

## CHAPTER HISTORY OF AGATE PASS THRESHOLD CHOIR

2025

### History

The Agate Pass Threshold Choir began on Bainbridge Island, Washington, on June 1, 2015. The choir has been singing in North Kitsap County ever since. Six of the founding members remain active in the ensemble.

### Location

The choir is based a ferry ride west of Seattle. Its activities primarily serve communities across North Kitsap County.

### Membership

The group comprises 16 singers, 13 women and 3 men, with ages ranging from mid-40s to early 80s. Many members come from healing professions including massage therapy, psychology, nursing, shamanism, reiki, speech therapy, therapeutic music, and mediation. Members share deep respect for and experience with people at the end of life. New singers are welcomed when space allows and each new voice is valued.

### Rehearsals and Practice

The choir rehearses weekly for 90 minutes to focus on blending and presence. Members also practice in smaller pods before performances at facilities or private homes. During the COVID pandemic the choir sustained its work through Zoom rehearsals, outdoor practices, and flexible arrangements.

### Performances and Partnerships

The choir typically sings at three care facilities each month and at the bedside of people at the end of life when invited. They perform at memorials, graveside services, community events, rallies, and collaborative gatherings that create space for reflection. The choir averages 15 Sing Outs per month and partners with Island Volunteer Caregivers while maintaining connections with pastoral care leaders and end-of-life organizations. Members have performed in community theater productions and several members are songwriters.

### Organization and Committees

The choir operates collaboratively with a director who leads weekly rehearsals and three anchors who guide Sing Outs.

Active committees keep the group thriving:

- **Hospitality** – celebrates birthdays, anniversaries, and seasonal transitions.
- **Outreach** – builds and sustains community relationships.
- **Retreat** – holds an annual retreat with a vocal coach to reflect and plan.
- **Dive Deep** – reserves periodic rehearsals to explore the territory of death and dying and strengthen trust and presence.