograph



BRINGING THE ARTS TO LIFE

20 Main Street | Warrenton, Virginia 20186

540-349-5088

www.allegrocsa.org