

Chapter History of San Luis Obispo Threshold Singers

2025

The San Luis Obispo (SLO) chapter of Threshold Choir International (TCI) began in 2015, in partnership with Hospice SLO - a nonprofit volunteer hospice organization. The chapter used space at the hospice for rehearsals and sang occasionally at local nursing homes. In addition, the chapter sang at Hospice SLO's annual "Light Up a Life" ceremonies—a heartfelt community event where the names of those who had passed are read aloud and honored.

Over time, the chapter grew in both numbers and structure, finding new ways to support one another and welcome incoming singers. Experienced members stepped into leadership roles, creating a stable foundation that continues to nurture and guide the group.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the SLO chapter found creative ways to stay connected: rehearsing via Zoom, singing together from our cars using FM radio transmitters in the hospice parking lot, and even recording harmonies virtually by sharing tracks online. These efforts kept our voices and spirits united during challenging times.

While our early years were closely affiliated with Hospice SLO, last year the chapter made the transition to becoming an independent chapter under TCI. This step has expanded the chapter's visibility, allowing it to welcome new singers more easily while strengthening community outreach. The chapter now has around 18 members and sings regularly in care homes, assisted living facilities, hospitals, and private residences as requested.

The chapter thanks Kate Munger for being the catalyst for such a heart-centered and compassionate form of service. Her vision has created a network of connection, comfort, and presence—for those at the threshold and for the singers who serve them. The support of TCI has been an invaluable gift to our SLO community. You are so loved!

Singing in the Park at Tuckers Grove, Santa Barbara, CA in August 2025. Front row: Caryl Casbon Santa Barbara (SB), Carolyn Chaney (SB), Hathor Hammett (SB), Sarah Winter (SLO), Nancy Martin (SB), Laura Learned (SLO). Back row: Lupe Trithara (SB), Wendy Fiske (SB), Laurel Felice (SB), Eva Cohaus (SB), Kate Smith (SB), Angie King (SLO), Terri Hansen (SLO), Ruth Baillie (SLO), Vicki Shafer (SLO), Bettina Wiesenthal (SLO), Judy Nason (SB), Penelope Salinger (SB)



Singing in the Park at Tuckers Grove, Santa Barbara, CA in September 2025. Front row: Heidi Tautrim, Santa Barbara (SB), Nicki Harris, Westside (W), Lorraine Devon Wilke (W), Gerry Farrell, San Fernando Valley (SFV), Elaine Sekerman (SB), Karen Carlisi (W). Middle row: Katie Rose Chapman (SB), Bonnie Orr (SB), Carolyn Chaney (SB), Hathor Hammett (SB), Delwyn Cameron (Brisbane, Australia), Laurel Felice (SB), Susan Kacvinsky (W), Penelope Salinger (SB). Back row: Cathy Shapiro (SFV), Judy Nason (SB), Vee Alexander (SFV), Janet Lengsfelder (SB), Sharon Randles (W), Caryl Casbon (SB), Laura Kanofsky (W), Karen Stewart (SB), Diane Murray (W)

