



Lakeside Society for the Performing Arts

Providing quality performing arts experiences in the Lakeside High School Theater, home of the "Mighty Kimball" pipe organ

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**Lakeside Society for the Performing Arts presents
Cleveland Chamber Choir**

Dr. Gregory Ristow, Artistic Director

Joined by local singers

Ashtabula County 2026 High School Honors Choir, Natalie [Meloro and Austin Blair, co-chairs](#)

Ashtabula County Choral Music Society Chorale, Paul Shellhammer III, director

Love in Bloom February 8, 2026 5:00 pm

Bethany Lutheran Church, 933 Michigan Avenue, Ashtabula

No admission charge Donations gratefully accepted!

Event Sponsor: The Robert Morrison Foundation

Community Theme Partner: Grand River Conservation Campus

This event is the third Cleveland Chamber Choir performance of ***Love in Bloom*** in northeast Ohio and is presented in Ashtabula by the Lakeside Society for the Performing Arts with support from the Robert Morrison Foundation. The CCC is also supported for this event by the Ashtabula Foundation.

From Cleveland Chamber Choir Press Release:

"On **February 6-8, 2026**, join us for ***Love in Bloom***, an enchanting evening of music inspired by romance and nature, including music by Benjamin Britten, Tōru Takemitsu, Eric Whitacre, Morten Lauridsen and Brandon Waddles. Local high school choirs will join the performances, as part of the choir's continuing commitment to education and providing invaluable experiences to future generations of musicians. These choirs will be the Kent Theodore Roosevelt High School Choir, a choir from University School, Cleveland, and a 28-voice honor choir comprising students from Ashtabula County high schools."

"Whether you're a lifelong lover of choral music or simply looking for a memorable way to celebrate the upcoming Valentine's Day Holiday, *Love in Bloom* promises to be a night of beauty, harmony, and giving back. Charles Edward McGuire, PhD, from Oberlin College & Conservatory, will present a pre-concert talk 45 minutes prior to each performance."

Ashtabula County 2026 High School Honors Choir brings 28 select singers representing Conneaut, Lakeside, Jefferson and Geneva Pymatuning Valley High School choral programs together to rehearse to perform together for *Love in Bloom*. Jefferson director Natalie Meloro and Conneaut director Austin Blair are co-chairing the experience with rehearsals hosted at Jefferson High School. The Cleveland Chamber Choir Artistic Dr. Gregory Ristow will guest conduct their preparation and performance which will include singing with the Cleveland Chamber Choir!

The Ashtabula County Choral Music Society Chorale, under the direction of Paul Shellhammer III, performs throughout the county in concert and for community events. They will also sing for and with the other *Love in Bloom* choirs.

In keeping with the CCC performance tradition to "give back", the **Grand River Conservation Campus** has been designated as the local "theme" partner. The GRCC is a place in Ashtabula County where people can enjoy nature through numerous passive recreation opportunities, all within a beautiful backdrop of unique habitats, rare plants and abundant wildlife. The nature described in the songs being sung is the same nature being offered in the reality of the Grand River Campus. Both groups, arts and nature, also share a commitment to learning and growing within community.

<https://clevelandchamberchoir.org/love-in-bloom-feb-6-8-2026/>

<https://ashcochoralmusicsociety.org/>