

Chapter History of the Coastside Threshold Choir

2026

The Coastside Threshold Choir was founded in 2008. As with so many Threshold Choir chapters, the Coastside chapter began from a seed sown by Kate Munger. From the inception of Threshold Choir in Inverness (near San Francisco) in 2000, the seed traveled to the Coastside area north and south of Half Moon Bay in 2008. The original co-directors, Kate O'Shea and Ryckje Wagner, continue the vision even now. Kate Oshea writes that:

“April 16, 2007 was my first Threshold experience with the San Francisco Choir at the All Saint’s Episcopal Church gathering place on Waller Street. Kate Munger had brought some music she was still writing. I had never seen anyone in the process of writing notes down on paper before. I loved the music, the harmonies, not knowing anyone, and yet connecting through music. I was hooked! That fall I went to an Inverness Threshold Choir retreat, fell in love with more of the repertoire and met a fellow Coastsider, Ryckje Wagner. We both were active members of the San Francisco Threshold Choir and learned so much from their leadership. In March 2008, I went to the Bishop’s Ranch retreat where Marti Mariette, Director of the Santa Cruz Threshold Choir was my roommate and my Coastside pal. Ryckje was there, too. Marti planted the idea that maybe we could start a Coastside Threshold Choir. Together Ryckje and I launched the Coastside Threshold Choir with our first rehearsal on May 21st, 2008. We have been meeting, singing, and supporting each other ever since.”

Two other members of our chapter, LindaGrace Frost and Terry Morowitz, began singing with Kate Munger in Inverness even before the creation of the original Threshold Choir. Some of our members have joined us more recently.

The chapter’s first regular sing was at Seton Coastside Skilled Nursing in Moss Beach. Kate O’Shea says that the members slowly learned how to sing and how to blend - always held by the beautiful music with just the right lyrics for every occasion. The members gradually became more confident. The first rehearsals were around the dining room table in Kate O’Shea’s home. Now the chapter practices in donated rehearsal space at a church in our community.

The Coastside chapter added Zoom rehearsals throughout the COVID pandemic and continues these rehearsals once a month to allow former members, friends from other Threshold Choirs, and the chapter’s members who are travelling to join virtually. The other practice each month is in person. The chapter manages to adapt to its needs and circumstances.

The current Coastside Threshold Choir is a collaborative group of around fifteen members. At this time tasks are divided among three people who work collaboratively on chapter decisions.

The chapter is often asked to sing in homes by family, caregivers, or a referral from Mission Hospice. It has regular monthly sings at the Cedar Lane Care Home in Montara and at the Adult Daly Health Center in Half Moon Bay. The chapter has sung for Mission Hospice's Dia de los Muertos at the Senior Center in Pacifica for the last two years.

The most challenging and public sing was in January 2023 following the trauma of a mass shooting at a mushroom farm where seven farmworkers were killed and one severely injured. Somehow, four Coastside members were able to come together and found Threshold songs to be a perfect answer for us and the community as we all dealt with the trauma and swirl of emotions in our small community.



Half Moon Bay, January 2023, Community Gathering in Mac Dutra Park.

The links below are of four members of the Coastside Threshold Choir singing at the Memorial in January, 2023.

Arms of Grace

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S40Ek8sz0cg>

May Only Love Surround You

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JvQJ8cU11nU>

History completed January 5, 2026