

Celebrating the Joy of Singing

Fall 2015

Volume 9

The mission of Rogue Valley Chorale is to inspire and enrich our communities through great choral music performed by choruses of all ages.

Rogue Valley Chorale Association Newsletter



**The Joy of Singing
Benefit Celebration
Saturday, September 19
7:00-8:30 PM**

**Inn at the Commons
Cost: none (donations welcome)**

Let us treat you to an evening of music, dessert and good company. Silent auction items are available from the valley's many gifted artisans. For reservations call 541-414-8309.

2015 CONCERT SEASON



**Christmas With the Chorale
Sponsored by Jim Collier
Friday, Dec. 4, 7:30 PM
Sunday, Dec. 6, 3:00 PM, 2015**

Come celebrate Christmas with the Chorale featuring the Scotch/Irish duo

Men of Worth in a Celtic-themed concert. The whole family will enjoy this festive holiday celebration!



**Misa Azteca
Saturday, March 12, 7:30 PM
Sunday, March 13, 3:00 PM, 2016**

Misa Azteca is a modern choral work composed by Joseph Julian Gonzalez.

The eight movements are based on the visceral rhythms of Aztec drumming performed with guitar, piano and percussion. Join us for this powerful musical extravaganza.



**Festival of Church Choirs
Saturday, May 14, all day
workshops
Sunday, May 15, 3:00 and 7:30 PM
concerts, 2016**

The Rogue Valley Chorale will sponsor a weekend of workshops culminating in celebratory performances with a mass choir as we come together with church choirs from around the Rogue Valley.



**Rogue Valley Youth Choruses
Fall Concert
Saturday, December 5
North Medford High School
Auditorium**

Join our young singers as they present a feast of choral music that is sure to enchant audiences.



**Rogue Valley Youth
Choruses
Spring Concert
Saturday, May 7, 2016
North Medford High School
Auditorium**

Join our young singers as they present a feast of choral music that is sure to enchant audiences.

To Order Rogue Valley Chorale Tickets contact the Craterian Theater at the Collier Center for the Performing Arts, (541) 779-3000, or visit the box office at 16 S. Bartlett Street in Medford. Tickets are also available on-line at www.craterian.org. Rogue Valley Youth Choruses tickets are available by calling 541-941-3568.

Reflections from the Artistic Director



Building Community

By Laurie Anne Hunter

As Artistic Director, I often ponder what makes the Rogue Valley Chorale special and unique in our valley? Even before I took on this leadership position for the group, I had a sense that the Chorale had a good balance between being a friendly and welcoming bunch, and also striving for a high performance ethic. I aim to keep that balance while

looking for ways to create even more vibrant performances and foster community both within our organization and in the larger communities where we live and work.

The Rogue Valley Chorale is a member of a national organization called Chorus America: the advocacy, research, and leadership development organization for choruses, choral leaders, and singers. Anyone can check out their website at <https://www.chorusamerica.org>, and many of the articles, particularly the ones aimed at singers, are accessible without the login and password. Chorus America has around 4,500 members, including choruses, businesses and organizations, in addition to individuals. Many choruses across the country face the same issues we do... How wonderful that we can all learn from each other!

I shared a couple of pertinent articles from the website with the Chorale's Board of Directors at our August retreat. One that really struck me was called "The Changing Grammar of Community Engagement." A study was done that found that the average arts organization in our country engages with only 10% of its local population. The article encourages choruses to "experiment more boldly with innovative methods." This spawned a lot of lively discussion among our Board as we look for new ways to engage our singers, our audience, and our community.

I think we have made a really good start and as an organization we are moving forward. Last year's "Festival of Choirs" brought the Rogue Valley Chorale Association into a new level of community and fostered some really good relationship building with its member choruses. With this season's Festival of Church Choirs, I hope to broaden that relationship with the larger community. I believe too, that the programming for all our concerts this season will keep our singers engaged and challenged, while also appealing to a broader audience. So, please help spread the word about what we are doing. Invite someone who has never heard us to give us a try. As we celebrate our joy of singing, I think our audiences will feel that joy as well.



Reflections from the Board President



Collaboration and Community

By Kenne Horton

Historic and eventful. Those two words describe our 42nd season largely because our Artistic Director, Laurie Anne Hunter, believes so strongly in two other words: *collaboration and community*. In her tenure with us so far Laurie Anne has

focused on building community within our organization and through collaboration with the broader musical community. This focus perfectly aligns with our vision, which is, "celebrating the joy of singing." While singing is fun, singing *together* is so much better.

Last season's historic **Festival of Choirs** concert marked the first time that all five of our choruses presented a combined concert. It provided a unique opportunity for our singers, from third grade on up, to join in community and make music together. And just a few short weeks ago about 115 singers from the Rogue Valley Chorale and the Southern Oregon Repertory Singers joined Teddy Abrams and the Britt Festival Orchestra to present **Carmina Burana**. It is collaborative efforts like these that serve to enrich and inspire the people of the Rogue Valley.

There are exciting collaborations planned for our 43rd season also. Our **Christmas with the Chorale** concert this year will feature **Men of Worth**, Scotsman Donnie Macdonald and Irishman James Keigher. You will remember James from last season's Christmas concert when he performed *Christmas in the Trenches*, a poignant tribute to the 100th anniversary of the Christmas Armistice of World War 1. **Men of Worth** has recorded eleven albums and has performed internationally for over twenty years. Mark your calendar to attend on **December 4 or 6, 2015**.

Our spring collaboration is another historic first for the Rogue Valley. Many of our local faith communities have choirs. The Rogue Valley Chorale will be hosting a **Festival of Church Choirs** with workshops and rehearsals that will culminate with two concerts on **Sunday, May 15, 2016**.

In addition to all of this we will be presenting Joseph Julian Gonzalez's modern work, **Misa Azteca**, with special guest instrumentalists on **March 12 & 13, 2016**. We look forward to seeing you and your friends in the audience.

I encourage you to attend the concerts presented by our Rogue Valley Youth Choruses this season. The concerts will be held in the Lynn Sjolund Auditorium at North Medford High School on **Saturday, December 5, 2015** and **Saturday, May 7, 2016**.

Because singing **together** brings joy to the heart.

Journey to Spain

By Don Bolles, Tenor

Thirty Rogue Valley Chorale members traveled to Spain for 12 days in June. Travelers ranged in age from 23 to 80, united by the common passion for a capella singing in the great cathedrals of Europe. Performances were in Barcelona, Madrid, and Toledo. Voices rang out in rich, clear tones in the high ceilings of the cathedrals, filling our listeners with joy.

The world-famous, Gaudi Cathedral Sagrada Familia, (Church of the Holy Family) in Barcelona was an exceptional location in which to perform. Conductor Laurie Anne Hunter expressed teary-eyed joy after the group sang with beauty and grace before a throng of tourists in the sound box of the grand cathedral.

In Madrid the troupe was enchanted by seeing the 16th Century, 3,418 roomed Royal Palace and the Prado Museum containing the artwork of the genius Renaissance artists El Greco, Velasquez and Goya. Traveling by bus from city to city, we left Madrid, passing through La Mancha (highlands) of Cervantes' Don Quixote fame, with the windmills (soldiers in Quixote's mind) still intact, but not operational.

Notable among the group include two young tenors. One is Irish born Eoghan McDowell, an Ashland High School graduate who sang a duet with retired elementary music teacher Eric Smith, *I'm just a Poor Wayfaring Stranger*. The second is soloist Colin Campbell, a graduate of SOU who now heads to Boston Conservatory to pursue his Masters in Vocal Performance. He sang a solo, *Circumdederunt Me* with a small group during the tour.



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Youth Ensemble Trip to Portland

By Daniel Fleming, RVYC Alumnus

First, let me say thank you for letting me share my recent experience with the Rogue Valley Youth Ensemble. As a charter member, the YE has always held a special place in my heart. It was such a blessing and joy to be able to spend a few days here in Portland Oregon with the youth and listen to them sing.

The YE arrived in Portland just in time to attend the musical *Wicked* at the Keller Auditorium. It was a spectacular show with moments of laughter, of depth, and looks of awe at the theatrics and musicality. After the show there was much laughter and singing, the youth having already learned and fallen in love with the music from the performance. Lunch in down town Portland followed and the day finished with relaxing and swimming at the hotel pool.

YE at the Grotto



The next morning, the first stop on the YE's tour in Portland Oregon was the majestic and heavenly Grotto, an internationally renowned Catholic shrine and botanical garden. The youth had the opportunity to sing within the Chapel of Mary. The

acoustics were simply incredible and the angelic voices of our youth moved many to tears. Peter and Pam Nordquist took the time to direct and instruct the youth to listen and "feel" the acoustics of the chapel. What an incredible experience for these young men and women to have and, dare I say, more so for those in attendance who got to witness the beauty of their voices.

From there, they were off to The Vista House at Crown Point. With gorgeous vistas of the Columbia River and an incredible historical observatory such as Vista House made for another memorable and educational stop on the tour. Once inside, the YE lined the walls of the domed rotunda and sang to the delight and awe of all within.

Then, back on the bus and off to McMenemy's Edgefield. Edgefield was built in 1911 as the county poor farm and is now a destination resort and historic landmark in the Pacific Northwest. They enjoyed great food, laughter, and sightseeing at Edgefield with an impromptu serenading of a bride-to-be, her groom, and much of the wedding party.

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LET US INSPIRE

By Peter E. Yeager, Baritone

“When they lift their voices ... their choral sonority is so rich you can feel it in your bones.”

So wrote Barrymore Laurence Scherer for the **Wall Street Journal** of the sound of the 100 volunteer singers of the Bach Choir Of Bethlehem (PA) this past May.

Bach’s **Mass in B-minor** has been the centerpiece of the annual Bethlehem Bach Festival since 1900.

Scherer marveled at Bach’s genius: “...his score is remarkable for its architectural scope,” citing three distinct movements in successive keys – from the grave “Kyrie” in B-minor to the lighter brighter D-major of “Christe eleison” to “the moving key of F-sharp minor charging it with a further sense of pleading through wrenching chromatic motion in the fugue subject.”

Most listeners may not have been aware of exactly what Bach was doing with these key changes. But the singers made them feel it in their bones!

“Such music flows from the deepest wellsprings of human faith.”

Scherer lauded the color and contrast: alto aria with violin solo followed by chorus with full orchestra, then the “gentle transparency” of the “Domine Deus” duet.

“Throughout the Mass, every combination is at the service of the most sincere, vivid expression of the text.”

And “... when the last note of ‘Dona nobis pacem’ ... had

faded into the evening glow of the stained-glass windows” of the 19th century church sanctuary, “the listeners rose en masse in vociferous thanks.”

Ah, the power of a choir of voices to move listeners!

Certainly the confluence of the genius of Bach brought to bear on a text deeply rooted in human faith in the glow of stained-glass windows made this choral presentation transcendent.

But that same power to move hearts and souls with rich choral sonority occurs in many settings, physical and musical.

Where does that power come from? It comes from what we the singers bring to each performance. What do we bring?

Two things come to mind: preparation and passion.

Preparation and passion were evident on a very hot and smoky night on the Britt hill when the Rogue Valley Chorale joined forces with Southern Oregon Repertory Singers and the Britt Orchestra to deliver **Carmina Burana**. Transcendent! Brought the audience to its feet!

We love to sing. More importantly, we love our listeners to love what we sing. The key?

Preparation and passion.

Like the Bach Choir of Bethlehem, the Rogue Valley Chorale has a tradition of choral excellence to carry forward.

With preparation and passion, Let Us Inspire.

RVCA Receives Grant Awards

The year is starting out well for the Rogue Valley Chorale Association. We received several capacity building grants to assist in establishing identity standards and developing our marketing plan. We are grateful to our many supporters who make it possible for us to celebrate the joy of singing with our community.



Welcome New RVCA Staff

Gary Gillespie, Development Manager



Gary Gillespie was born and raised in Los Angeles, CA. He attended an English Boarding school at age 16 and graduated from High School in Karlsruhe, Germany in 1959. He is a Vietnam War veteran (U.S. Air Force). Following his military service he attended the University of Minnesota, where he graduated in

1972. He has two children, a son in Ashland and a daughter in Johannesburg, South Africa.

Gary Gillespie has worked in the field of Development for the past 37 years - twenty-two of those in South Africa, three at Phillips Exeter Academy in New Hampshire and sixteen years in the Rogue Valley. He was Assistant Director of Development, and then Director of Development, at Southern Oregon University and has worked as a pro-bono consultant to many smaller non-profit organizations in the region and beyond.

Gary joined the Rogue Valley Chorale as Development Manager in October of 2014. Gary brings his expertise and jovial demeanor to the Rogue Valley Chorale Association with the goal of supporting its mission and vision.

Wendy Cawthorne, Discovery Chorus Director



Wendy Cawthorne will join the Rogue Valley Chorale Association's Youth Chorus as the Director of the Discovery Chorus commencing Fall of 2015. She is no stranger to the Youth

Choruses, however. Wendy sang with the Children's chorus the year it was started by Doris Sjolund. When she became too old to sing with CC, she served as a student section leader. During that first year of the Children's Chorus the kids were allowed to keep their music, all of which Wendy still has in her possession.

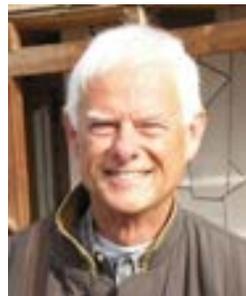
All three of Wendy's children sang, or sing with Youth Chorus. Her son currently sings in the Youth Ensemble, and her daughter is in the Discovery Chorus. Her daughter sang with Cantare, and has since graduated high school. Wendy's association with RVCA extends to her mother-in-law, Gay Pollard, who is a long-time Chorale singer and volunteer.

Wendy has been involved with music all of her life. She started piano at the age of 6, and sang in choirs from elementary to high school. Wendy pursued a BA degree during college, where she majored in music/piano.

Following graduation from college Wendy began teaching music in Roseburg, but was laid off when music programs were eliminated. She began teaching in Central Point, and when music was cut she became a classroom teacher, but found a way to keep music in the lives of children by switching classes with other teachers. She will once again teach music in the Central Point School District as its sole music teacher. She hopes that the Youth Chorus will soon receive many new singers from the Central Point School District.

Wendy is looking forward to introducing the Discovery Chorus children to harmony taught through rounds, working on tone and blend, and unison singing, all taught in a joyous and supportive atmosphere.

Bill Bartlett, Chorus Manager



After a 25 year career in advertising and marketing, Bill entered his entrepreneurial stage starting and/or growing a number of small businesses that, when developed, were sold either to employees or private investors. These enterprises included commercial printing, desktop publishing, equestrian riding apparel, collectible toys, office supplies, specialty flooring and

animal grooming tools.

Allegedly retired, he continues to work in various capacities. He is the owner/operator of Ashland Travel & Safari, and provides strategic marketing services, including web site building, event management, public relations and brand development. He is also active in the community as a volunteer at area hospitals and a frequent instructor at OLLI.

He serves as the Business Manager of Repertory Singers, yet finds time to pursue a passion of outdoor photography and international travel. He and his wife, Anne, have 4 children and 7 grandchildren with another on the way. They reside in Talent with a 14 year old Australian Shepherd and a 7 month Golden Retriever puppy, so life is never ever boring.

As manager of RVCA Bill handles or oversees everything behind the scenes; scheduling, marketing, publicity, database management, board meetings, etc.. We are fortunate to have Bill on board as manager and marvel at the way he navigates the organization with vision and efficiency.

RVCA Singer Colin Campbell Heads to Boston Conservatory of Music



Colin Campbell discovered the joy of singing in the 5th grade when he was cast as the pig's attorney in his elementary school production of *The True Story of the Three Little Pigs*. He was given a solo, and discovered his passion for music. He joined the Rogue Valley Children's Chorus, and navigated his way through as many choir programs as the

Medford schools offered. Doris Sjolund, founder of the Rogue Valley Youth Choruses, invited Colin to sing *Good King Wenceslas* with the Rogue Valley Chorale, an experience that further solidified his desire to make singing a life-long pursuit. He chose a double major in college and received degrees in both mathematics and music from Southern Oregon University. Colin loves science and math, but music is his passion. During tough times, and Colin has had his share of them, music helped him stay focused and gave purpose to his life. He uses music as inspiration to keep going.

Music provides a safe haven, a solid foundation when life becomes rocky. Colin expresses his gratitude for the early introduction he was given to musical expression. He openly shares elements of his rocky and dysfunctional childhood. Music provided him with an escape from his home-life that included an alcoholic father who also suffered with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder as a war vet, and a sister plagued with mental illness. He considered his high school choir both his family and his saving grace.

Colin was admitted into the Boston Conservatory of Music, but extreme circumstances mandated that he delay his entry. His father developed cancer, and his sister attempted suicide. Colin put his life on hold and spent a year as a caregiver. When the situation allowed, he re-applied for BCM, This time he was admitted with an \$18,000 scholarship.

Colin left for Boston in mid-August. During the past year he has worked hard on his voice. He sang with the Rogue Valley Chorale and several SOU choirs, and is returning to Boston Conservatory as a PhD track student. Along the way he will pursue a Masters of Music degree in vocal performance.

This summer Colin toured Spain with the Rogue Valley Chorale. Upon his return he headed to Costa Rica to perform the lead tenor role of Orfeo in *Orfeo Ed Euridice*, by Christoph Willibald Gluck, with Opera Nova Costa Rica. Much of his idle time in Spain was spent learning the role, which he had to do in just three weeks! For a young man that, until this summer, has never traveled farther than Mexico and Canada, the future is extremely exciting.

Journey to Spain

(Continued from page 3)

Our last performance in Toledo at the 15th century cathedral Saint John of the Kings met with an excited audience who demanded an encore. The final song, *Ride on King Jesus*, featured soloist Michelle Cipollone, and brought the house down. This final performance ended the experience of singing in some of Spain's most sacred sites as American ambassadors, while we learned some of its history and culture along the way.

The Chorale troupe felt more like a large family, some pushing wheel chairs for the less mobile, all looking out for each other. Twelve days together drew us close while we shared the wonders of Spain. The tour was special, shared as a harmonious group whose company was as enjoyable as the sights we saw in this distant old-world land.

Youth Ensemble Trip to Portland

(Continued from page 3)

Next stop, Multnomah Falls, a 611-foot-tall roaring and awe inspiring cascade of icy water. The kids were able to rest their voices and enjoy the cool breeze and mist radiating from the falls while hiking small trails and walking along the bridge

The day ended with shopping, more swimming and smiles from all.

Bright and early the next morning, the YE was able to perform at Portland's Saturday Market. The youth sang some of their favorite pieces and then off they went to explore, eat, and enjoy the wonders of Saturday Market. After lunch and more shopping, they were off to the Oregon Zoo where they filled the entrance of the zoo with their bright voices and energetic music. They then had the chance to explore and enjoy the zoo before their final trip on the bus back to Medford.

I know that this is a trip that the youth will remember all their lives. I know that I remember when I toured with the YE and I remember what fun we all had, what awesome experiences and opportunities we were able to enjoy. Now, looking back at those times, I am reminded how truly blessed I was, how blessed we all were, to have the Rouge Valley Youth Ensemble and its leaders, supporters, and "choir moms and dads" who helped us in so many ways. Thank you, again, and thank you for helping support, encourage, and giving these kids a place to grow and learn while enjoying their passion and love for music.

To contact Rogue Valley Youth Choruses visit www.roguevalleychorale.org or email deedee.rvyc@gmail.com

Leaving A Legacy Bequest to the Rogue Valley Chorale

Making a gift to the Rogue Valley Chorale through your will or revocable living trust is a simple way to support our mission of inspiring and enriching our communities through the performance of great choral music performed by choruses of all ages.

Making a will or trust is a very personal act with enduring implications. Some of you may wish to leave a lasting impression on the community. There is no better way to do so than to leave a bequest to charity. The Rogue Valley Chorale is a 501(c)(3) corporation with tax-exempt status from the Internal Revenue Service and is able to accept charitable donations from estates of all sizes. This means that you can designate proceeds from life insurance, investments, your will or revocable living trust, or many other sources.

Some of you have already made your estate plans. Some of you have not. Others see estate planning as a complicated maze of documents that can always be postponed to a later date. The fact is that your wishes cannot be fulfilled unless you complete estate planning. Making the Chorale part of your estate plan has many positive implications. It benefits the community by helping the choral arts remain a part of our Rogue Valley for generations to come. It can benefit your estate in that it can lower taxes. Additionally, it benefits your soul to know that YOU have made a difference. Of course, every situation is different so talk to your attorney or CPA to get details as to how and whether your particular estate would benefit.

If you are interested in making the Chorale part of your estate plan, it is important to contact an attorney, CPA, and/or financial planner of your choice. They have the knowledge and tools to make your wishes become a reality.

- By Christopher Cauble, Attorney at Law, Cauble and Cauble, LLP

Ways To Give

Endowment Fund - The Endowment Fund provides the Chorale with long term, steady income and growth.

Bequests - Making a gift to the Rogue Valley Chorale through your will or revocable living trust is a simple way to support the Chorale.

Honor Gifts - An Honor Gift is a wonderful way to celebrate the special people and events in your life and simultaneously support choral music in our community.

Memorial Gifts - A Memorial Gift is a beautiful testimony to the life of a beloved person who has passed on. It can be just the right touch for expressing compassion to someone who has experienced a loss.

Donating Made Easy

The Rogue Valley Chorale Association can help you make donating simple and easy. Monthly electronic fund transfers, billing, and regular credit card payments are some of the ways we can assist in making your philanthropic goals become reality.

There are several tax-advantages available to those who wish to give. Please speak with your estate planner about ways to help support choral music in our community.

A Bit of Fundraising Humor.....

The Development Director tells the Board, "I have good news and bad news. The good news is, we have enough money to pay for our concert season. The bad news is, it's still out there in everyone's pockets."

For more information contact Development Manager Gary Gillespie at homeonthewing@gmail.com or call 541-944-8393.



For 42 years the Rogue Valley Chorale has been at the heart of the arts scene and has enjoyed the support of our community, without which we could not have reached our current level of excellence. Financial support is essential to the Chorale's ability to entertain and enrich the lives of Rogue Valley audiences.

Would you like to make a donation to the Rogue Valley Chorale? To make a charitable contribution visit our website at www.roguevalleychorale.org and click on Donate. On-line contributions are routed through *PayPal* and are safe and secure. You can also mail your donation to Rogue Valley Chorale, 724 S Central, Suite 102, Medford, OR 97501. We thank you for your support.



**ROGUE VALLEY
CHORALE ASSOCIATION**

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Celebrating the joy of singing

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Bill Bartlett, RVCA General Manager
Gary Gillespie, Development Manager
Deedee Morgan, Youth Choruses Administrative Assistant

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Shaun Garner, Cantare
Gerry Flock, Children's Chorus
Wendy Cawthorne, Discovery Chorus

ACCOMPANISTS

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Jim Stickrod, Children's Chorus
Ron Ochs, Discovery Chorus

REHEARSAL ASSISTANTS

Pete Nordquist, Youth Ensemble
Eric Smith, Cantare Chorus
Tyler Flock, Children's Chorus

*To contact the Rogue Valley Chorale Association call us at 541-414-8309, email us at info@roguevalleychorale.org,
or visit our website at www.roguevalleychorale.org.*



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