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FEATURED GUESTS MEN OF WORTH

March 10 and 11, 2018

Craterian Theater at the Collier Center for the Performing Arts

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Celebrating the Joy of Singing



CONDUCTOR NOTES By Laurie Anne Hunter



Welcome to our celebration of Gifts from the Emerald Isle, perfectly timed to get us all in the mood for St. Patrick's Day! We are delighted once again to be sharing the stage with the Celtic duo, Men of Worth — James Keigher and Donnie Macdonald. They are no strangers to the Rogue Valley Chorale, having joined us for our Celtic Christmas concert in 2015. James also performed with us as part of our Christmas Around the World concert in 2014.

We are opening this concert with *Dulaman*, a lively Gaelic courting song about Irish seaweed. The beautiful *Ave Maris Stella* (*Hail, star of the sea*) that follows isn't exactly Irish, but this setting of the 8th century text certainly has a Celtic feel to it. Composer Mark Thomas describes it saying, "The melody shines over the gentle, rolling wave-like contour of the choral and piano accompaniment."

Danny Boy, also known as *Derry Air*, is so well known, it really needs no introduction. Some may think it is overplayed here in the United States, but apparently that is not the case in Ireland. David Mooney who was born in 1964 in Sligo, Ireland composed the arrangement we are performing. He also composed beautiful settings of many other Irish folksongs, including *The Salley Gardens* which you will hear during the second half of our concert.

Star of the County Down is an up-tempo Irish ballad set near Banbridge in County Down, Northern Ireland. The tune is similar to a hymn tune, called *Kingsfold*, which appears in many hymnals today with alternate words.

We open the second half of our concert with a tune called *Mouth Music*. This is actually a genre of Celtic music meant for dancing, in which voices imitate the music of folk instruments. This particular tune comes from the Hebrides off the coast of Scotland.

The singalong portion of our concert includes three classic Irish-American songs, all made famous by Chauncey Olcott during the first part of the 20th century. *My Wild Irish Rose* comes from a 1947 film about a fictional Irish-American tenor and Olcott's film score was nominated for an Academy Award that year. *Too-Ra-Loo-Ra-Loo-Ral* was a #1 hit for Olcott in 1913. Bing Crosby brought it back to prominence in 1944 for the film, *Going My Way. When Irish Eyes Are Smiling* comes from a 1912 production called *The Isle O'Dreams*. It continued to be a familiar standard for many years and was recorded by many famous singers.

To further our collaborative effort, I have written choral backup parts for a number of the traditional songs offered by the Men of Worth, as well as providing them with chord charts to several of the choral pieces, so they can choose to "improvise" along with us. This will provide a flavor of what our music making will be like with a smaller group of singers from the Chorale as we travel with Men of Worth to Ireland this summer. We close our concert with *The Parting Glass*, a Scottish traditional song, often sung at the end of a gathering of friends, and with the lively Scottish song, *Mairi's Wedding* to put us all in a joyful mood as we leave the theater with these wonderful tunes going through our heads.

ROGUE VALLEY

Laurie Anne Hunter Conductor/Artistic Director Mikiko Petrucelli Accompanist

SOPRANO

Melodee Adams Donna Barrett Virginia Brown **Dee-Marie Broyles** Michelle Cipollone Diane Combs Janet Dolan Connie Fisher-Crooks Nina Frost Erin Galbraith Marissa Gann Beth Gibson Kathy Gordon Mary Kay Harmon Ellie Holt-Murray Jan Jacobs Judith Kloetzel Rebecca Leggett Shirley Lenz Laurie Morey Janelle Murray Gay Pollard Colleen Patrick-Riley Marilyn Reppert Laura Rich

Phyllis Skinner Rosemary Tutland Susan White jj Zwang

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Phil Koenig David Works Jeff Works Kris York

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ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

A native of Pasadena, California, Laurie Anne Hunter received her B.A. from the University of Winnipeg and her Masters in Piano Accompanying from the



Juilliard School in New York. She spent five seasons as an Assistant Conductor and Vocal Coach with the New York City Opera, becoming only the fourth woman ever to conduct there when she made her Lincoln Center debut with Marc Blitzstein's *Regina* in 1992. Guest conducting appearances followed with the New England Lyric Operetta, Skylight Opera Theatre in Milwaukee, and the Kitchener-Waterloo Symphony.

She was Associate Conductor of *Phantom of the Opera* in Toronto and *Showboat* on Broadway, and Assistant Conductor and Vocal Coach for the Opera Theatre of Saint Louis, Augusta Opera, Mobile Opera, Boston Concert Opera, and the Metropolitan Opera Guild's educational productions. She headed the music staff for two years at the Banff Centre's Music Theater program in Canada, and worked with American Musical Theater of San Jose and the Seattle Opera. Ms. Hunter has been on the faculty of the Hartt School of Music in Hartford, Connecticut, the Israel Vocal Arts Institute in Tel Aviv, and the Musicians Club of America summer Opera and Lieder Institutes in North Carolina.

In 2001, the Oregon Shakespeare Festival brought her to Ashland as Musical Director and Pianist for *Enter the Guardsman*, and she has been an active and valuable part of the Rogue Valley's musical scene ever since. She has been an adjunct faculty member at Southern Oregon University since 2001, and music director at the First Presbyterian Church in Ashland since 2010. Additional contributions to the musical life of the Rogue Valley include work with the Oregon Cabaret Theatre, Southern Oregon University Theatre Productions, Southern Oregon Repertory Singers, Rogue Valley Symphony, Rogue Opera, and the Brava! Opera Theatre/James M. Collier Young Artist program. She took up the harp while earning her certification from the "Music for Healing and Transition Program" and for many years played therapeutic harp music for Providence Cancer Center and Hospice in Medford.

Ms. Hunter has been a part of the Rogue Valley Chorale community since 2002, serving as guest accompanist, Board member, and guest conductor before being appointed as the Chorale's Artistic Director and Conductor in 2013. She is delighted to have become more closely acquainted with this fine group of singers and to have gained so many new friends.

ROGUE VALLEY CHORALE ASSOCIATION

Dulaman	arr. Rollo Fisher
Ave Maris Stella Soloist: Michelle Cipollone	Mark Thomas
The Flight of Earls	Liam Reilly
The Fields of Athenry	Pete St. John
Derry Air Conductor: Eric Smith Soloist: Rebecca Leggett	arr. David Mooney
Early Autumn Breeze	James Keigher
The Boys from County Mayo	Traditional
Star of the County Down	arr. Thomas Quigley

INTERMISSION

Mouth Music	Dolores Keane/John Faulkner
The Sound of Iona	Traditional
Song of the Dawn	Traditional
The Salley Gardens	arr. David Mooney
Ир Мауо	Padraig Stevens
Singalong: Irish Eyes Are Smiling (A Medley including: My Wild Irish Rose, Too-Ra-Loo-Ral)	
The Parting Glass	arr. Audrey Snyder
Mairi's Wedding	Traditional

TEXTS AND TRANSLATIONS

Dulaman

Dear daughter, here come all the courtin' men, Dear mother, oh bring me my spinning wheel.

Refrain:

Seaweed from the yellow cliff; Irish seaweed, Seaweed from the ocean, the best in all of Ireland

There's a pair of black feet on the Irish seaweed. There are two bare ears on the Irish seaweed.

Let's go to Derry with the Irish seaweed. And we'll buy expensive shoes on the Irish seaweed.

Black spotted shoes on the Irish seaweed, There's a cap and trousers on the Irish seaweed.

What are you doing here? says the Irish seaweed At courting with your daughter, says the Irish seaweed.

Oh where are you taking my daughter, says the Irish seaweed. Well, I'd take her with me, says the Irish seaweed.

Ave Maris Stella

Hail, O Star of the sea, Nurturing Mother of God and ever Virgin, Happy gate of Heaven

Receiving that "Ave" from the mouth of Gabriel, Establish us in peace, transforming the name of "Eve".

Continued on next page

Loosen the chains of the guilty, Send forth light to the blind, Our evil dispel, entreat for us all good things.

Show thyself to be a Mother; Through you may He receive prayer Who, being born for us, undertook to be thine own.

O unique Virgin, meek above all others. Set us free from our sins, meek and chaste.

Bestow a pure life, prepare a safe way; That seeing Jesus, we may ever rejoice.

Praise be to God the Father, To the Most High Christ be glory, To the Holy Spirit be honor, to the Three equally. Amen.

Irish Eyes are Smiling (singalong medley)

My Wild Irish Rose, the sweetest flow'r that grows. You may search everywhere, but none can compare With my Wild Irish Rose.

My Wild Irish Rose, the dearest flow'r that grows. And someday for my sake, she may let me take the bloom from my Wild Irish Rose.

Too-ra-loo-ra-loo-ral, Too-ra-loo-ra-li Too-ra-loo-ra-loo-ral, hush now, don't you cry! Too-ra-loo-ra-loo-ral, Too-ra-loo-ra-li Too-ra-loo-ra-loo-ral, that's an Irish lullaby.

When Irish eyes are smiling, sure it's like a morn in Spring. In the lilt of Irish laughter, you can hear the angels sing. When Irish hearts are happy, all the world seems bright and gay, and when Irish eyes are smiling, sure they steal your heart away.

FEATURED GUESTS

The folk-music duo, Men of Worth, was formed by James Keigher (Ireland) and Donnie Macdonald (Scotland) in 1986. Both exiles, it was through the Celtic music scene in Southern California that James and Donnie first met, and within a couple of years a partnership developed that was simultaneously serious and fun.



Geographical changes now find James and Donnie living in Southern Oregon and Northern California respectively. Whilst remaining true to their Gaelic roots, Men of Worth have successfully evolved as entertainers. Success breeds success, and a natural progression toward education and travel has sealed an exciting and pioneering era for the versatile duo.

Together Men of Worth blend their voices with harmony and support their collection of songs with their varied selection of instruments. They have a very simple approach to their presentation, and in keeping with tradition, remain true to the music and story. Their show is a unique combination of humor, exciting tunes, and soulful, heartfelt ballads.

Men of Worth are an international act, and have earned much respect and success in over thirty years of touring together. Cultural presentations in Schools have received rave reviews by students and teachers alike. Performing in concerts and festivals, with twelve albums to their credit, Men of Worth continue the very tradition from which they've evolved.

Donnie Macdonald comes from the Isle of Lewis, one of the Hebridean Islands off the west coast of Scotland. Writing tunes and original songs in both his first language, Gaelic and in English, Donnie presents the music from his native Scotland with passion and humour. Donnie performs on vocals, octave mandolin, tenor banjo, concertina, and bodhran.

James Keigher comes from County Mayo in the west of Ireland. He is a singer, writer and collector of traditional and contemporary folk music. James was raised in Charlestown, a small rural community setting, steeped in traditional music and stories. He performs on vocals, guitar, mando-cello, and bodhran.



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ACCOMPANIST MIKIKO S. PETRUCELLI

Mikiko S. Petrucelli was born in Tokyo, Japan where she first started playing piano at the age of 4. She attended the Mushashino Academia Musicae and



received her undergraduate degree in Piano Performance. She then moved to Germany and earned a Performance Degree from the Hochschule für Musik in Detmold, Germany. After she returned to Japan, Mikiko played with the string chamber group Uovo as their guest pianist, touring Japan and giving chamber and solo concerts in Germany. She has played on NHK radio, the national public radio station in Japan, and won a special award at the Josef Dichter Competition in Vienna, Austria in 2001.

In 2004 Mikiko moved to the United States and received a Masters of Music from Baylor University and Doctor of Musical Arts in Piano Performance from the University of Nebraska, Lincoln.

In 2008, as a result of winning the Chiara Competition, Mikiko performed Dvorak's Piano Quintet with the Chiara Quartet. She has also studied Historical Performance Practice in fortepiano. In 2008, she was invited to an international conference, as a result of a complete Hixson-Lied Presentation of Scholarly and Creative Activity Grant. She attended an international conference "The Art of the Fortepiano" and performed in several concerts in Middleburg, the Netherlands.

Mikiko has extensive experience as a chamber and solo pianist as well as an accompanist. As of May 2010, she completed three years of service at Doane College in Crete, Nebraska as an adjunct faculty member. She joined the Rogue Valley Chorale as accompanist in 2015.



CONDUCTOR EMERITUS

Lynn Sjolund, Founding Artistic Director/Conductor Emeritus of the Rogue Valley Chorale, served as Artistic Director from 1973 until 2013. During his tenure, the Chorale presented hundreds of concerts to the community, toured Europe 7 times, performed at Carnegie Hall and made a lasting impact on the Rogue Valley community. The Rogue Valley Chorale singers will forever hold a place in their hearts for Conductor Emeritus Lynn Sjolund.



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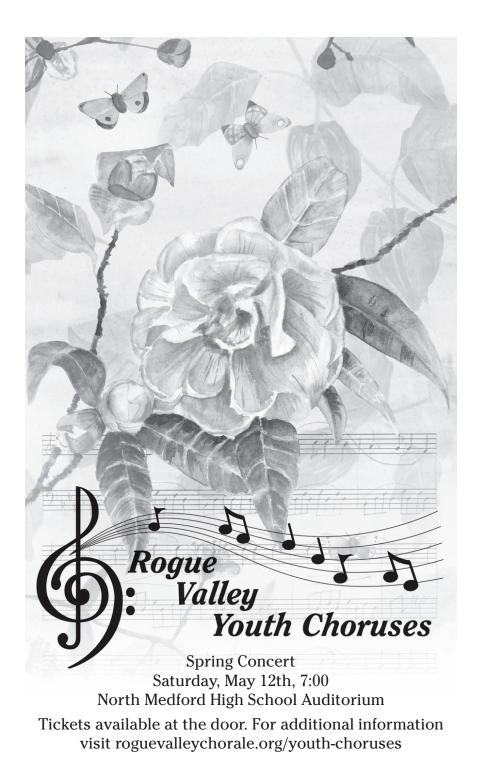


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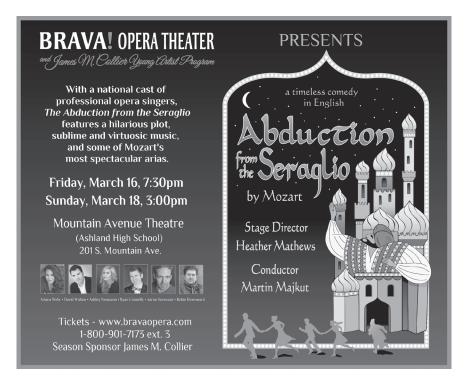
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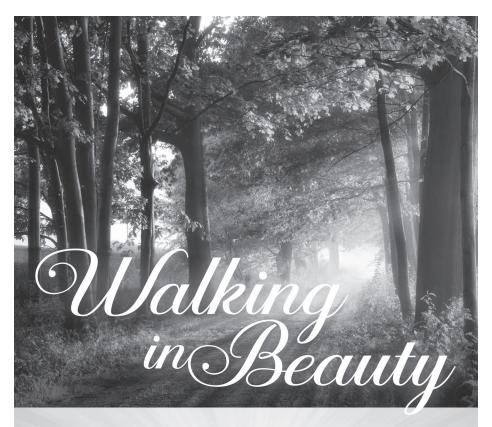
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