

Chapter History of the Peninsula Threshold Choir

2025

Chapter Founding and Early Years

The Peninsula Threshold Choir was formed in 2001 as one of the original Bay Area chapters launched by Kate Munger. Kate traveled across the Bay Area leading rehearsals, teaching new songs, welcoming new members, and logging many miles in her Prius. The chapter met on the second and fourth Wednesdays of the month, times chosen to fit Kate's schedule since she led the Santa Cruz Threshold Singers the next day. Kate taught many songs she had written, often providing written music but preferring to teach by ear so music readers and non-readers alike could learn together. In 2007 the chapter began running its own practice sessions under local leadership.

Membership Overview

The chapter currently has more than 20 singers. Twelve members regularly sing at bedsides or provide song baths. Two original members from 2001 remain active. No chapter members are related to one another. One member of the chapter has written songs that the group actively sings. One member moved to the chapter from another Threshold chapter. No members sing in more than one Threshold chapter.

Sings and Practice Rhythm

The chapter averages 22 bedside sings monthly, based on the average for the first five months of 2025. The chapter occasionally offers song baths. Practices are held twice a month, on the second and fourth Wednesdays.

Clients and Service Locations

Clients include patients at the Mission Hospice facility, residents at Menlo Park Veteran's Administration, home hospice clients supported through several hospice organizations, and individuals reached by word of mouth.

Leadership and Chapter Operations

The chapter uses a shared leadership model. Key roles are bedside leaders, practice leaders, librarian, client sing scheduler, monthly reporter, and an initial contact person for prospective singers. New members are welcomed any time; there is no fixed enrollment period or waiting list.

Kate Munger's Role and Legacy

Kate started the Peninsula Threshold Choir and played an active role in bringing songs, teaching techniques, and giving the initial organizational momentum. She contributed many original songs, often notated in her distinctive space-saving "Kate-script," and emphasized learning by ear so everyone could participate. Her teaching and traveling established a strong foundation and repertoire for the chapter.

Impact of COVID

During the COVID pandemic the chapter adapted by switching to weekly Zoom practices, supplemented occasionally by outdoor practices. The pandemic period also brought two new members into the chapter.

06/07/2024. Mission Hospice service of remembrance. Gloria Schulz, Annie Valdes, Gari Patton, Karlette Warner, Cathy Baird, Sandra Iwamoto, Steve Chamberlin, Michal Sadoff, Gerardo Velasquez



01/15/2007. Ladera Community Church, Portola Valley, CA. Kate Munger, Elizabeth Weiss, Ellen Rose, Julie Gannam, Diane, Carol Engberg, Peggy Rogers, Suzy Kohan, Laura MacEachen.

