



Celebrating the Joy of Singing

Handbook

2017 - 2018

Introduction

Welcome to the Rogue Valley Youth Choruses. The Discovery Chorus, Children's Chorus, Cantare Chorus and Youth Ensemble consist of singers representing diverse backgrounds, schools, and musical experiences from around the Rogue Valley. This handbook is designed to acquaint families with our program and policies. Please read it carefully so that we may work together to ensure the highest standard of musical experience for the young people in our community.

The leaders of RVYC are dedicated to making a difference in the lives of young musicians. Our steering committee, conductors, accompanists, chorus managers and rehearsal assistants work together to create a nurturing and inspirational environment for children of all races, religions, ethnic, and economic backgrounds. RVYC participants enjoy positive experiences through quality literature, advanced singing technique, and exciting performances. We strive for the highest level of artistry with all of our groups. We look forward to a worthwhile and joyous experience together!

RVYC Structure

RVYC refers to the four choruses collectively. We operate under the umbrella of the Rogue Valley Chorale Association, a 501(c)(3), non-profit organization. Our choruses serve students in grades 3 to 12. Singers may participate in a single RVYC chorus, or choose to move through our progressively graded, age appropriate divisions.

Our Mission

The mission of the Rogue Valley Chorale Association is to enrich and inspire all members of our community through great choral music performed by choruses of all ages. Our goals include the following:

- Fostering musical growth
- Encouraging vocal improvement
- Supporting educational outreach
- Providing access for all, including singers and community members, to a wide variety of music.
- Supporting and encouraging young singers
- Preserving and performing choral music of enduring value
- Providing performance opportunities for emerging composers and new music.

Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Statement

The Rogue Valley Chorale Association affirms its abiding commitment to the celebration of diversity. We recognize our cultural richness and are resolute in advancing inclusion and equity in our community.

Discovery Chorus – Wendy Cawthorne, Director

Discovery Chorus is designed as a training choir for beginning singers in 3rd - 4th grades. Students will explore unison songs, rounds, and partner singing, eventually moving into 2-part music. Singers will be introduced to basic choral singing techniques and musicianship through active group participation.

Wendy Cawthorne has been an elementary school educator since 2002 with experience in teaching a 2nd grade classroom as well as general music to kindergarten – 5th grades. She has also directed several choruses for singers of all ages.

Children's Chorus – Gerry Flock, Director

Children's Chorus is comprised of auditioned members in 5th - 6th grades. Through the use of diverse, quality literature, the singers will learn beginning choral techniques including breath control, unified natural tone, choral music reading, and ensemble singing. Singers must demonstrate responsible behavior and individual commitment to learning.

Gerry Flock is a seasoned music educator in the Rogue Valley. He is currently serving as Principal of Lone Pine Elementary School. Mr. Flock has sung with the Rogue Valley Chorale and directed the Rogue Valley Discovery/Children's chorus for many years. He also serves as worship leader and elder of the West Main Church of Christ.

Cantare Chorus – Shaun Garner, Director

Cantare is comprised of auditioned singers in 7th - 9th grades. Cantare provides training in vocal technique, musicianship, ear training and music reading skills. Singers are expected to make a serious commitment to quality in order to master solo and ensemble singing. Cantare performs music in 3-4 part mixed voicings from many cultures, languages and style periods.

Shaun Garner is the director of Cantare Chorus. She previously lived in Northwest Montana, where she was the founding director of the Glacier Children's Choir and the Glacier Symphony Chorale. Shaun has directed chamber groups, community choirs, school choirs and church choirs, and is an accomplished organist, pianist, and harpist. She is an avid gardener and crafter, and enjoys the rich cultural diversity of Southern Oregon.

The Youth Ensemble – Pam Nordquist, Director

The Youth Ensemble, founded in 2002, is designed for high school men and women in grades 10-12, and is dedicated to the highest level of performance artistry. Singers must demonstrate excellent musicianship skills, vocal quality, musicality and ensemble skills, along with a strong work ethic and commitment to rehearsals/performances.

Pam Nordquist is the founding director of the Rogue Valley Youth Ensemble. She enjoyed teaching elementary and middle school music for 20 years in the Kansas and Oregon public schools. Currently, Mrs. Nordquist is employed by Medford Schools as Co-Director of Choirs at South Medford High School. Mrs. Nordquist is Past President of the Oregon American Choral Directors Association.

Rehearsals

Discovery Chorus

Tuesday, 4:15 – 5:45 pm

Ascension Lutheran Church
675 Black Oak Dr - Medford

Children's Chorus

Tuesday, 4:30 - 6:00 pm

Congregational United Church of Christ
1801 E. Jackson St. - Medford

Cantare Chorus

Thursday, 7:00 - 8:30 pm

South Medford High School – Orchestra Room
1551 Cunningham Avenue – Medford

Youth Ensemble

Thursdays, 7:00 – 9:00 pm

South Medford High School – Choir Room
1551 Cunningham Avenue – Medford

Singers should plan to arrive with their music 10 minutes early to weekly rehearsals to assure an on-time start.

Rides home should be available promptly at the end of rehearsals. Drivers are expected to use extra precaution when navigating the pick-up area. Carpooling is encouraged.

Rehearsal Cancellations

During winter months, the choir will follow the policy of Medford Schools regarding rehearsal

cancellation due to inclement weather. If schools close, there will be no rehearsal that afternoon or evening.

Attendance Policy

Membership in RVYC includes a dedicated commitment to consistent and punctual attendance. The quality of rehearsals, performances and other RVYC activities depends upon each chorister being present and on time. Attentive, courteous behavior toward the director, accompanist, rehearsal assistants, chorus managers, parent volunteers, and fellow choir members is required.

Attendance is required at ALL rehearsals and concerts. Singers are expected to be in place, with folders and other materials ready at the designated start time. Most rehearsals are 90 minutes, so singers should plan to visit the restroom before practice begins. Singers are strongly encouraged to bring a water bottle - no soft drinks, juice or food items are allowed in any of the rehearsal facilities. (Please advise us if access to food is medically necessary.)

Parents must contact the chorus director or chorus manager if their child will be absent from a rehearsal/concert for any reason. Excused absences include: severe illness, family emergencies, or required school events. Roll is taken at every rehearsal and performance, with follow-up calls for unexcused absences.

Discovery Chorus

Director – Wendy Cawthorne
wendy@roguevalleychorale.org
541-261-9172
Chorus Manager – Kyle Cawthorne
kylecawthorne@gmail.com
541-944-3458

Children's Chorus

Director – Gerry Flock
gerry@roguevalleychorale.org
541-890-0762
Chorus Manager. – September Flock
september.flock@medford.k12.or.us
541-890-6945

Cantare Chorus

Director – Shaun Garner
541-664-3393
shaun@roguevalleychorale.org
Chorus Manager. – Julie Farrow
jewellmarie1@gmail.com

Youth Ensemble

Director – Pam Nordquist
541-535-1504 / 541-301-1551
pam@roguevalleychorale.org
Chorus Manager- Shawna Gann
goganns@ccountry.net

Tuition and Contributions

The Chorus year consists of two separate seasons, Fall and Spring. Tuition is \$100 per season (\$200 for the full year) Tuition can be paid for the full year or per season, due on October 1st and February 1st. If this is not possible, payment arrangements may be coordinated with the Chorus Manager.

Sibling season discounts are available as follows: \$100 for the first child, \$80 for the second child and \$60 for the third child. Families with more than one singer may arrange for a tuition payment plan through the Chorus Manager.

Tuition is non-refundable.

RVYC tuition covers our operational expenses including facility fees, printing costs, music folders, staff stipends, outfits, and all chorus events. Please make checks payable to Rogue Valley Youth Choruses. In order to provide an equal opportunity for every child who loves to sing, financial aid is available. To apply, request an application form from the Chorus Manager and return it by October 1st. After the application is reviewed, the Chorus Manager will notify families of their status.

RVYC is affiliated with the Rogue Valley Chorale Association, a tax exempt, non-profit organization. Contributions to the Youth Choruses organization in excess of tuition are tax deductible and greatly appreciated.

Materials

Singers will be issued a folder and 8 to 10 pieces of music. All folders and music are the property of RVYC, or are borrowed from other school or church organizations in good faith. The folder and music must be returned at the end of each season. Music is very costly and difficult to replace. A fee of \$25 will be charged to anyone failing to return the chorus folder and music. Pencils will be available for singers to mark their scores during rehearsals. Please, no ink or drawings on the music.

Concert Tickets

It is important to note that tuition does NOT include free admission to concerts. Ticket sales help us to keep tuition fees low and offset RVYC concert expenses. Your understanding and patronage at the concerts is greatly appreciated. Tickets are \$10.00 for adults and \$5.00 for students. Family tickets are available for \$25.00. Family tickets are for immediate family only (parents and siblings.) Tickets will be available for pre-sale two weeks prior to concerts. To avoid long lines on the night of the event, please contact your Chorus Manager for advance ticket purchases.

Concerts/Performances

During each regular season, there will be three to four performance opportunities for each chorus. Discovery and Children's Choruses will present concerts to area elementary schools during the spring season. Each group also performs an evening concert at the Rogue Valley Manor. All four choruses perform at the end of the fall and spring sessions. Other performance opportunities may arise during the season. You will be notified in a timely manner about details and requirements.

In the Spring season of alternating year, the Cantare Chorus embarks on a 2-day tour to a destination in the state of Oregon. The Youth Ensemble takes a 2 to 5-day tour to a destination in the Northwest each year.

Communication

The most efficient and least costly method for us to contact our 180 plus families is via e-mail. We ask that you keep us informed of your current e-mail address throughout the year, as well as your home phone, cell phone and physical address. Important information from the directors is sent home via hard copy and/or email.

Home Practice

With only one rehearsal a week, singers must practice their music at home in a consistent manner. In order to learn and memorize all the music, home practice is essential and expected.

Chorus Rosters

Each season chorus rosters are generated, which include each chorister's name, address, phone, e-mail address, grade level and school, along with parent/guardian contact information.

Parent/Guardians should carefully fill out the required data and return it with your singer to the next rehearsal.

Youth Choruses Outfits

Discovery Chorus and Children's Chorus

Solid black dress pants will be provided for male singers. Solid black skirts will be provided for female singers. Pants and skirts must be returned at the end of the season or year to avoid being charged a \$40 replacement fee.

Black socks for boys, and black tights (not nylons) for girls, along with black dress shoes and a black belt are the responsibility of each family. Shoes must be closed-toe without high heels.

Polo shirts with the Youth Choruses logo are provided. Shirts must be returned at the end of the season or year to avoid being charged a \$40 replacement fee.

Cantare Chorus

Boys – Solid black pants, black socks and black dress shoes are the responsibility of each family. Pants may NOT be jeans. Black shirt, cummerbund and tie will be provided.

Girls - Black flat shoes and black tights are the responsibility of each family. Black skirt and burgundy blouse will be provided.

Outfit must be returned at the end of each season or year to avoid being charged a \$40 replacement fee.

\$10 travel T-shirts must be purchased if the choir travels that year.

Youth Ensemble

Men – Tuxedos, tuxedo shirts and hardware are purchased through the Chorus Manager. Black socks and black dress shoes are the responsibility of each family.

Women – Black floor length skirts and blue blouses are purchased through the Chorus Manager. Black hosiery and black dress shoes are the responsibility of each family.

\$10 travel t-shirt must be purchased.

Grooming and Concert Outfits

Just as the ensemble's sound is important, so is its appearance. A well-groomed, neatly outfitted ensemble is essential for a truly professional and artistic experience. Good personal hygiene is a must. Clean teeth and clean groomed hair pulled away from the face are expected of each chorister. Jewelry and make-up must not be distracting to the audience. To avoid allergic reactions, no perfumes or scented hair sprays are allowed.

Uniform outfits emphasize teamwork, help present a professional image at performances, and aid in quickly identifying choristers when traveling. Each performing group of the Youth Choruses has a unique outfit requirement. Singers must purchase the required outfit pieces that are not provided by RVCA, and wear them whenever directed to do so. Choristers are allowed the opportunity to perform only if wearing the appropriate outfit, complete in all aspects. Prior to each performance, parent volunteers will be available to help choristers with attire.

Student Protection Plan

Your children's well-being is very important to us. The Rogue Valley Youth Choruses' Student

Protection Policies and Procedures is explained in detail on our website, roguevalleychorale.org/youth-choruses (click on Forms and Handbook). Parents and guardians are encouraged to visit the website and review the details of the Student Protection Policies and Procedures.

Non-Discrimination Statement

The Rogue Valley Chorale Association does not discriminate in its educational programs or activities on the basis of race, color, national or ethnic origin, ancestry, age, religion or religious creed, disability or handicap, sex or gender, gender identity and/or expression, sexual orientation, military or veteran status, genetic information, or any other characteristic protected under applicable federal, state or local law.

The Rogue Valley Chorale Association will comply with the Discrimination in Employment Act, and other similar laws that prohibit discrimination. Unlawful discrimination has no place within the Rogue Valley Chorale Association and offends the organization's core values which include a commitment to equal opportunity, equity and inclusion.

Rogue Valley Youth Choruses Steering Committee

President – Carmen Adams, adamscd@earthlink.net, 541-779-6036

Past President - Donna Barrett

Treasurer - Mary Lynn Lucas

Recording Secretary - Pete Nordquist

Corresponding Secretary - Denise Fleming

Music Librarian - Donna Barrett

Outfit Coordinator - Jean Libante

Rogue Valley Chorale Association Liaison - Mary Lynn Lucas

Historian - Diane Newland

Members-at-large

Dianna Smith

September Flock

Laura Hreha

RV Youth Choruses Operations Manager

Laura Rich, rvyc@roguevalleychorale.org, 541-414-8309