

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

2018 - 2019 Season

Season Sponsor - James Morrison Collier



Magnify: The Words of Mary
A Holiday Concert Sponsored
by James Morrison Collier
Saturday, Dec. 1, 2018, 7:00
Sunday, Dec. 2, 2018, 3:00

Magnificat in D Major by Johann Sebastian Bach and *Magnificat in C* by Franz Schubert bring the words of the world's most iconic mother to life. A selection of Marian carols round out this orchestrated concert in a resounding celebration of life, love, dedication and the holiday season.
Craterian Theater at the Collier Center



Rogue Valley Youth Choruses
Fall Into Singing
Saturday, Dec. 8, 2018, 3:00
Central High School Auditorium
The four award-winning Youth Choruses (grades 3-12) presents a feast of musical selections that are sure to delight and entertain.



Ethereal Moments

Saturday, Mar. 23, 2019, 7:30
Sun. Mar. 24, 2019, 3:00
Craterian Theater at the Collier Center
Saturday, Mar. 30, 2019, 7:00
Burns Paiute Reservation
The Rogue Valley Chorale has

commissioned renowned composer Joseph Julian Gonzalez to create a new work based upon ancient Aztec poetry that speaks of a mystical place of immense beauty in a deeply fulfilling musical experience. Join the Chorale for this auditory and visual extravaganza.

Pre-concert presentation by the composer prior to each concert, 6:30 PM on Saturday, 2:00 PM on Sunday, and 6:30 PM in Burns. All are welcome to attend.



Cole! The Music of Broadway Icon Cole Porter

Sat., May 4, 2019, 7:30
Sun., May 5, 2019, 3:00

Put on your bling! It's time for the music of Cole Porter. Great

showstoppers such as *Another Op'nin, Another Show* and *Anything Goes* mixed with Porter's beautiful ballads including *Every Time We Say Goodbye* and *In the Still of the Night* will delight audiences. The talented pool of Chorale singers will present Porter's music accompanied by a jazz instrumental combo. This concert promises a full evening of entertainment.

Rogue Valley Youth Choruses Concert **Step Into Spring**

Saturday, May 4, 3:00
North Medford High School

A collection of delightful and inspiring songs presented by our youth singers.



Would you like to sponsor a concert?

We are seeking sponsorship for the following:

Conductor Sponsor - Ethereal Moments and Cole!
Musician Sponsor - Ethereal Moments
Youth Choruses - Fall and Spring concerts

To learn more contact office@roguevalleychorale.org

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

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



Expanding Borders By Michael Morris

Exactly one year ago, in August of 2017, my wife, Linda, and I made the life-altering decision to move from the San Francisco Bay Area to a place that we have always cherished, the Rogue Valley. The move was a major transition in that we had both been raised, educated, married, worked, worshipped, and raised our children in the Bay Area. We were fortunate to find the house of our dreams, plan our retirements, Linda from the Palo Alto Medical Foundation and I from a 45 year career as a professional singer, voice teacher, and conductor. The concept of moving from everything that was familiar to us was at once exciting and frightening. We were literally and figuratively expanding our borders beyond the familiar.

With change comes opportunity to not only review what has been, but to explore the possibilities of what can be. After Linda and I had committed to our retirement plans and began the process of purchasing our new home, I got a call to apply for the Artistic Directorship of the Rogue Valley Chorale, and the rest, as is said, is history. I am honored to have been named to serve as the organization's Artistic Director. In the past few months I have been learning about the Chorale and the Rogue Valley Chorale Association as a whole. I have reviewed the rich, 45 year history of the Chorale; the enormous dedication and leadership of founder and conductor emeritus, Lynn Sjolund; the founding of the children's choirs by Maestro Sjolund's wife, Doris; the marvelous concerts and repertoire that have been performed; the fabulous leadership of the RVCA Board of Directors and Board President, Donna Barrett; the many committees and volunteer personnel that diligently keep the RVCA humming along; the esteemed tenure of Artistic Director Laurie Anne Hunter, and professionalism and dedication of the RVCA's talented Executive Director, Laura Rich. I have learned so much and there is so much more to learn about this gem of Medford, the Rogue Valley, and beyond. I am excited and a bit overwhelmed to be such a fortunate participant in this elite organization.

As the Chorale and I transition together we must honor and maintain what has been the hallmark of the organization while exploring new challenges and possibilities as we expand our borders. We begin the 2018-2019 Concert Season by honoring the Rogue Valley Chorale's founding mandate to perform major choral works. The December 1st and 2nd concert feature the Bach Magnificat. **Magnify: The Words of Mary** also features the Schubert Magnificat, local vocal soloists, and a chamber orchestra.

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Reflections from the Board President



Welcome Michael Morris By Donna Barrett

The Rogue Valley Chorale is thrilled to welcome Maestro Michael Morris as incoming Artistic Director.

Michael moved to California with his family in 1962 at the age of nine. While in 5th grade Michael announced to his family that he was going to take violin lessons. The resounding answer was, "No!" He was told one can't make a living playing violin. After a week of pestering his parents they finally relented. Within a week he took the tabs off the strings and became quite proficient.

As a freshman in the high school orchestra, Michael heard the 900 member District Honor Choir perform Schubert's *Mass in G*, and he was enthralled. The next year he was chosen as the lead in the operetta, *Little Mary Sunshine*. As a sophomore he beat out six seniors!

When Michael was a junior he started a barbershop quartet. His choir director took Michael under his wing and taught him to conduct. Once, when Michael's teacher was ill, he was asked to conduct the choir. His passion for music emerged early in his life, was fed during his high school years, and became his life's ambition.

Michael attended De Anza Community College in Cupertino where he met his future wife Linda. They transferred to San Francisco State University. He and Linda continued to see each other frequently, and when they were 21 they married. In the fall of 1974, Michael became the music director for a large Catholic church with over 3,000 parishioners. He was in charge of a folk choir, an adult choir, and a children's choir.

Michael received his Bachelor's Degree in Music Education from San Francisco State University. He studied opera at the American Institute of Music Studies in Graz, Austria, where he received the George London Award for Vocal Performance. His Master of Music Degree in Vocal Performance is from Notre Dame de Namur University. Michael is also a well-known and respected baritone soloist, and has sung the leading roles in some 80 operas, operettas, and musicals with such companies as Opera San Jose, West Bay Opera, and Rogue Valley Opera. He is a frequent soloist for concert work with large orchestras and choral organizations. A voice teacher for over 40 years, Michael is known as a "teacher's teacher" and has instructed many professional singers and music teachers.

We are thrilled to hand the baton to this outstanding Artistic Director and anticipate many years of creating exceptional choral musical performances.

Reflections from the Executive Director

By Laura Rich



The 2018-2019 season marks the beginning of my third year as Executive Director of the Rogue Valley Chorale Association. Each season has been more exciting than the last, and this year is certainly no exception. Welcoming our new Artistic Director, Michael Morris has

been an absolute joy. His charisma, enthusiasm, exceptional musicality and skill as a conductor helped to make the transition seamless. Michael and I work beautifully together and share a passion for the vision of the organization, to "celebrate the joy of singing." Michael's musical plans extend well into the future and include collaborations, commissions, outreach, and celebrating the diversity both within our organization and in the community we serve.

The music we bring to our audiences would not be possible without the hard work, dedication and philanthropy of our singers, volunteers and supporters. We exist because of the many people who work behind the scenes to raise funds, assist with marketing, design costumes, plan receptions, assemble music packets for our singers, set up chairs every Monday night, serve on the Board of Directors or as committee members, and conduct myriad other tasks that keep this ship afloat.

This season we have been fortunate to receive the support of our dear friend James Morrison Collier. Jim has generously provided sponsorship for the 2018-2019 season. His support enables excellence in programming for our singers and audience members. Jim is a rare individual who receives joy and fulfillment by giving. An inheritance provided Jim with the means to live anywhere, and in a style that remains a remote dream to most of us. But instead Jim has chosen to provide our community with access to the arts. The gifts Jim has given to the Rogue Valley will live on for generations in the artistic richness that surrounds us.

We have received donations, grants and sponsorship support from many individuals and organizations. Please take note of these philanthropists who will be listed in our concert programs. Without their generosity the music would cease! Our gratitude runs deep.

I want to thank one more group of individuals; those who have remembered the Rogue Valley Chorale Association in their wills. My husband and I have provided for RVCA in our estate planning, and take great comfort in the fact that our gift will enable the choruses to continue creating music long after we are gone. I invite you to join us in this effort.

I attend Chorale rehearsals each Monday night and am awed by the enormity of what was created almost half a century ago. RVCA is a magnificent organization. Every day I feel immense gratitude and appreciation for the honor of serving as its Executive Director.

An Interview with Chorale Singer Nathan Case



Do you recall what first motivated you to sing?

My first singing memories included running around my house singing the Lion King and choreographing dances to the songs. I sang in some Christmas musicals while at a private school (Pilot Rock) in Ashland where Donna Barrett was my music teacher. I began choral

singing in 4th grade in my school's choir, and eventually joined Youth Choruses in 2006. I started in the Children's chorus, continued through Cantare and eventually to Youth Ensemble. And from there my motivation to sing flourished.

Have you had formal music training?

I took formal voice lessons in my senior year of high school while preparing for the district solo competition. I was fortunate to study under Lynn Sjolund. He had so much to teach me and encouraged me to continue singing.

What influence did Youth Choruses have on your life?

Youth Choruses enabled me to bring singing into my life. I was a busy kid focused on both academics and sports, so having a place outside of school where I could just sing was important for me. It allowed me to learn different types of music, different languages, act professionally for performances and created bonds with people from all walks of life. I have been lucky enough to travel with choirs and create great memories. Choir has always been an anchor for me. Youth Choruses provided the basis for me to grow into the singer I am today and has opened up so many great choral opportunities in my life.

Since leaving Youth Choruses what has been your singing experience?

After Youth Choruses I have had the pleasure to sing in UO's Gospel Choir conducted by Andiel Brown as well as the University Singers at UO conducted by Dr. Sharon Paul. Each of these experiences has been amazing. University Singers required a lot of independence and experience in choir, which I can attribute to Youth Choruses.

What motivated you to join the Chorale?

I took a break from college. I realized something was missing in my life...choir. While chatting with Pam Nordquist, director of Rogue Valley Youth Ensemble and a longtime friend and mentor, she encouraged me to sing with the Chorale. The Chorale felt like the place I needed to be to reconnect with friends and role models who helped me become a singer. It also gave me new space to make friends, especially with older adults who have so much experience and wisdom.

Tell me about the non-singing you.

I was born and raised in Medford. I went to school at McLoughlin Middle School and South Medford High School. Though academics was a large part of my focus, I was also a runner. I ran cross-country in middle school and high school, and became a cross-country captain my senior year. My main hobby outside of school is fishkeeping. I have been an aquarist for 12 years. It is still something I focus on today.

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Change

By Peter E. Yeager

"Nothing's quite as sure as change." The Mamas and the Papas sang it in the late '60's ("LookThrough My Window") about 5 years before the Rogue Valley Chorale was born.

Change. One thing never changes: there will be changes.

Sometimes I come across an entry in an old journal or appointment calendar. I marvel, "Oh, look at what I was doing then ... what I was thinking, planning or feeling then." I've changed. But still it is I.

Sometimes I come across a program, CD or DVD from a Rogue Valley Chorale concert. I marvel, "Look. Listen. What we were singing then." There may be changes. But we're still the Rogue Valley Chorale.

Nature shows us that change is essential to growth. History teaches us that progress occurs only with change. Nature grows. History marches on.

As they looked through their window, my favorite pop harmonizers of the '60's also said, "People sometimes change." Yes. We all do. Age changes us. Slows us down. The body gives way. Time to retire. Step back. Sometimes we lose a loved one. Shakes us to the foundations. Need to re-assess. Move on. Opens up a new place. Leaders step down. Pass on the baton. A new leader steps up. Change. We've all been there.

Change may be viewed with fear and trepidation. Or with hopeful anticipation.

In Magnificat, Mary marveled at the child she had conceived and the changes to be wrought through him. She reflected on the past and anticipated the future. Of these we will sing in the Bach and Schubert settings Maestro Michael Morris has chosen for our first concert under his baton.

"The more things change, the more they stay the same." In the midst of change, the heart of the Chorale stays the same. Seeking excellence in making music together. Drawing from the vast repertory of choral music and giving it our best. Keeping choral music alive for our community and upcoming generations. Sharing the joy of singing.

And, in doing these things, following our chosen leader. A leader who conceives and crafts each program. Who prepares personally, and helps us prepare. A leader who works with us to fashion beautiful music from the raw material of scores and our willing hearts and voices.

We welcome Maestro Michael Morris. Together may we be all the Rogue Valley Chorale has set out to be.

Together we face changes. Michael Morris is new to us. We, new to him. The constant will be our pursuit of truth, beauty, and excellence in music. True to each arranger's and composer's vision. A beauty only blended voices can bring. Excellence in the execution.

This is our tradition. This is our joy. It is who we are.

So much to look forward to. Change? Bring it on!

An Interview with Chorale Singer Nathan Case

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both keeping and breeding fish. It is what directed me towards Marine Biology as my major in college. I hope to do research focused on marine conservation and learn more about fish keeping in aquaria.

Is there anything else you want to tell us?

Youth Choruses provided a lot of the platform for me to have great choral experiences. I have been able to sing with Oregon's All State Choir. It is just an amazing experience to have so many singers in one room. However, my favorite choral experience has to be singing with the Stangeland Youth Choral Academy (SFYCA) for two summers, which is part of the Bach Festival in Eugene. It is a two-week, intense choir camp where I have been able to sing Bach Cantatas, the *Verdi Requiem* and many other great choral works. I made some very close friends there and sang under three wonderful conductors: Helmuth Rilling, Mathew Halls, and Anton Armstrong, all of whom have been very influential on the way I sing and interpret music.

Nathan Case sings tenor with the Rogue Valley Chorale. He joined the group in the fall of 2018.

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.



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Rogue Valley Chorale Tour of Ireland

By Carol Doty



In June of 2018 members of the Rogue Valley Chorale participated in a singing tour through Ireland with Scotsman Donnie MacDonald and Irishman James Keigher. The following is an account of the trip by singer Carol Doty.

The group arrived at the Shannon Airport and made their way to the Park Inn in County Clare. The group of 33 singers, plus spouses and friends, were welcomed by guides James and Donnie.

Day 2 began with a hearty breakfast and a bus ride to the Cliffs of Moher, which are 702 feet high and range five miles into the Atlantic Ocean. Group members hiked and enjoyed the visitor's center and small shops.

We drove through the Burren Area of limestone created when glaciers shaped the area over the past million years, finally receding 10,000 years ago. The result is that The Burren is one of the finest examples of glacio-karst landscape in the world.



We arrived at Galway Bay Hotel, which looked out on beaches that were well-occupied by residents and tourists swimming in cold water and expressing joy that, for the first time in 20 years, the weather was warm! After a good meal and warm beverages, Men of Worth entertained us with their wonderful blend of Scottish and Irish musical

styles accompanied by story telling.

On Day 3 we travelled by Viking boat on the Shannon River to the monastic settlement of Clonmacnoise where we sang and felt connected to the ancient of days. The trip was lovely. We saw at least 25 adult swans and many of their offspring of various ages. The countryside along the Shannon shores provided a verdant setting for photos.

Day 4 and the City of Galway offered many commercial shops as well as a large market where we purchased lunches and gifts to take home for relatives and friends. That afternoon we wandered across the River Corrib to a beautiful cathedral converted from a prison in 1963. We sang there. That evening after dinner a few of us got stuck in an elevator. The experience provided an opportunity for jokes directed mostly at James who just happened to jump in prior to getting stuck to join "beautiful women."

One of my favorite experiences was a visit to Brigit's Garden in West Ireland on Day 5. The Celtic garden was designed by Mary Reynolds, author of "The Gardening



Awakening: Designs to Nurture Our Land & Ourselves." The garden, designed to celebrate the four seasons, surrounded and contained us as we wandered in woodland and wildflowers. "Dare To Be Wild" is a feature length film based on Mary's life story made by Irish director Vivienne de Courcey, and focuses on the magical story of her journey to build a gold

medal winning garden at the Chelsea flower show. We were provided a lovely lunch there and learned how to make Celtic crosses out of reeds that were growing in the garden.

We performed an evening concert at the Galway Bay Hotel to benefit Alzheimer's services in the County of Mayo.

On Day 6 we toured the sacred Irish historical site Ballintubber Abbey that was founded in 1216, were provided soup and sandwiches at Corley's Abbey Lodge, then went back into the Abbey to sing.

We traveled to the Westport Coast Hotel on Day 7. Plans were made for it to be one of our busiest days, but most of us decided not to climb the 2,500 ft. Croagh Patrick the next morning with the exception of Laurie Anne and Donnie. Instead, we walked to the emotionally wrenching National Famine Memorial.

On the evening of July 3rd we sang at The Holy Trinity Church in Westport.

On Day 8, we boarded a ferry for the Island of Inishbofin in the Atlantic. We took a guided walk with a local historian. About 165 people live on the island. After lunch we went to the church to sing to a full house. I was so touched by their reception of us that tears flowed.

That evening we joined the Charlestown Choir at the church for our last concert. It was a fundraiser for the local community. The Charlestown Choir sang, we sang, Men of Worth sang, and we all sang together. The concert was Laurie Anne Hunter's last one with the Rogue Valley Chorale. After the concert, the crowd hugged us, continued visiting with us, and invited us back.

Traveling with members of the Chorale is an absolutely wonderful experience. It solidifies the bonds of friendship we have and enables us to connect musically. What an inspiring experience!

Expanding Borders

(Continued from page 2)

The Winter concert is named **Ethereal Moments**, and celebrates the Chorale's possibilities by expanding the borders both artistically and geographically. The Rogue Valley Chorale has commissioned composer Joseph Julian Gonzales to compose a new work based on the Aztec spiritual poems, *Cantares Mexicanos*. The world premiere of *Cantares Mexicanos* will be performed at the Craterian Theater on March 23rd and 24th, 2019. Members of the Chorale will then travel to Burns, Oregon, on March 31st, 2019 to perform the work as part of a cultural outreach exchange with the Paiute Reservation. I am very excited about this cultural exchange, the opportunity to share a new work with the Paiute Tribe in the language of their ancestors. In addition to the Chorale's performance, the Paiute will hold a ceremony on the Reservation in which the Youth of the Tribe will present a special performance for the Chorale. What a truly special opportunity for RVCA!

The final concert of the 2018/19 Season celebrates another of the Chorale's favorite offerings- Broadway. **COLE! The Music of Broadway Icon Cole Porter** will highlight the talented singers of the Chorale as they perform such Porter gems as *Another Op'nin*, *Another Show* and *Every Time We Say Goodbye*, featuring gifted individual singers in the Chorale performing duets, trios, and small ensembles accompanied by a jazz combo including piano, guitar, and string bass.

I am grateful and honored to serve as the new Artistic Director. The rich history of the RVCA, the many dedicated, enthusiastic, hardworking, and extremely talented singers, volunteers, and staff are evidence of the strength of the entire Rogue Valley Chorale Association. But there is another, most important part to this organization- YOU, the patron. Without you, our efforts and hard work would be hollow. I look forward to meeting all of the patrons and to share this outstanding and amazing organization called the Rogue Valley Chorale.

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

Susan White: Chorale Singer and So Much More

By Karen Foster



In these days of discussions about immigrants, the family of Susan White is an example. Her family came to the US from Holland, Denmark, and various places in Europe. They brought with them gifts of music and dedication to hard work.

Susan Peterson White was born in Ogden, Utah. Her family relocated to Central Point where she and her brothers were raised and where Susan's mother and father have lived ever since. She has two younger brothers; Scott, in Arizona, and Mark in Medford. The home in Central Point was where Susan was able to express her love for horses. She had seven horses until last year, when one was sold, two others came to the end of their lives, and four remain at a friend's place in Gold Hill. She says she doesn't have time to ride these days due to a full-time job and many other responsibilities and activities.

Susan's musical life started early. Her grandmother was a choir conductor, and Susan sang in church choirs beginning at age 6. Her step-grandfather, who immigrated from Holland at 19, was a classical music lover. He married Susan's grandmother when Susan was 5 and the entire family learned to love classical music because of him. He allowed only classical music in the house (except for the soundtrack from *The Sound of Music*). He loved the Mormon Tabernacle Choir, ballet, Met Radio, Community Concerts, and had a collection of classical records. She credits this grandfather with her love of music.

Susan began Crater High School as a sophomore. Following graduation she took music classes at Southern Oregon University. She began individual vocal lessons with Berna Telford, a one-time Chorale member who taught private lessons. Berna taught Susan (and also Kathy Gordon) vocal technique. After Berna moved away, Brian Swingle came to visit Medford from Eugene. He asked Lynn Sjolund for names of possible students. Lynn suggested Susan and Kathy. Brian Swingle had an Opera Pops series at the old Tree House Restaurant and at the Jacksonville Inn, and traveled weekly from Eugene. Besides his private students, he taught actors from the Shakespeare Festival. Brian Swingle told Susan that Berna Telford taught her to sing, and that he simply applied polish.

Through Brian, Susan was introduced to vocal competitions. She participated in auditions for the National Association of Teachers of Singing, the Met and others. Susan won a District Metropolitan Opera competition and went on to the regionals in Seattle, but

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she had "aged out" of the soprano/tenor group.

Through Brian Swingle Susan was introduced to Dr. Myra Brand, one of the first women to graduate from the University of Oregon with a doctorate in musical pedagogy. Myra coached Susan when she took on singing projects. The last time she sought instruction from Myra was to fine-tune music for Brian Swingle's memorial service two years ago.

Again through Brian Susan sang with the Willamette University Chamber Choir in Salem. She also performed in Brookings for a series called Friends of Music with accompanist Eda Jameson, a well-known Rogue Valley musician. Susan also performed in eight operas in Medford including *La Bohème*, *Rigoletto*, *Elixir of Love*, *Marriage of Figaro*, *Madame Butterfly*, and *Hansel and Gretel*. She participated in Opera in the Schools in Medford as well. She has also done innumerable solos with Chorale, the Rogue Valley Symphony, the *Messiah* Sing-Along and others.

Besides her musical life, Susan took classes at Rogue Community College in Grants Pass to become a dental assistant. Her first job was for a dentist in Ashland, followed by two other jobs in Ashland, one lasting fourteen years.

Through John Hall, a dentist who sang with the Chorale, Susan heard about the dental department at the Veteran's Domiciliary in White City. When a position opened up, she took it. She has worked full time there with John Hall for seven and a half years.

Another job that Susan holds is soloist at the Christian Science Church. She has been there for 31 years! She juggles that church with her own Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints.

Susan has an amazingly complex life, with her jobs, her five children and grandchildren. Her oldest child is Gordon, who works for the State in Child Services. He and his wife have a son, Jude, who has just started high school. Susan's daughter, Nicole, works in a pediatric dental office. She and her husband have a daughter, Dallas, who attends South Medford High School where she sings with the choir. Another son, Chad and his wife are x-ray technicians in Seattle. Another son, Brad, and his wife attend Oregon State, and her youngest son, Bryce, does electrical work in Seattle.

Susan's mother, Myrna Peterson, and Susan's brother, Mark Peterson and his wife Tina, have all sung in the Chorale. The entire family is full of music!

Another passion for Susan and her husband of 16 years, Stephen White, is riding motorcycles! They have just returned from a couple of weeks riding around Eastern Oregon.

Susan says life is a balancing act, with a little of this and a little of that, and that it's the joy of the journey. She says it's been a wonderful life so far. She says just keep active, sing, read, play pickleball, and keep on! She has no plans to retire since she loves her job. She also plans to continue singing in Chorale as long as possible as she loves the infusion of energy with the music and the other singers. She credits Lynn Sjolund for all her musical opportunities.

Tuesdays Are Now My Favorite Day of the Week!

By Kyle Cawthorne



Four years ago, my wife Wendy was given the opportunity to interview for the Discovery Chorus director position. She was thrilled for the chance to be a greater part of this fantastic organization. Having been in the very first youth chorus Doris Sjolund founded 36 years ago, her three children singing in the youth choruses, and our shared passion for music, this was an opportunity to come full circle for her.

We were traveling home from Ashland one evening when she received the call from Carmen Adams informing her that she had been chosen for the position. At that point I didn't even consider how much I would become involved with RVYC. But that changed quickly!

Shortly after receiving the good news, Wendy approached me requesting that I take the position as her Chorus Manager. My acceptance was almost immediate since I have witnessed how much fun she has with her choirs and the growth they make as singers. Now I don't claim to be a singer. In fact, I tell everyone that with my range, I can sing between the lines. That's it! But I ended up joining the church choir Wendy directed just so I could be a part of the fun and share in the joy that music brings to so many.

Now I find myself in a new role as the Steering Committee President. I am so grateful to share this experience with so many wonderful people. We are certainly blessed by every member of our board, committee, volunteers, and families who devote their time with us.

So why is Tuesday my favorite day of the week? I get to hang out with 50+ 3rd and 4th grade singers, experience the power of working together as a group, witness the formation of new friendships founded in a common interest, and listen to angelic voices.

And now in my new role Tuesday isn't the only day I have this experience. It extends to every opportunity I get to take part in the growth of our choruses. As I grow into my new position it is my desire to see our youth choruses continue to reach out to young singers and give them the chance to share in this incredible organization. And I bet we all know young singers who could benefit from the Youth Choruses experience!



RVCA
Rogue Valley
Chorale Association

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Michael Morris, Artistic Director
Laura Rich, Executive Director
Lynn Sjolund, Conductor Emeritus

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Michael Morris, Rogue Valley Chorale
Pam Nordquist, Youth Ensemble
Shaun Garner, Cantare Chorus
Gerry Flock, Children's Chorus
Wendy Cawthorne, Discovery Chorus

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Jim Stickrod, Children's Chorus
Ian McCarty, Cantare
Ron Ochs, Discovery Chorus, Youth Ensemble

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Cate Adams, Cantare
Tyler Flock, Children's Chorus
Meagan Flock, Children's Chorus
Danika Locey, Discovery Chorus
Sharon Dady, Discovery Chorus

CHORUS MANAGERS

Shawna Gann, Youth Ensemble
Cate Adams, Cantare
September Flock, Children's Chorus
Kyle Cawthorne, Discovery 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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Celebrating the Joy of Singing

