

The Choral Exchange

...voice of the Rogue Valley Chorale

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SPRING 2011

RV Chorale Hires Executive Director

It has long been a dream of Lynn Sjolund, artistic director of the Rogue Valley Chorale to have an executive director working for the organization. It was hoped to have this position created so that the Chorale's presence would be better known in the community.

An executive director will be instrumental in directing and increasing the Chorale's fundraising efforts as well as fostering greater relationships with their donors. We are excited to announce Jacquelin Schmidt has accepted the position starting April 21. She brings leadership skills from her not-for-profit board and committee work as well as her work in church leadership



Miller Foundation Board
Portland, Oregon

positions in The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter day Saints.

Several months ago Laura Rich, Rogue Valley Chorale grant writer, applied for a grant from the James F. and Marion L. Miller Foundation. In mid-December they were informed that the

grant request for \$36,000 was accepted. It will be paid in yearly increments over a three year period starting April 2011.

The main goal of the grant is see **GRANT:** *continued on pg 3*

Special points of interest:

- > David Childs commissions work for Chorale
- > Chorale takes a summer tour through England
- > Notes from Lynn
- > Spotlight on Diane Newland

ROGUE VALLEY CHORALE

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Artistic Director **Lynn Sjolund**

Administrative Assistant **Jacque Schmidt**

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New Composition for the Chorale

*"I am not yours, not lost in you
Not lost, although I long to be
Lost as a candle lit at noon,
Lost as a snowflake in the sea..."*

These lyrics by Sara Teasdale are an example of what composer David Childs uses to transcribe notes into works of artistry.

David N. Childs was born in 1969 in Nelson, New Zealand. He has a bachelor's degree in

composition and musicology from Canterbury University, Christchurch, New Zealand; a Master of Music degree in conducting from the Florida State University, Tallahassee; and a Doctorate of Musical Arts from Louisiana State University. He currently works for Highland Park

see **COMPOSITION:** *continued on page 4*



Spotlight on Chorale Member Diane Newland

If you have ever taken a glance at the alto section you have undoubtedly noticed the tall, attractive Diane Newland, a member of Rogue Valley Chorale since 1977. After the Newland family arrived in Medford, neighbor Kathleen Davis encouraged Diane to join the Chorale.

A native of North Dakota, Diane is married to her high school sweetheart Gary Newland. She has been singing as long as memory serves her and has memorable experiences singing in high school and church choirs.

Diane attended the University of North Dakota majoring in Elementary Education with a minor in music and continued her singing throughout college. Medford has benefited from her education, as she still substitute teaches. Additionally, she has worked with various groups, including the Rogue Valley Children's Chorus.

Diane has not only blessed the community with her musical talents, she has also served on the Board of Directors of the Rogue Valley Chorale for several years and as President in

1994-1995.

Diane has been fortunate enough to have traveled with the Chorale on almost every tour. One lasting memory was on the 1993 tour when the Chorale performed with the Hungarian Choir in performance of Kodaly's *Te Deum*. Another highlight was when the Chorale had its own concert in Carnegie Hall during their 2000 tour.

The variety of musical styles and periods that the Chorale has performed has been a source of great enjoyment for Diane. Coupled with good times with

great friends it is easy to understand Diane's loyalty and commitment to the Rogue Valley Chorale.

This summer while on the Chorale tour through England and Wales she will be celebrating 45 years of marriage to her husband Gary, who is a local physician. She is also very proud of her two grown sons, and her newest joy is her grandson, Luke.

Rogue Valley Chorale Bound for Britain

Come June 23rd, 68 singers, spouses, and guests will be off to Great Britain for fourteen days of sightseeing and singing. We're all excited about the journey we're about to take. We'll spend three nights in Cheltenham, Llandudno, York and London while touring the beautiful countryside. We will also be visiting castles such as Windsor and Conwy, taking a journey on the train through the mountains to Snowdonia, attending the Cor Meibon Llandulas Welsh Male Voice Choir, visiting York Minster, and enjoying the sights in London. The upcoming tour is packed with more to do than there is space to write!

We'll have the opportunity of singing at St. Mark's Church Cheltenham, St. Mary's Church, York Minster, Canterbury Cathedral and other venues. Oh, how beautiful the music sounds in these glorious churches!

~Beth Gibson tour co-chairman

The Chorale will perform music from their upcoming summer tour in the final concert of the season "*And Away We Go*". Inspiring American Spirituals and great English anthems will be presented.

Saturday May 7, 7:30 PM

Sunday May 8, 3:00 PM

Craterian Ginger Rogers Theater
(541) 779-3000

www.craterian.org



York Minster-largest gothic cathedral in Northern Europe

From the Artistic Director



“ The coming together and sharing of that which is beautiful cannot be left out of our lives.”

What convoluted times these are. But what a privilege it is to be able to go to a rehearsal like the Chorale has each Monday night and forget aches and pains, what is happening to your retirement fund, and whether the country can come back together again. Just to sing. Just to concentrate on making a beautiful sound and coming together with others to produce a piece of beauty. Two hours away from the cares of the day are wonderful. And the tunes stay with you the rest of the week.

The Chorale has always been a mixture of real music lovers. Some are housewives, several are music teachers, some work in offices, some are professionals, some work with their hands. All have had positive musical experiences

in their background and many have studied voice and performed as soloists. All come together and musically sweat for two hours while they look for meaning in sound. They read the notes and rests and texts and look beyond the symbols to make the page come to life. Sometimes they struggle with pitch or dynamics or diction. All of it is done to put into sound what we think the composer wanted to say. Whether it is the profound music of Bach or the bouncy fun of Irving Berlin, the music is the thing.

It seems to me that it is essential that we have this kind of experience. All of us are responsible for finding our own joy. The joy can be in performance or as part of an audience. The coming

together and sharing of that which is beautiful cannot be left out of our lives. This is what the human experience is about at its best.

No one in the Chorale is paid for sharing their talents as chorus members. However, we do have expenses for music, publicity to let people know about our concerts, rehearsal hall rental, programs, and theater costs for rental and personnel. It has been our patrons for the last 37 years who have helped us with these expenses and on whom we rely. We consider you part of the Chorale family because we would exist in a much different way without you.

~Lynn

GRANT: Director to Implement Strategic Plan
continued from page 1



to facilitate and support the work of the Rogue Valley Chorale. As stated in the grant proposal there are five areas of development:

1. A viable and well-defined infrastructure that will enable the Chorale to function more efficiently
2. Adjust committee structure to enhance function
3. A marketing plan with the goal of expanding the Chorale audience and generating an enhanced awareness of choral programming and increasing the public presence
4. A long-range financial plan that includes less dependency on ticket sales and increased funding through grants, corporate and private
5. Increased educational programming for youth

These goals were set in place by the Board of Directors September of 2009 during a Strategic Planning session where 3-5 year goals were set for their organization.

Jacque will be responsible for implementing the strategic plan, thereby helping to lay the foundation for the executive director position to be self sustaining at the conclusion of the three-year grant.

Composition: Chorale commissions *To Musick*
continued from page 1

United Methodist Church in Texas conducting their enormous choir, but before then Dr. Childs served as Associate Professor of Chorale studies at the Blair School of Music, Vanderbilt University, Nashville.

He has received instruction from Dr. Kenneth Fulton, Dr. Andre Thomas, and additional instruction from Helmuth Rilling as a master class conductor at the Oregon Bach Festival.

His compositions frequently appear at state festivals and workshops, and at ACDA state, regional, and national conventions. He has received commissions from around the world, including Japan, New

Zealand, and South Africa. Currently he has over 70 choral works in print. All of this was accomplished by someone barely over 40 years of age.

The Chorale is thrilled to have commissioned Dr. Childs to compose a piece to be showcased in their final concert of this season. The piece entitled *To Musick* borrowed its text from a Robert Herrick poem by the same title.

*Music, thou Queen of Music,
care-charming-spell,
that strik'st a stillness into hell:
thou that tam'st tigers,
and fierce storms that rise,
with thy soul-melting lullabies,
Fall down, down, down from*

*those thy chiming spheres,
to calm our souls,
as thou enchant'st our ears.*

To Musick has been written with a cello obligato and we are honored to have Michal Palzewicz return as our featured soloist. In the past Michal performed with the Chorale thrilling the audience with his masterful and moving *gamba obligato* from the St. Matthew Passion.

The Chorale is pleased to present the world premier of *To Musick* and other works of Dr. David N. Childs during their final concert of the season.

And Away We Go

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References:

Sounz the Centre for New Zealand Music

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