

Glacier Symphony and Chorale Press Release
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**From cowgirl poetry set to music, to a multimedia slide show with vocal accompaniment,
Glacier Chorale's "The Last Best Place: Montana" concert promises great entertainment**

Glacier Chorale's conductor, Jim Stanard, is taking an unusual approach with the group's upcoming concert on November 14 and 15 in Whitefish and Kalispell. For his tribute to Montana as "The Last Best Place," he has chosen musical selections he feels reflect the beauty of our state and has asked photographer and writer, David Reese, to oversee a multimedia show projecting images and video footage to accompany the choral singing.

The concert repertoire will be divided into four musical themes: The Seasons, The Elements, The Landscapes and The People. Each theme will be illustrated by a range of vocal composers, from Grieg to Brahms to Copland and Bernstein. The visual accompaniment of exquisite Montana scenery will be timed to the musical score.

Stanard added a whimsical touch to The People section, offering cowgirl poems written by Big Timber author, Gwen Petersen that he set to music and include flute, guitar and piano accompaniment.

"I like to mix things up a bit and catch people's attention," Stanard says of the concert, "and I think this show will truly offer something exciting for everyone!"

The concerts are scheduled for 7:30 p.m. Saturday, November 14 at Whitefish First Baptist Church, 6232 Highway 93, and 3 p.m. Sunday, November 15, at Glacier High School Performance hall. Petersen will be featured in a pre-concert talk 45 minutes before each concert where she will recite some of her poems and talk about her life as a poet.

"Gwen is really a hoot, a genuine Western personality who makes her living these days writing and ranching in central Montana," Stanard says. "Her poems are so rhythmic and that made it a lot of fun to set them to music." An excerpt from "Tall in the Sidesaddle" by Gwen Petersen:

...but then she went West where the living was rough
To see what the real cowboys do.
To ride like a pretzel was painful and tough
And twisted her backbone in two.
She hiked up her skirts and straddled her bronc
with a "yipie ki-yipie ki-yo!"

She went searching the range for cattle astraddle,
for cattle astraddle her saddle!

General admission tickets for both concerts are priced at \$20 adult, \$15 senior and \$10 youth. They are available online at www.gscmusic.org and by phone, 257-3241 and at the door. A limited number of rush tickets will be sold for \$10 each at Flathead Valley Community College, outside the library, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Friday, November 13.