



- Nursery Rhymes and Poetry -

NURSERY RHYMES

Hey, Diddle, Diddle Stephen Shewan
Little Miss Muffet Sally K. Albrecht
Jack and Jill Sally K. Albrecht
Old Mother Hubbard Victor Hely-Hutchinson
Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star Daniel Elder
Wynken, Blynken and Nod Blake Richter/Ryan Main
Mary Had a Little Blues Charles A. Collins
Old MacDonald Had a Farm Derric Johnson

INTERMISSION

POEMS

United In Purpose Poet: Maya Angelou (1928-2014)
Music: Rollo Dillworth (b.1970)

Well-known poet Maya Angelou encourages us to take responsibility to bring about positive change in our world. The lyrics of this song can be found in her book, *Rainbow in the Cloud: The Wisdom and Spirit of Maya Angelou*.

Echo Poet: Christina Rossetti (1830-1894)
Music: Tom Shelton (b. 1966)

Featuring: Madison Anderson-Wilson, Andrew Stadem

Composer Tom Shelton's goal in putting this poem to music is to evoke feelings of beauty, loss and remembrance at the beginning of the song. In the middle, he paints a picture of grief, reality and life spinning out of control as we deal with loss. At the end, we come back to calm symbolizing that as time passes, we come to terms with loss.

These Things Shall Never Die Poet: Charles Dickens (1812-1870)
Music: Mark Burrows (b.1971)

Though this song sings of loss, Dickens' message is that goodness and love endure despite the passage of time.

O Captain! My Captain! Poet: Walt Whitman (1819-1892)
Music: Jonathan Rippon (b.?)

Featuring: Jeff Tengwall, Heather Carver

Walt Whitman wrote this poem to represent America, as a ship, losing its captain, Abraham Lincoln, after the president's assassination. The poem is also featured in the movie, *Dead Poets Society*.

There Was a Time Poet: William Wordsworth (1770-1850)
Music: Elaine Hagenberg (b. 1979)

Another poem acknowledging heartaches of time gone by, Wordsworth's focus is on a dream world of beautiful memories and the strength in what remains behind.

Lift Every Voice and Sing Poet: James Weldon Johnson (1871-1938)
Music: J. Rosamond Johnson, Arrangement: Heather Sorenson (b.?)

Featuring: Donna Brau

Author and activist James Weldon Johnson wrote this poem as a cry for liberation and affirmation for African-American people.

** Past West Central Singers, please join us on stage for our last song. **

Why We Sing Greg Gilpin
The lyrics say it all, "Music is a language that can speak to one and all."

Thank You!!



West Central Singers would like to thank and acknowledge the following people, businesses, and organizations that are a positive voice in support of the arts in our community and the surrounding area, and that directly support us through significant donations that make our concerts possible.

If you would like to support these efforts, please mail your tax deductible contribution to: West Central Singers, c/o Donna Brau, 5183 – 109th Ave NE, Spicer, MN 56288

DUET LEVEL – Bravera Bank; Cheri Buzzeo; Fancy Coats Pet Grooming and Inn; Anne & Bill Fenske; First State Real Estate; Michael R. Gardner, D.D.S.; LaDonna Hallberg Sook; H Lester & Joann Halverson; Hanson & Fonkert Dental; Neal & Julene Haugen; Bryan & Traci Mara; Rick & Pat Nordin; Tim & Mary Pieh; Ron & Sherri Pool; Jean Rittenour; and David & Nola Zane

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WEST CENTRAL SINGERS

DIRECTOR – Naomi Powers Baker

Naomi began directing WCS the fall of 2018. She enjoys the excitement and passion of this group. After thirty-two years of teaching music, thirty in the New London-Spicer School District, Naomi is currently the Director of Music Ministry at Calvary Lutheran Church in Willmar, MN. Besides her love of music, Naomi enjoys having fun hanging out with family, friends and dogs.

SOPRANO I

Cathy Nielson, Willmar
Jean Rittenour, Glenwood
Nanette Serbus, Renville *
Kali Stiles, Morris
Sarah Thiede-Moulton, Morris
Eileen Twedt, Willmar
Jean Urban, New London

SOPRANO II

Jill Benson, Willmar
Elaine Boyd, Willmar
Cheri Buzzeo, Spicer
Joann Halverson, Willmar
Ramona Hjulberg, Corcoran
Kris Swanson, Willmar *
Diane Thompson, Pennock
Kellie Wright, Willmar

TENOR

Pete Baalson, New London
Jaron Bachmann, Willmar
David Frey, Willmar
Roger Kingstrom, Willmar
Andrew Stadem, Willmar

ACCOMPANIST - Kari Stadem, Willmar

ALTO I

Cynthia Koll Tengwall, Spicer
Sarah Larson, Willmar
Barb Lilleberg, Atwater
Peggy Lister, Corcoran
Lisa McBrian, Willmar
Bridget Neumann, Raymond
Kristen Pierce, Pennock *

ALTO II

Madison Anderson-Wilson, Willmar
Heather Carver, Spicer *
Kateri Gruber, Melrose *
Char Kingstrom, Willmar
Laura Molenaar, New London
Hailey Wolf, Willmar *

CONTRALTO

Donna Brau, Spicer *

BARITONE/BASS

John Benson, Willmar *
Jim Molenaar, New London
Pete Stadem, Willmar
Jeff Tengwall, Blomkest
Bill Wright, Willmar

* Denotes Board Member

Thank you for joining us today.

We extend a special thank you to Peace Lutheran Church, New London
and Calvary Lutheran Church, Willmar for your hospitality.

Get out your calendar! We have some exciting news and we want you to share in our celebration! In January 2026, West Central Singers will be 25 years old and we're going to make our Spring Concert 2026 extra special! We'll host our past directors, bring back some favorite songs and more!

Watch our website: westcentralsingers.com for more information.