




We promise to keep singing each other strong — until our voices carry farther than fear, farther than silence, and into the kind of world we are still brave enough to believe in.



sherri lasko

notes from sherri

As we head into these final weeks of the semester, I want to take a moment to thank each and every one of you for the incredible work you've been putting into our music. Thank you for showing up, week after week, with commitment, patience, humor, and heart — even through my many stops, starts, and "let's do that again" moments while we work to get things just so. The growth I'm hearing in this chorus is real. Every rehearsal, every repeated phrase, every careful crescendo and breath is shaping these songs into something deeply expressive and truly ours.

I also want to recognize all of the work happening behind the scenes. A chorus like Bread & Roses doesn't thrive on music alone — it thrives because people give their time, energy, creativity, and care far beyond rehearsal night. To our committees, our Board, and everyone quietly helping with planning, organizing, outreach, logistics, publicity, and all the unseen details: thank you. Your work creates the foundation that allows this chorus to grow into something meaningful and lasting for our community.

While we didn't receive the 100+ Women grant, our vision remains every bit as bold. We are still moving forward — continuing to grow musically, to learn together, and to become an even stronger source of healing, messaging, connection, and belonging in our community. What we are building matters. In a world that can feel increasingly divided and weary, creating spaces where people feel seen, heard, uplifted, and united through music is powerful work. And every single one of you is part of making that happen. The meme to the left was the closing statement of my presentation speech.

Sunday - May 17

Small Ensemble Quintet for "Lift Me Up" at 5

Small Ensemble for "Fight Song" & "Womankind" at 5:30

Regular rehearsal at 5:45pm

For our next two rehearsals, we'll be going through each song in concert order. See our Member page for the order.

The exceptions: We'll do the pieces with other musicians first.

birthday
LOVE to

Janae Alman - May 14
Lori Lawson - May 21

DeKalb Festival Chorus
Paul Marchese, Director

We Who Are Free
World Premiere! Greg Berg's new work celebrating America's 250th—alongside other music with themes of unity, resilience, and the American spirit



Saturday, May 16, 2026
7:00 p.m.
First Lutheran Church
324 N. 3rd St., DeKalb
No tickets; free-will donation



Let's support our singers (Jan and Lynn) who are also members of the Festival Chorus!

What Does Bread & Roses Mean to You?

Please fill our your survey if you haven't already.

