

## THE MUSETTES' STORY

The Musettes was founded by the Nampa Musicale, which is an affiliate of The National Federation of Music Clubs, Inc. This women's choral group had its beginning Dec. 19, 1960, with Mrs. E.R. (Judy) Carlsson, director, and Helen Tiegs, accompanist. Margaret Goering suggested the group be known as The Musettes -- an "off hand" way of feminizing The Muses.

In 1964, Margaret Goering became the Director. At her suggestion, the Scholarship Program was started in 1965. We now award four vocal scholarships each year. Two awards go to members of The Musettes, and two awards go to area students, 14-18 years of age.

The Musettes was started in 1960 by ladies who needed an opportunity for musical expression. When Margaret became Director, she required that all music be memorized, and has maintained a high level of expectation from the group. Being a member of The Musettes has inspired and lifted each woman to greater musical and personal confidence than she thought possible. The Musettes continue to develop and maintain high standards of music by aiding and encouraging musical education, and by giving listening pleasure through the performance of music. We continue to be a non-profit organization -- our monies going for scholarships and for the purchase of new music.

Margaret states: "Singing and performing well, has been and ever will be, our main objective; however, I have received more than I anticipated. Seeing women develop -- not only musically -- but as whole persons, has been my reward. There is opportunity to develop skills in parliamentary procedure, costuming, drama interpretations, staging, promotional and organizational activities. The Scholarship Program has been one of my fondest dreams come true."

## HISTORY OF THE MUSETTES

The Musettes began December 19, 1960 when it was suggested at a Musicale Meeting that a choral group be formed. The first chorus was directed by Mrs. E. R. Carlson with Helen Tiegs as Accompanist. (Rehearsals were held at the home of Gerry Winter, with all the members children in attendance. It became necessary to collect dues to be used to pay a baby sitter so practice sessions could become more productive.)

In April of 1961 the group obtained its name - a suggestion from Margaret Goering.

In 1964, when Mrs. Carlson moved away, Margaret Goering became the director. At Margaret's suggestion the Scholarship program was started in 1965. The first Scholarship winner received \$50.00. We now award four vocal scholarships. Two awards of \$200.00 and \$100.00 go to members in our group and two awards of \$100.00 and \$50.00 go to Junior or Senior High School students from our area.

When the chorus was first started members were required to join both Musettes and the Musicale. In September of 1966 the Musettes decided to become Associate members of the Nampa Musicale and the Federated Music Clubs of America. Our goals and aims are the same as our parent organization.

At the present time the Musettes continue to fulfill their purpose, as stated in our By-Laws, to maintain high standards of music and to give listening pleasure through the performance of good music.

(History taken from the minutes of Nampa Musicale Meetings with additional information provided by Gerry Winter.)jtc



The Musettes was started in the fall of 1960, as an avenue for musical expression for and by ladies who needed just such an opportunity. Our name was an offhand way of feminizing The Muses. Though I was a charter member, my opportunity to "turn" director did not come until 1964. Since that time I have seen The Musettes continue to develop from a group of aspiring singers to a very professional and capable group of musicians. Singing and performing well has been, and ever will be, our main objective; however, I have received more than I anticipated. Seeing women develop - not only musically - but as whole persons has been my reward. There is opportunity to develop skills in parliamentary procedures, costuming, drama interpretations, staging, promotional and organizational activities. The Scholarship program has been one of my fondest dreams come true. To date, we give \$450.00 annually in scholarships. Get ready to audition!

To you, my sisters and friends - this is a new year - several new members - and a NEW AUDIENCE! May this year be the best ever! - and more important, a valuable experience of joy and accomplishment for each of us.

*Margaret*

## History of the MUsETTEs

The Musettes was founded by the Nampa Musicale, which is an affiliate of the National Federation of Music Clubs, Inc. This women's choral group had its beginning December 19, 1960, with Mrs. E. R. (Judy) Carlsson as Director and Helen Tieg as Accompanist. Margaret Goering suggested that the group be known as The Musettes.

In 1964, Margaret Goering became the Director. At her suggestion, the Scholarship Program was started in 1965. We now award four vocal scholarships each year. Two awards go to the members of the Musettes and two to area students, 14-18 years of age.

Ladies who needed an opportunity for musical expression organized the Musettes. When Margaret became Director, she required that all music be memorized and she maintained a high level of expectation from the group. In 1997 Margaret shared the Directorship with Sandra Ashcraft and in 1998 Sandra became the Director. She continues the traditions of excellence.

Being a member of The Musettes has inspired and lifted many members to greater musical and personal confidence. The Musettes continue to develop and maintain high standards of music by aiding and encouraging musical education and by giving listening pleasure through the performance of music. We continue to be a non-profit organization – our monies go for scholarships and for the purchase of new music. Singing and performing well has been, and ever will be our main objective. The women of the group develop not only musically but in many other performance skills. There is opportunity to develop in parliamentary procedure, costuming, drama, staging, promotions, and organizational activities.

# The Musettes – Through the Years

## 1960-2013

### History of the Musettes

The Musettes' women's choral group was founded on December 19, 1960 as an affiliate of the National Federation of Music Clubs. Lucille Wilson, founder of the local club, Monday Musicale (now Nampa Musicale), saw the need for a women's chorus in Nampa. It was through her leadership that the chorus was organized.

Mrs. E.R. (Judy) Carlsson was the first Director and Helen Tiegs was the accompanist. The first rehearsals were held at the home of Geraldine Winter, a charter member, but as most of the women had young children it was soon evident that there needed to be a rehearsal place with child care. It became necessary to collect dues to be used to pay a baby sitter so practice sessions could become more productive. The practices were moved to the Presbyterian Church and later practices were held at the Church of the Brethren. Practices are now held every Thursday morning from 9:20-11:30 at the First Baptist Church in Nampa.

In April of 1961 the group obtained its name when Margaret Goering, also a charter member, suggested the group be known as The Musettes – an 'offhand' way of feminizing The Muses.

In 1964, when Mrs. Carlson moved to California, Margaret became the director. At Margaret's suggestion, the Scholarship program was instituted in 1965 for members of the group. The first Scholarship winner received \$50. In 1970 a scholarship for a student at Northwest Nazarene College was added to the program. Monies for the scholarship have come through generous donations from the community. The amount of the scholarship has been increased through the years. At this time, 2012, two scholarships are awarded to Musette members in the amount of \$300 for 1<sup>st</sup> Place and \$200 for 2<sup>nd</sup> Place. We now award 3 student scholarships to youth between the ages of 14-18 in the amounts of \$240 for 1<sup>st</sup> place, \$160 for 2<sup>nd</sup> place and \$80 for 3<sup>rd</sup> place. All scholarship monies are to be used for voice lessons from a teacher of their choice. In 2003 the scholarship program was renamed the 'Margaret Goering Vocal Scholarship' in memory of Margaret who passed away the previous December after 42 years of performing with and directing the Musettes. As of 2012, Musettes have awarded 94 scholarships to Musette members and to at least 64 students.

When the chorus was first started members were required to join both Musettes and the Musicale. In September of 1966 the Musettes decided to become Associate members of the Nampa Musicale and the Federated Music Clubs of America.

Through the years a free Christmas concert has been performed as a gift to the community. These were traditionally held in a local church, usually the Church of the Brethren until the audience increased in size and had to be held in a larger facility. A freewill offering has been donated by the audience to help fund the Scholarship Program. These concerts have been a wonderful start to the season, bringing the Christmas spirit to all who attend.

When Margaret became director she required that all music be memorized and established a tradition of two concerts a year, one at Christmas and another in the spring. The spring concerts were held in the N.N.C. Science Lecture Auditorium until 1986. In 1990 the Musettes were the first to perform in the new Nampa Civic Center Brandt Auditorium and most of the spring concerts are held there.

Sandra Ashcraft became the assistant director in 1997 and in 1998 became the full time director as Margaret's health began to fail. Sandra continued to lead the group until 2008. She was a wonderful director with love and compassion for all around her. Lydia Brady then became the director and is still directing the Musettes at the present time. Lydia has directed many choirs and orchestras and is very talented in her directing and also as a pianist.

Through the years the Musettes have given community service by performing at many nursing homes, care centers, civic clubs activities, church luncheons, Memorial Day Programs, Music Club Federation Conventions, the Nampa City Centennial Celebration, and various other occasions even at a BSU basketball game, singing the National Anthem.

The Musettes continue to be a non-profit organization with all monies going to scholarships and the purchase of new music. Being a member of the Musettes has inspired and uplifted many members to greater musical and personal confidence. They continue to develop and maintain high standards of music by aiding and encouraging musical education and by giving listening pleasure through their performances in concerts and community performances. Singing and performing well has been and ever will be their main objective. The women of the group develop not only musically but in other performance skills. There is opportunity to develop in parliamentary procedure, costuming, drama, choreography, staging, promotions, and organizational activities. They have become like family and give service to each other, giving encouragement and hugs to uplift one another. They have a brunch the following week after concert and celebrate all the hard work they have put into the concert.

As to date, there have been over 320 women who have joined Musettes, some for just one concert but many have stayed for years. Geraldine (Gerry Winters) has been with us since the beginning.

THANKS to the men in our lives: First and foremost, our spouses deserve great thanks for their support. Thanks to Bob Richardson for the many years he devoted to the Musettes helping with staging, 1995 – 2007. Also, Mark Doramus has been our sound technical guy for many years, 1996 – to present. He has also joined us in singing and dancing on several occasions. LaVar Rivers was the lighting tech for many years, and his wife Lois made us beautiful with her make-up skills. Kurt Sackett is now our lighting tech. In recent years, Gregg Irwin has been a big plus for the Musettes along with Jonathan Perry and Bob Brady in narrating, singing, dancing, and acting. Andy Maddox has given much service to the Musettes in the last few years. He co-directed the Musettes with Lydia Brady for a couple of years and has helped out tremendously with voice lessons and recordings of the songs for practice.