

CELEBRATING THE JOY OF SINGING



ROGUE VALLEY
CHORALE
ASSOCIATION

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

Rogue Valley Chorale Association Newsletter

2017 - 2018 Season



SOIREE AND SONG
Saturday, Oct. 14th, 2017, 7:00-8:30pm
Inn at the Commons
Be our guests at the Chorale Association's fundraising celebration

featuring music, decadent desserts, live auction, and good company. Call 541-414-8309 or email office@roguevalleychorale to reserve your complimentary seat.



GLORIA!
Saturday, Dec. 2, 2017, 7:30pm
Sunday, Dec. 3, 2017, 3:00pm
Our holiday concert features John Rutter's *Gloria* with brass, organ and percussion and Daniel Pinkham's

Christmas Cantata. Also enjoy seasonal favorites and a merry holiday sing-along with brass.

ROGUE VALLEY YOUTH CHORUSES FALL CONCERT

Saturday, Dec. 9, 2017, 3:00pm
North Medford High School
Sjolund Auditorium

Rogue Valley Youth Choruses will present a festive holiday concert. Enjoy the angelic voices of these talented young singers.



GIFTS OF THE EMERALD ISLE

Saturday, Mar. 10, 2018, 7:30pm
Sunday, Mar. 11, 2018, 3:00pm

Featured guests, Men of Worth, help us celebrate St. Patrick's Day with Celtic and Irish favorites.

Guitar, harp and other traditional Irish instruments add to the magical feeling of this spirited music.



ROGUE VALLEY YOUTH CHORUSES SPRING CONCERT

Saturday, May 12, 2018, 7:00pm

This award winning group of singers presents a feast of musical selections that are sure to delight and entertain.



WALKING IN BEAUTY

Saturday, June 2, 2018, 7:30 pm
Sunday, June 3, 2018, 3:00 pm

We present a collage of music that inspires, celebrates beauty, and reflects the diversity of our cultural landscape.

Community Collaborations

December 1, 2, 3, 2017 - Rogue Valley Children's Chorus joins Rogue Valley Symphony for its holiday concert. For details visit craterian.org.

February 24, 25, 2018 - Rogue Valley Youth Choruses Cantare and Youth Ensemble join the Youth Symphony of Southern Oregon for their Winter concert series. For details visit craterian.org.

April 20, 21, 22, 2018 - The Chorale will be guests of the Rogue Valley Symphony in a performance of Beethoven's *Symphony No. 9*. For tickets call the Symphony box office: 541-708-6400.

Summer, 2018 - The Chorale will embark upon its 9th singing tour. We will bring the musical richness of our American homeland to Ireland as we walk through the beauty of the Green Isle.

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 at the door.

Reflections from the Artistic Director



Photo by Christopher Briscoe

By Laurie Anne Hunter

This has been a busy summer for me. In addition to work on the house and yard, I have been meeting with the Men of Worth to plan for our joint concert in March and for our tour to Ireland in June. In addition, I am working with them on a concert they will present on September 7 as a fund-raiser for our Ireland trip.

I also crossed the border into Canada for the first time in 20 years. Having gone to high school in Ontario and college in Manitoba, this felt very much like a homecoming. A cousin whom I had only met once before (when I was only 7) also lost her husband recently to cancer. After she moved from Ontario to British Columbia last Fall, she wrote me a card suggesting that her beautiful cabin in the woods would be a really fine place for healing and I should come visit! It is always good to get away, and gain perspective on life and loss and the struggles of being human. And indeed, the chance to connect with nature in a different place has been healing.

Looking forward to the coming season, I am very excited to be presenting two very wonderful, major choral works with brass for the Christmas season: John Rutter's magnificent *Gloria* and Daniel Pinkham's *Christmas Cantata*. The Pinkham has been a longtime favorite of mine, and I know you will enjoy both of these pieces as well.

And we are so lucky that the Men of Worth (James Keigher and Donnie Macdonald) are keen to collaborate with us again, and that the timing of our concert works out to be the weekend just before Saint Patrick's Day! Many of you will recall our Celtic Christmas collaboration with them in 2015 and know how much fun they are to work with.

The title of our spring concert, *Walking in Beauty*, comes from a Navajo Blessing. *Walking in beauty* is like a heightened state of consciousness. It is being in harmony with everything around you – recognizing the beauty or connectedness of everything you see, even with those things that may not seem conventionally beautiful. There are different versions of the prayer. Part of it that really speaks to me says,

Today I will walk out; today everything unnecessary or negative will leave me;
 I walk with beauty before me. I walk with beauty behind me.
 I walk with beauty below me. I walk with beauty above me.
 I walk with beauty around me.
 In old age wandering on a trail of beauty, lively may I walk.
 In old age, wandering on a trail of beauty, living again, may I walk.
 It is finished in beauty.
 It is finished in beauty.

Reflections from the Board President



By Spence Webber

The Rogue Valley Chorale Association's newsletter is a great way to invite you to the 2017-2018 concert season. This will be the Chorale's 45th year of celebrating the joy of singing great choral music for our community.

The word that best captures this season for me is collaboration. Our Children's Chorus singers will perform with the Rogue Valley Symphony during its holiday concert. Cantare Chorus and Youth Ensemble will share the stage with the Youth Symphony of Southern Oregon in February. The Chorale welcomes back Men of Worth for the Emerald Isle concert just in time for St. Patrick's Day. Our final collaboration of the season includes a performance of Beethoven's Symphony No. 9 with the Rogue Valley Symphony and Southern Oregon Repertory Singers in April. I am very excited about each of these performances, as well as Gloria! (Christmas with the Chorale) and our final concert of the season, *Walking In Beauty*. For information on acquiring tickets visit craterian.org.

This year the Rogue Valley Chorale welcomes back approximately 100 singers to join voices together under the direction of Laurie Anne Hunter. The Chorale's accompanist is Mikiko Petrocelli.

The choirs of the Rogue Valley Chorale Association and I extend a sincere invitation to everyone in Southern Oregon and elsewhere to come, listen and sing with all the choirs of our fine organization. If you need a brochure or more information, call us at (541) 414-8309 or visit our website, roguevalleychorale.org.

SINGERS WANTED!!!!

The Rogue Valley Chorale Association welcomes new singers, ages 8 through adulthood. If you, or someone you know, would like to audition for one of our five choruses, please contact us.

Phone: 541-414-8309

Email: info@roguevalleychorale.org

Website: www.roguevalleychorale.org

Magical Musical Memories

By Peter E. Yeager



What are your musical memories? Not just the songs that carved grooves in your **phonographic** memory, or melodies that start upon a marathon and run around your brain. But also the total musical experiences where singing has enriched your life.

Among of mine, singing Handel's *Messiah* with my high school glee club. Two hundred of us (a full quarter of the student body!) in red robes with starched white collars holding navy hard-bound scores of the *Messiah* Christmas music, our director sporting white tie and tails.

No auditions: Glee Club was a 3-days-a-week elective for anyone who wanted to sing. Starting in September, we cut our teeth on musical notation with the "one-uh-and-uh, two-uh-and-uh" rhythms in the runs of "And he shall purify." The annual *Messiah* tradition drew full houses in our New Jersey community beyond the families of the singers.

At statewide Operatic Festivals, I exhilarated in singing choruses from *La Traviata* with hundreds of other high school singers and being part of the quintet in the humorous "Landlord Scene" from *La Boheme*.

Memories of touring Europe with the Rutgers Glee Club include a concert at the Heineken Brewery. Our conductor had arranged a song well-known in Holland which we had learned in Dutch and proudly presented with dignified formality, only to draw laughter from the crowd. Seems the song was something of a nursery rhyme and we had given high-brow seriousness to the equivalent of "Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star!"

The final concert of that tour was at the Opera House in Orleans, France. We were told not much had been done in the way of publicity, so not to expect much of an audience. When the curtain started to rise, we could see the seats before us were only sparsely populated. However, as the curtain continued to rise so did our eyes (and spirits!) to see tiers of crowded balconies and boxes applauding us with eager anticipation, who then received each song with similar enthusiasm.

The Rutgers (Men's) Glee Club joined the Rutgers University Choir in Beethoven's *Symphony No. 9* at the Montreal Expo in 1967. In addition to sharing the stage with the Montreal Symphony Orchestra in a magnificent concert hall and singing the famous choruses of that pinnacle of Beethoven's achievement, I remember exhibitions of black-lit art and dancing to mind-altering strobe lights emblematic of that psychedelic era.

Later I joined the Rutgers University Choir for its performance of Brahms' *Requiem* with the Baltimore Symphony (*auf Deutsch*).

During a year in Hungary, someone who heard me singing hymns in church invited me to join a consortium of church choirs preparing Mozart's *Requiem*. (I struggled with Hungarian, but Latin leveled the playing field!) Our concert on the weekend of All Saints' Day (when Hungarians remember the dead), was to commemorate the 200th anniversary of Mozart's death. Later that year, we sang Bach's *St. John Passion*.

What goes around comes around.

Learning much of the *Messiah* proved an entrée to singing it with various community choruses in Omaha, Vermont and here in Medford at *Messiah* sing-alongs and "Hallelujah Chorus" flash mobs, as well as with the RV Chorale.

I sang Brahms' *Requiem* (in English) with a small choir in Barre/ Montpelier, Vermont, as a fund-raiser to help stock the local food pantry. "How Lovely is Thy Dwelling Place" has brought sublime joy in many subsequent singings.

It was a solemn privilege to revisit Mozart's *Requiem* with the Chorale in a special performance as part of the national rolling requiem memorial on the 10th anniversary of the 9/11 Twin Tower attacks.

My choral experience in Hungary also laid the foundation for singing Bach's *St. John Passion* with the Chorale. This Chorale season, I look forward to singing Beethoven's great choral symphony again - 50 years later!

During my 25 years in the Chorale, we've done SATB arrangements of songs I had sung in TTBB settings in the Rutgers Glee Club, most recently the "Drinking Song" from Sigmund Romberg's *The Student Prince*.

Touring England with the Chorale in 2011 gave me a treasure trove of recollections: singing in churches in England and Wales, including the Canterbury and Yorkminster cathedrals; hearing a Welsh men's chorus and a Vesper service with boy's choir at Yorkminster; and bus rides through sheep-dotted English countryside singing '70's folk rock songs with Laura Rich :-).

The Rogue Valley Chorale has given many wonderful musical memories spanning genre from Mendelssohn's *Elijah* to foot-tapping spirituals, from Christmas cantatas to Broadway medleys.

I am sure musical memories echo in the minds of many in the Chorale. Perhaps you recall concerts in the First

(Continued on Page 4)

Youth Ensemble Disney Trip



By Trenton Long, Youth Ensemble Singer

The Rogue Valley Chorale Association's Youth Ensemble went to Disneyland from July 4-9. The trip offered a rare opportunity for the group of high school aged singers to perform together on an outdoor stage near *California Adventure* and the *Guardians of the Galaxy* in front of a live audience. The Folks at Disneyland presented us with a plaque to thank us for our performance. We also recorded two songs assisted by a Disney performing artist who coached us on selections from two Disney movies; *Pocahontas* and *Princess and the Frog*. It was tremendously exciting to experience what happens in a recording session and to hear the finished product. We sounded pretty good!

Being Disney performers allowed us to see a bit of the "behind the scenes" happenings. Fitness must be very important to the performers because there was workout equipment back stage. There were food trucks for the performers. They were all dressed in normal street clothes, and many of them were listening to blasting rock and roll music.

One of the benefits of the trip was the bonding and deepening of friendships. We spent long hours together getting to and from Disneyland on the bus, and also many hours each day preparing for the concerts and seeing the sights. We were together constantly, which was really fun.



Rogue Valley Youth Ensemble on Disney Stage

Not all of our time was spent recording and performing. We arrived each day as soon as possible and left as late as we could. We were able to go on many of the rides; *Splash Mountain, Haunted Mansion, Pirates of the Caribbean, Cars*, and more. We saw a really great live performance of *Frozen* in a Disney Theater. We theorized that the Disney people spray happy chemicals into the air because everyone was incredibly happy all of the time.

On the way home we performed for a group of people at a church, which helped to break up the long ride home. Thank you to our bus driver, Mario, for getting us there and back safely. And thank you to our chaperones: Laura Hreha, Pam and Pete Nordquist, Denise Fleming, Shawna Gann and Carmen Adams. We will never forget this once in a lifetime trip.



Rogue Valley Youth Ensemble

Magical Musical Memories (Continued from Page 3)

Presbyterian Church of Medford (with its majestic pipe organ dedicated in a concert featuring the Chorale); or, in recent years, at the Collier Center for the Performing Arts, in the Craterian Theater, which we opened with a sold-out performance of Bach. Or hearing choral chords resonate in stone sanctuaries of Europe. Or earlier expressions in high school, college, and other choruses.

Music: It's here; then it's gone. Memories live on. Be prepared to share and to ask others to share musical memories. A wonderful conversation starter! It's what we share in common. It's what brings us together.

Thank you Donors and Supporters!

We are grateful to our many supporters who make it possible for us to celebrate the joy of singing with our community.



Jackson County Cultural Coalition of the Oregon Cultural Trust



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OREGON ARTS COMMISSION

What Powers the Choral Ecosystem?

In 2016, Chorus America partnered with the American Choral Directors Association, the Barbershop Harmony Society, and Yale University School of Music to examine the make up of the choral community in the US. One of the major findings of the study was that the choral ecosystem runs on artistry, recognition, and fulfillment—not money.

Far more important than money to the choral community is the kind of interaction that takes place between singers, conductors, and the community. The Chorus America study found that audience reaction gives the singers recognition and allows them to experience a feeling of fulfillment. In return, audiences experience meaning and beauty through their encounter with choral music.

The fact that people ranked money as the least important benefit of being part of the choral field does not mean the system can survive and thrive without it. Christina Lewellen, the international president of Harmony, Inc. said, “You have to pay your rent, you have to pay your conductor, you have to pay your licensing fees.” But it does mean that choruses that want to nurture relationships with singers, board members, and other supporters might consider focusing on the power of non-monetary benefits, primarily the fulfillment that music brings to both listener and singer.

The Can Choir in Concert...



Federal Arts Funding Update

By Chorus America Staff

On July 12th, 2017, the U.S. House Interior Appropriations Subcommittee approved a bill that calls for the National Endowment for the Arts to be funded at \$145 million in FY 2018.

This is an encouraging sign that appropriators are not following the Administration's budget outline, which recommended eliminating the NEA. However, it still represents a \$5 million cut from FY 2017 funding levels and falls short of the \$155 million requested by a record bipartisan group of 155 members of Congress.

As arts advocates, it's important to continue developing relationships with our lawmakers and telling our stories about the importance of the arts at the federal, state, and local level. There will be more points along the way as the proposal moves through the House and into the Senate - a process likely to extend all the way through late Fall of 2017 before anything is finalized.

Arts Leaders Lunch Discussions

Members of the local arts community have started meeting quarterly for brown bag lunch discussions on issues relevant to the arts community in the Rogue Valley. Initial discussions focused on diversity, equity and inclusion, and the ways we can make equitable advances through the arts.

A good portion of our conversation centered around the definition of diversity. We talked about the broad and diverse demographics in our community including race, sexual orientation, socio-economic status, political affiliation, religious persuasion, ability and disability.

Our next discussion will center around the way we can strengthen the arts community through collaboration. The discussions are open to everyone in our community. Our next lunchtime gathering will take place on November 8, 11:30-1:00 at Oregon Community Foundation, 818 W. 8th St. in Medford. Email office@roguevalleychorale.org to participate.



Gay Pollard: Chorale Singer, Lifelong Singer

By Karen Foster

According to Gay Pollard, “As long as I have a voice, I will sing!” Gay Jeffress Cawthorne Pollard was born in Anaheim, CA, and she has been singing ever since. Growing up in a musical family, she sang her first solo in church at the age of six. She began vocal lessons at twelve and has taken lessons on and off ever since. In high school Gay sang in an acapella choir and in a women’s trio, and performed in a number of operettas and other musical performances. One of Gay’s claims to fame is that Debbie Reynolds was a friend and sat in front of her in study hall. Gay says Debbie was a chatterbox, and the two of them got into trouble for talking and were tossed out!

Gay’s choral director in high school recommended Gay and her fellow trio members for scholarships to Chapman College in Orange, CA, which they all received. While at Chapman, the trio continued to perform in numerous venues, did radio and television spots, opened for a Nelson Eddy concert at the Starlight Bowl in Burbank, CA, and was the opening act for a Gordon MacRae concert! Gay says that Debbie Reynolds was also on the same performance circuit, and the trio and Debbie often traveled to gigs together where the trio did their part and Debbie did hers.



Following two years at Chapman College, Gay spent two years at the Hoffman Institute, a business college, from which she received a business certificate. During that time Gay met her husband, Jim Cawthorne, who was in the US Navy. They married and Gay took a job as a church secretary where she remained for twelve years. She also directed a children’s choir at that church.

Gay and Jim had four children, three of whom live in the Medford area (Kyle, Keith and Kimberly), and one who lives in Burbank, CA. (Kelly). Kyle is married to Wendy, an original Children’s Chorus member, who is currently a music educator in the Medford School District. Kyle will also step into the role of President of the Rogue Valley Chorale Association’s Youth Choruses Steering Committee next year.

Gay and Jim moved to Medford thirty years ago after Jim, an electronic engineer, took early retirement from a company called Fidelity Manufacturing, a company that made film holders. Gay says her sister lived in the Rogue Valley, and when she and Jim came for a visit that was it!

Jim died in 1994, and in 2008, Gay met and married Ed Cawthorne, a retired minister. Unfortunately Ed died not long after that.

Gay has many other pursuits besides singing, including painting in watercolor and acrylics. She studied art under Donna Sherbourne and Carl Seyboldt, and produces an original Christmas card every year. She has written several musical worship services and created musical shows for the Lakeport, California Chamber of Commerce. She also belongs to a book club. Her current project is doing the decorations for Cathy Morrison’s wedding later this month.

Gay has been a member of the Rogue Valley Chorale for 18 years. Besides singing in the Rogue Valley Chorale, Gay sings in the Eastwood Baptist Church choir under the direction of Sharon Dady. She serves as a Steering Committee member for the Rogue Valley Youth Choruses and is an active and much valued volunteer.



Make a Charitable Contribution to the Rogue Valley Chorale Association

The Rogue Valley Chorale Association is a 501(c)(3), non-profit corporation with a mission to inspire and enrich our communities with great choral music performed by choruses of all ages. Like many non-profit organizations, the Rogue Valley Chorale Association depends upon you, our supporters, to help fulfill the mission.

Consider making a gift to RVCA. Your dollars provide the following:

- Provides children with outstanding musical education so that they can become lifelong singers
- Provides **all** Rogue Valley residents with access to exceptional choral music performances
- Continues providing singers with an outlet for performing their craft
- Keeps beautiful choral music as a part of the Rogue Valley's arts menu for generations to come

We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give.
-Winston Churchill

Ways To Give

General Giving - Your gift will help maintain the daily needs of RVCA.

Concert Support - Funds enable us to provide the community with exceptional concerts by supporting production expenses.

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

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. Honor gifts include such events as anniversaries, birthdays and graduations. We will send the honoree a card letting them know a gift has been made in their honor.

Youth Singer Support - Make a young singer's dream come true by offsetting the cost of tuition.

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

Memorial Gifts - A Memorial Gift honors the life of a loved one who has passed and is a gesture of support to someone who has experienced a loss. Provide us with a mailing address of the loved ones so we can let them know of your gift.



In 2014 the Rogue Valley Chorale Association presented its first fundraising gala. The organization has since made the gala a biennial event to honor supporters, embrace new friends and inform our Chorale family about our goals, aspirations, dreams and future plans.

We invite you to join us for this year's October 14th gala entitled Soiree and Song, 7:00-8:30 at Inn at the Commons. Email office@roguevalleychorale or call us at 541-414-8309 to reserve your complimentary seat. (See details on page 1)

*Rogue Valley Chorale Association is a 501(c)(3), non-profit corporation.
All donations are deductible to the extent of the law.*



How to Give

The Rogue Valley Chorale Association can help you make donating simple and easy.

- Donate on-line at: roguevalleychorale.org/donate
- Send your check to: Rogue Valley Chorale Association, 724 S. Central Ave. Suite 102, Medford, OR, 97501
- Call us at 541-414-8309 if you would like to make a secure credit card donation.

We are pleased to assist in turning your philanthropic goals into reality. Thank you for your generosity.



RVCA
Rogue Valley
Chorale Association

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Pete Nordquist, Youth Ensemble Assistant Conductor
Shaun Garner, Cantare
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Wendy Cawthorne, Discovery Chorus

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Julie Brunson, Cantare
September Flock, Children's Chorus
Kyle Cawthorne, Discovery Chorus

*To contact the Rogue Valley Chorale Association
call us at 541-414-8309,
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RVCA
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Celebrating the Joy of Singing

