



# Then and Now

## Age-Old Practice of Singing, Good for Your Health – and Fun!

Choral singing has been done for centuries with documentation to the benefits of singing and music therapy. Singing boosts physical and mental health by promoting aerobic activity and releasing natural stress relievers in the body. Besides these benefits, it's fun.

Now is a good time to discover the Stillwater Community Singers, if you haven't already. Members come from all walks of life and share their love of music with the community. We're your neighbors, co-workers, and the familiar faces you see around town.

Since 1994 the Stillwater Community Singers have called the Stillwater Community Center home. Hundreds of singers have been a part of the choruses over the years. Some of those today have been part of the very first group or have been with the Singers for a decade or more.

Continuing with the founding principles of singing light popular music, and occasionally add gospel and sacred music to our repertoire, the group prefers the kind of songs the average person likes to hear and sing. The group is all volunteer, and does not require auditions. We are also a not-for-profit corporation with 501(c)(3) IRS status.

The Stillwater Community Singers were part of the initial wave of organizations that began regular meetings in the Community Center. The auditorium still looked like it did when it was a school, and the amenities for vocal groups and other musical performers needed attention.

Our initial success as a choral group quickly led to dreams of amenities to enhance our performances and to help attract other musical performers and events. The Singers set their sights on purchasing risers for performances. Audiences responded with donations and participation in silent auctions to raise the money.

The auditorium was being reshaped into a performance venue that would be attractive to performers and audiences. The auditorium was renamed the Winfrey Houston Theater and the Singers began their biggest project: raising money for a brand new grand piano.

Together, with faithful concert patrons, the City and Center administration working together, a brand new seven-foot Kawai grand piano was brought to the stage of the Houston Theater.

The Singers keep busy by offering three concerts each year and performing at a wide variety of celebrations and events in the area.

During the past 12 months, we've sung for the OSU Emeriti Association, the Sheerar Museum Christmas party, the National Day of Prayer, and will be offering our second concert of the year on August 17, at the Community Center. The concert is free of charge and refreshments will be served in the newly refurbished Dining and Event Hall.

The refurbished dining hall was Project #1 of the Friends of the Stillwater Community Center. Their mission is to keep the Center affordable, accessible and provide sustainability of the Center for Stillwater.

Be healthy. Come join us, and have fun singing!



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The Stillwater Community Center Foundation and the Friends of Stillwater Community Center strive to provide supplemental resources for the Stillwater Community Center to ensure its accessibility, affordability and sustainability for its use by residents and visitors of Stillwater and surrounding area. Visit [www.sccfriends.com](http://www.sccfriends.com) for more information.

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