

ROGUE VALLEY CHORALE ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER Fall 2016

2016-2017 Season Presents Season 44



Rogue Valley Youth Choruses Fall Concert

North Medford High School
Saturday, December 3, 3:00

All four Rogue Valley Youth Choruses present an exceptional selection of choral music.



The Golden Age of Operetta

Saturday, April 29, 2017, 7:30
Sunday, April 30, 2017, 3:00

We turn the spotlight on composers Sigmund Romberg, Victor Herbert, and others of their time. You'll hear favorite songs made famous by Nelson Eddy and Jeanette MacDonald as we explore gems from the early days of Broadway in this theatrical revue.



Glory Hallelujah to the Newborn King!

A Holiday Celebration Sponsored by Jim Collier

Collier Center for the Performing Arts
Saturday, December 3, 2016, 7:30
Sunday, December 4, 2016, 3:00

Join the Chorale and guest soloists for a toe-tapping, hand clapping, raise the rafters, Gospel-style Christmas.



Rogue Valley Youth Choruses Spring Concert

North Medford High School
Saturday, May 20, 2017, 7:00

We close the season with a delightful concert presented by the lovely voices of the Chorale Association's young singers.



Festival of Choirs

Collier Center for the Performing Arts
Saturday, March 11, 2017, 7:00

The Rogue Valley Chorale Association's five choruses come together for this biannual event. Featured will be Mozart's Missa Brevis in C major with chamber orchestra, sung by the Chorale jointly with the Rogue Valley Youth Ensemble.

Do you love to sing?

We want to sing with you!

The Rogue Valley Chorale Association invites interested singers ages 8 and above to audition for one of our five choruses.

For more information call us at
541-414-8309 or email
office@roguevalleychorale.org

Students: \$5, Adults: \$10 and \$20, Family \$25 (immediate family only)

To purchase Collier Center concert tickets, call the Craterian Box Office at 541-779-3000

or visit www.craterian.org

Youth Choruses concert tickets are available at the door or by calling 541-414-8309.

Reflections from the Artistic Director



Many of you may know that I have been traveling the cancer journey with my husband, Frank Sullivan over the last couple of years, and that he passed away peacefully, at home, on July 10 this past summer.

So many of you in the Chorale community have donated your time, talents and money to help me through this very trying time. First of all, I want to express my

gratitude for being held up by so much love and support. I know I could not have done this alone.

Frank was a very private person, so unless you had used his services as a studio engineer at Sullivan Recording, or heard him play banjo and pedal steel guitar with one of his Western Swing bands, you might not have had occasion to meet him. Even before he was diagnosed with throat cancer, he had a chronic cough that made it difficult for him to sit for any length of time in a theater, which is why you didn't see him at our concerts.

Nonetheless, he was always very supportive of my work. In fact, he always said that he first fell in love with my playing when he was running sound at the Oregon Shakespeare Festival for the show I was conducting and playing there in 2001. Only later, when I recorded a demo CD at his studio in Ashland, did we realize that we both had grown up in Pasadena, California and we had both experienced life on the road as professional musicians, and the sparks began to fly.

Frank had a profound influence on me both as a person and as a musician. I am what is affectionately termed a "paper trained" musician. I started piano lessons when I was 5-years old. You can put pretty much any piece of music in front of me and I can play it or sing it at sight. On the other hand Frank did not read a note of music. And when asked if he had had lessons, he always answered, "Not enough to hurt my playing!" But he would often turn on the Country or Bluegrass channel on the Cable TV and just play along. And he knew every single song. Or if he didn't, he would be able to discern the key and chord changes just by listening.

At one point, he was offering a service at the Avalon Bar and Grill, where his band was set up as the "house band", and anyone who wanted, could come in and perform a song with the band, have it recorded, and be handed a CD at the end of the evening. I was amazed that these players

From Board President Spence Webber



We welcome you back to another season of singing with the Rogue Valley Chorale Association and its five choruses. Our mission is to enrich and inspire our communities through great choral music

performed by choruses of all ages. We are honored to provide access to the joy of singing for ages 8 to beyond 80, a lifetime of music celebrating everything from soul to the sacred.

Over the summer the Chorale Association was busy performing, as well as preparing for the 2016-2017 season. First, the association hired a new Operations Manager, Laura Rich. She has been a singer for 9 years, as well as a board member and grant writer for 8 years. Laura has embraced the position quickly and she has already put several pieces in place for a successful season. I encourage you to get to know her. She is an angel.

Second, the Rogue Valley Chorale performed with the Britt Symphony on the hill, as well as at Crater Lake for the 100th anniversary of the National Park Service. Both were wonderful, "warm" experiences.

Finally, we were fortunate to be able to send all of our conductors to a convention for professional development. This gave our choir leaders an opportunity to share time together, as well as to bring home lots of new music to consider for performances.

Going forward, I want to personally invite all of you to Hallelujah to the Newborn King!, our Gospel Christmas concert this December at the Collier Center for the Performing Arts. Jim Collier has been extremely gracious and generous by sponsoring our annual holiday concert for as long as the Chorale lives, breathes, and sings. Bring your friends and family. We'll see you then.



A Message From Past President Kenne Horton



As outgoing president of the Rogue Valley Chorale Association I reflect back on the highlights of my two years in office. They have been filled with joy, beautiful performances and organizational growth.

From a performance standpoint the highlights have been numerous. Under the masterful direction of Laurie Anne Hunter, we presented the Oregon premiere of **Misa Azteca** with the composer, Joseph Julian Gonzalez, in attendance. We also enjoyed collaborations with Teddy Abrams and the Britt Festival Orchestra. We presented our first ever **Festival of Choirs** featuring all five of our organization's choruses on the same stage. And that is naming just a few of the highlights. I may have left your favorite performance off my short list.

From a leadership standpoint my hope is that these past two years have served to strengthen our entire organization – that is, the Rogue Valley Chorale and the Rogue Valley Youth Choruses. Many people in our community have been unaware that the Rogue Valley Chorale Association consists of FIVE choruses for singers from third grade through adulthood. We have been working to increase this awareness.

I began singing at a young age. Because of a severe speech impediment (which disappeared when I sang) choral singing was a place to feel included and embraced. Singing in a chorus helped me to establish an identity and a sense of where I belonged. And I began to thrive.

Children and teens come to our Youth Choruses for many different reasons; a passion for singing, an attraction to the patterns and mathematics of music, a desire to belong to a group, or, as in my situation, a safe place to find oneself. Over the years I have seen so many of them blossom and thrive. I feel honored to be a part of an organization so immensely important in the lives of our community's young people.

As past president I will continue to work toward providing access to the joy of singing for young singers. Thank you for your support of our mission. And if you have never done so, please consider financially supporting the important work we do to provide quality music education and experiences for children, teens and adults in the Rogue Valley.

Reflections from the Artistic Director (continued)

could just perform like that without any rehearsal. And just for fun, I tried my hand as a country singer a couple of times.

One of the things I learned from him was that "Fun" really is key. We all know that music can be a very powerful thing. For Frank, being able to play music every day was his therapy. I know many of you look forward to Monday evening Chorale rehearsals for that same reason. Sometimes it takes a lot of hard work to get to the fun part, but that doesn't mean we can't also have fun along the way. After all, our mission is "Celebrating the Joy in Singing". So here's to another joy-filled and fun season with the Rogue Valley Chorale!

Welcome Operations Manager Laura Rich



In July of 2016 the Rogue Valley Chorale Association welcomed Laura Rich as its new Operations Manager. The position includes overseeing the daily operations of the organization's five choruses, planning, communications and grant writing.

Laura has a long history working with arts organizations as a dancer, singer/performer, and executive director. She became involved with music and dance at an early age. She plays a variety of instruments including piano, guitar, percussion, banjo, and several instruments from West Africa, where she studied music for ten years. Her passion for the arts led her to a career that included back-up singing, musical theater, percussion and vocals for many performing and recording artists. She has worked with numerous non-profit organizations in the field of arts management. Her position as Executive Director of World Music Productions led to several years of international touring with artists from West Africa.

Laura joined the Rogue Valley Chorale in 2007 with her husband, Philip Booth. In addition to singing with the group, she served on the board of directors for eight years. She is thrilled to contribute her skills to the Chorale Association's five choruses, which have become an integral part of her life in Southern Oregon.



Living Our Singing By Peter E. Yeager, Baritone

Last November (before any of us anticipated our beloved Laurie Anne's recent loss), I read a book about a widow who was saved by singing.

About two-thirds of the way through (spoiler alert) Colm Tóibín's Nora Webster, Nora, the widow, a bit reluctantly, visited a musician (named Laurie!) who had offered to prepare her for an audition to sing in a choir. Nora thanked her and said, "I'm not sure my voice is up to much."

Laurie replied, "**There is no better way to heal yourself than singing in a choir, that is why God made music.**"

Then Laurie told Nora what her voice coach had taught her: "**Singing is not something you do, it is something you live.**"

Worth repeating: **Singing is not something you do. Singing is something you live.**

Think about it. Think about what singing means to you. What singing is to your life. Do you agree? Do you **live** your singing?

After a concert, when our repertoire replays in my mind, I think of the parade songs playing in my head as the anthems of my life. "Living the singing" – even when I am not singing!

What is "living our singing"? We could be analytical and talk about all the parts of us that go into our singing – breathing, vocalization (vocal cords, tongue, teeth, lips), mind, attention, focus, articulation, emotion, vibration, dynamics – all the various nuances that go into being a real live musical instrument.

Or we can just sing. And feel alive.

One of the highest joys of the singing life is getting it right. Getting our parts right. And getting the right blend, balance and synchronicity with others. To help us reach that pinnacle, God gave us conductors.

I like the word conductor. In school, we learned about conductors of electricity. If singing is life, then we can think of our conductor as a conductor of life.

The conductor's job is to stand with his or her back to the audience and with movements mainly of the upper extremities (which the audience can mostly see) and facial expressions (which the audience cannot see) silently tell the singers what to sing when and how. After preparation. Lots of preparation. And fine tuning. Fine tuning our vocal instruments. Fine tuning our response to the conductor's silent signals, directing what we sing when and how.

Our singing life, then, depends on how well we receive the life the conductor conducts to us.

At Monday rehearsals, we get tuned up. Getting our cars tuned up once involved spark plugs and points in the distributor cap. Points were polished to insure the best contact, the best distribution of electric current. Monday nights we polish the points of our contact with our conductor!

The energy, passion, personality and teaching style of the conductor sparks our singing. Think of the spark Laurie Anne brings to us Monday nights. (And Lynn Sjolund before her. Also, this past Spring, many of us got the spark of guest conductor, Donald Brineger.)

Think of the conductors' signals as lightning bolts from their fingers! Our eyes and minds are the points of contact, receptors instantaneously awakening our voices to music. The culmination of all that fine-tuning. The consummation of that conduction of electricity, of life! Living our singing!

A lightning rod connection like no other! A life connection of almost Sistine Chapel ceiling proportions!

Singing. It's something we live. And thank God for our conductor. God gave her to us that we may live our singing to the fullest.

Thank you, Laurie Anne. May God bless our lives together and the music we make together, as we **live our singing**.

Chorale Performs With The Britt Orchestra

On July 29-30, 2016, Southern Oregon celebrated the unique majesty of Crater Lake when members of the Chorale performed with the Britt Orchestra at the national park. The musicians performed *Natural History*, by composer Michael Gordon, commissioned by Britt and inspired by Crater Lake.



Ed Houck: First Father, and Gentleman Farmer

Ed Houck has been a singer with the Rogue Valley Chorale during its first season in 1974. As a result, he has been given the title of first father, along with a small group of other men, including fellow tenor, Bill Matthews. Ed has participated in Chorale tours to Hungary, Italy, England and Spain. He sang in the Chorale's first concert, and has sung every year since.

Music has always been a part of Ed's life. He took piano as a small child and sang in high school. He sang in the First United Methodist Church of Medford choir for 49 years until it dissolved in 2011. He sang with the Repertory Singers for 33 years and, in fact, sang in the group's first concert. He also sang with a barbershop men's choral group and the Rogue Choraliers.

We know one another in the Chorale as singers, but there is so much more to each and every one of us. Example... did you know Ed farms 1,600 acres in Idaho with his sister, Carol? His grandfather bought the farm in 1924, and the family has farmed the land ever since. As a third generation co-owner of the family farm he manages the production of wheat, barley and canola. Ed travels to Idaho every August for the

harvest, and returns again each November to visit family, tend to business details and the family home.

Ed also developed a passion for sports cars and is the current owner of a canary yellow, 2009 Corvette. He was one of the first kids around whose father owned a "muscle car." Ed has owned quite a list of vehicles including two Olds 442, three Camaros, and two Corvettes. His philosophy... "Use it, enjoy it, if you have it, drive it."



Ed in Japan, 1956

Ed attended the University of Idaho and graduated with a degree in microbiology. He met his wife, Marie in 1956 while working in an army hospital in Camp Drew, Koizumi, Japan. The couple married and has one son, David, born in Japan. Their daughter, Beth, was born in the USA in Moscow, Idaho, when they returned home. The family came to the Rogue Valley in 1962 and arrived just prior to the Great Columbus Day Storm. The majority of his career was spent at Providence Hospital where he served as Chief Medical Technologist.

From his home on a hillside overlooking the Rogue Valley Ed said, "It's been a good life, and a long life, and music has been a big part of it all.. I've enjoyed every bit of it."



Don't dress like this in my John Deere 9600 combine!

Planned Giving; Making A Lasting Gift

Making a gift to the Rogue Valley Chorale Association through your will or revocable living trust is a simple way to support RVCA's mission of ***inspiring and enriching our communities through 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 a charity. The Rogue Valley Chorale Association 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.

Including charitable giving as a component of estate planning enables us to feel secure that our wishes will be fulfilled in a way that gives back to our community. Making the Chorale Association 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 by potentially lowering taxes. Additionally, it feeds the spirit to know that YOU have made a difference.

If you are interested in making the Chorale Association 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.

The Sjolund Endowment Fund, named to honor Conductor Emeritus Lynn Sjolund, provides the organization with long-term sustainability. To make a donation to RVCA's Sjolund Endowment Fund, contact Cristina Sanz at Oregon Community Foundation, 541-773-8987.

Ways To Give

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

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

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.

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.



Cannon Beach Choral Conductor Workshop

On July 4, 2016 the five Rogue Valley Chorale Association conductors traveled together to Cannon Beach, Oregon, to spend a week together studying with Rod Eichenberger, a noted choral clinician and conductor. For over 50 years Rod has taught choral conducting throughout the world as a faculty member of three universities, and as a frequent guest artist at conducting workshops and seminars.

The conductors stayed together in a large beach house where they processed workshop information, developed camaraderie, and unified their vision for the artistic direction of the organization. The week presented a rare opportunity for the five RVCA conductors to spend quality time together while advancing skills that will benefit the entire organization and ultimately the Rogue Valley Community.



Discovery Chorus Director, Wendy Cawthorne, had this to say about the experience: "Believe it or not, I have never attended a choral conductor's workshop. Therefore, I really did not know what to expect. The experience was uplifting, gratifying, educational, and much appreciated. I learned several directing and choral techniques that I will enjoy utilizing with my Discovery Chorus. I immensely enjoyed recharging my sight-singing skills and hearing the amazing voices around me. I haven't sung like that since my college days! The final performance Friday night was quite uplifting. Equally, I enjoyed getting to know my RVCA colleagues better as we bonded over well-spent time together. The entire experience was one that I will carry with me for years to come."

The project was funded by a grant from the Oregon Community Foundation, and with the help of many generous supporters.

Welcome New Board Member Kristy Denman



Each Fall the Rogue Valley Chorale Association welcomes new board members as others complete their terms and leave vacancies. The organization thrives, in part due to the dedication and hard work of the board. This year we are pleased to welcome Jana Hogan, Michelle Cipollone, and Kristy Denman as new board members.

Meet Kristy in the following

paragraphs as she introduces herself to the Rogue Valley Chorale Association community.

"Growing up on a farm in the Willamette Valley and having an interest in music education I chose to attend Southern Oregon University . . . Ashland seemed very nearly "exotic" at that time! It was a perfect fit for me, and I graduated with a degree in elementary education with music specialist certification. The highlight of my college musical experiences was singing in a three-month USO tour of the Pacific Rim countries near the end of the war in Viet Nam.

"Back home again I was hired as a classroom teacher/music specialist in the Medford school district and taught for many years. Eventually, travel was calling to me and I was hired by Continental Airlines where I became a flight attendant and continued in that career for another fifteen years. Since my airline retirement I have renovated six houses and now am ready to really retire!

"I've been singing in the Chorale since about 1980, with periodic absences when commuting to Houston for my airline job made it impossible to make rehearsals. The Chorale has been such a special part of my life! Widowed last year, I feel that I have time and energy to devote to our organization at this point in my life. I have Board experience with Rogue Opera, have chaired and served on numerous church committees, and was on our Youth Chorus steering committee for several years. I look forward to the opportunity to serve on the Chorale Association's Board of Directors."

ROGUE VALLEY CHORALE ASSOCIATION STAFF

Laurie Anne Hunter, Artistic Director
Laura Rich, Operations Manager

CHORUS DIRECTORS

Laurie Anne Hunter, Rogue Valley Chorale
Pam Nordquist, Youth Ensemble

Pete Nordquist, Asst. Conductor, Youth Ensemble
Shaun Garner, Cantare Chorus
Gerry Flock, Children's Chorus
Wendy Cawthorne, Discovery Chorus

ACCOMPANISTS

Mikiko S. Petrucelli, Chorale
Jim Stickrod, Cantare, Children's Chorus
Ron Ochs, Discovery Chorus

REHEARSAL ASSISTANTS

Pete Nordquist, Youth Ensemble
Eric Smith, Cantare Chorus
Tyler Flock, Children's Chorus
Megan Flock, Children's Chorus
Leah DiMambro, Discovery Chorus
Susan Hamilton, Discovery Chorus

CHORUS MANAGERS

Shawna Gann, Youth Ensemble
Julie Farrow, Cantare Chorus
September Flock, Children's Chorus
Kyle Cawthorne, Discovery Chorus

**To contact the Rogue Valley Chorale Association call 541-414-8309,
email office@roguevalleychorale.org, or visit roguevalleychorale.org.**



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