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CHORALE



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2016-2017 SEASON
Craterian Theater at the Collier Center

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CHORALE

PRESENTS



December 3 and 4, 2016

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FROM THE CONDUCTOR



CHRISTOPHER BRISCOE

When I first contacted Bishop Mayfield to ask him to be a soloist in this gospel Christmas concert with the Rogue Valley Chorale, he wanted to know what type of gospel music we were singing. I had already chosen music for this program, and yet I could not answer his question.

Part of my “education” for this concert was to watch a wonderful film, now available on YouTube called “The Story of Gospel Music: The Power in the Voice.” Most of us know that gospel is a musical form deeply rooted in the rich traditions of the African-American church. The term “gospel” means “good news.” It is music sung from the soul and from the heart. There isn’t space to go into all of the history here, but one of the musical forms used in early gospel music was the “call and response” style, which you will hear in a number of our songs today. African Americans in the late 19th and early 20th centuries adapted hymns from the European tradition, but they found the confines of strict rhythm too restrictive. They stretched out the timing, and added elements of improvisation and syncopation.

In the 1930’s Thomas Dorsey in Chicago infused his study of blues and jazz with traditional gospel music to create a style known as gospel blues. Southern gospel or quartet gospel used a small group of men singing in tight harmony, not unlike barbershop harmony. Traditional gospel features a more basic sound suited for choral groups, while contemporary gospel places more emphasis on solo artists. Praise and worship, which describes most of the pieces we bring you in this concert, combines both contemporary and traditional gospel styles. I’m not sure that we, as primarily White Anglo-Saxon Protestants, can give you an authentic sense of what is essentially an African-American form. Nevertheless, I am sure you will find that the joy and energy in this music is infectious.

This is the season of hope. In the program for our last concert, I wrote that it is my hope that the music we make will bring us together as a community and create a microcosm of harmony in a world that needs every bit of harmony we can bring to it. That is still my wish today. May your souls be stirred, and may you leave the theater with joy in your hearts.

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What would our valley be like without Jim Collier? His dedication to supporting the arts is well known, and many music and theater groups owe their ability to serve our community to this outstanding individual.

In 2015 the Rogue Valley Chorale became a recipient of Jim's generosity, and as a result, is now able to provide Southern Oregon with an annual holiday concert in perpetuity. Jim's gift will cover our fixed costs, freeing up ticket sales for the wonderful guest soloists and instrumentalists performing today.

An inheritance enabled Jim to become a generous patron of the performing arts. Jim not only supports the arts in the Rogue Valley, but also sponsors orchestras and opera companies in his hometown of Des Moines, Iowa, as well as in Bakersfield, California. He was nominated as Outstanding Individual Philanthropist of Central Iowa in 2006, and is known as "The Piano Man," a title he earned by donating three concert grand and four upright pianos to various organizations in the Rogue Valley.

Jim retired to Medford after teaching high school English in Delano, California (near Bakersfield) for 30 years. A group of friends introduced him to the opera, and he made frequent trips to Los Angeles to see spectacular performances featuring some of the world's finest singers. Opera deepened his interest in the performing arts. He began visiting Ashland to attend the Oregon Shakespeare Festival plays, a passion he shared with his students in California.

The term "arts in Southern Oregon" has become synonymous with the name Jim Collier. Our community is richer because of this tireless and dedicated philanthropist. We love you, Jim.

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Funding for the 2016-2017 Concert Season has been awarded to date by the Arthur R. Dubs Foundation, City of Ashland (Ashland lodging tax revenues), Carpenter Foundation, Carrico Family Foundation, James F. & Marion L. Miller Foundation, Oregon Arts Commission, Roger G. Hewitt Fund for Youth Symphony of Southern Oregon of The Oregon Community Foundation and the Friends of the Youth Symphony of Southern Oregon.

CARI BAKER PHOTOGRAPHY



ROGUE VALLEY CHORALE

SINGERS



SOPRANO

Melodee Adams
Katie Anderson
Donna Barrett
Dee-Marie Broyles
Jessica Buckman
Karen Campbell
Michelle Cipollone
Diane Combs
Connie Fisher Crooks
Keely Dawn
Janet Dolan
Ruth Engle
Karen Foster
Nina Frost
Erin Galbraith
Beth Gibson
Joelle Graves
Mary Kay Harmon
Ellie Murray
Jan Jacobs
Judy Kloetzel
Helen Koenigsman
Alice Nykreim
Gay Pollard
Laura Rich
Pascale Soderstrom
Phyllis Skinner
Deanna St. Martin
Maureen Vega
Susan White
jj Zwang

ALTO

Carmen Adams
Jean Adams
Mary Jo Bergstrom
Beverly Bowman-Gergen
Joani Bristol
Lindsay Caldwell
Sharon Dady
Donna Daniels
Valerie Darby
Kristy Denman
Carol Doty
Charleen Fike
Pat Franks
Susan Franks
Merry Harris
Lin Holland
Carol Jacobs
Mary Lynn Lucas
Nancy Mason
Cathy Morrison
Diane Newland
Kelly Nuss
Nancy Purdy
Jeanie St. Germain
Deborah Sanford
Diana Shiple
Nora Smith
Sandy Walper
Sue Ward
Rebecca Webber
Nancy Yie

TENOR

Philip Booth
Scott Calvert
Ralph Dady
Terry Faulkner
Cori Gibson
Roger Graves
Ed Houck
Ishmael Luera
Christian Mathisen
Bill Matthews
Ralph McCulloh
Doug McDonald
David Works
Jeff Works
Kris York

BASS

Robert Begg
Bud Bergstrom
Adam Callaway
Chris Cauble
Phil Cooper
Fred DeArmond
Ken Depp
Don Dolan
Lou Franks
Paul Hagedorn
Steve Haskell
Kenne Horton
John Kloetzel
Bob Larson
John Leavens
Dennis Morgan
Jeremy O'Dea
Mark Sanford
Eric Smith
Gary Ward
Spence Webber
Peter Yeager

ROGUE VALLEY CHORALE

PROGRAM



Gloria

Mark Hayes

Run, Shepherds!

Victor C. Johnson

Gospel Magnificat

Patti Drennan

Soloist: Britney Simpson

Can You Hear the Angels?

Greg Gilpin

*Ain't Dat a Rockin' All Night

arr. Paul Carey

Soloist: Britney Simpson

Do You Hear What I Hear?

arr. Camp Kirkland

Soloist: Bishop Mayfield

Grown Up Christmas List

arr. Mark Hayes

Last Month of the Year

Vera Hall; arr. Mac Huff

Soloist: Bishop Mayfield

INTERMISSION

Glory, Hallelujah to the Newborn King Ruth Morris Gray

Mary Had a Baby arr. Lloyd Larson
Soloist: Britney Simpson

Jesus, What a Wonderful Child arr. Rollo Dilworth

See Amid the Winter's Snow arr. Dan Forrest

*Deck the Hall arr. Kirby Shaw

Gospel Nativity arr. Tom Fettke
Soloist: Britney Simpson

Have You Seen That Child? Arr. Cliff Duren
Soloist: Bishop Mayfield

*** CHORALE SMALL GROUP**

SOPRANO

Michelle Cipollone
Susan Franks
Joelle Graves
Jan Jacobs
Ellie Murray
Maureen Vega

ALTO

Joani Bristol
Sharon Dady
Lin Holland
Carol Jacobs
Cathy Morrison
Diana Shiplet
Nora Smith

TENOR

Dalph Dady
Roger Graves
Doug McDonald
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ARTISTIC DIRECTOR LAURIE HUNTER



CHRISTOPHER BRISCOE

Laurie Anne Hunter has been a friend of the Rogue Valley Chorale since 2002, long before becoming the organization's Artistic Director. She served on the Chorale Board, accompanied the Chorale on the piano, and filled in as Guest Conductor when the need arose. Upon the retirement of Lynn Sjolund (now Conductor Emeritus), Laurie was enthusiastically nominated and selected as the Chorale's next 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 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 Opera, 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. She has served as 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 was also head of the music staff for two years at the Banff Centre's Music Theater program in Canada. She worked with American Musical Theater of San Jose and the Seattle Opera before the Oregon Shakespeare Festival brought her to Ashland as Musical Director and Pianist for *Enter the Guardsman* in 2001. She has also served as Musical Director for the Oregon Cabaret Theater and Southern Oregon University's Department of Theater Arts.

Laurie has been on the faculty of the Hartt School of Music, the Israel Vocal Arts Institute in Tel Aviv, the Musicians Club of America summer Opera and Lieder Institutes in North Carolina, and is currently on the adjunct faculty at Southern Oregon University. She took up the harp while earning her certification from the "Music for Healing and Transition Program" and plays therapeutic harp music for Providence Cancer Center and Hospice in Medford. She is also the music director at the First Presbyterian Church in Ashland and maintains a private teaching studio for harp, singing and piano.

The Rogue Valley Chorale Association welcomes Laurie Anne Hunter's 3rd season as Artistic Director and Conductor.

MIKIKO S. PETRUCELLI, Accompanist

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.

BISHOP MAYFIELD, Guest Soloist

Bishop Mayfield entered the music scene in 1966 and has played with B.B. King, Al Wilson, Martha Reeves & The Vandella's, Ike & Tina Turner, John Lee Hooker, Big Brother & the Holding Company, Jose Feliciano, James Brown, Etta James, The Neville Brothers, and many more. Bishop currently appears with noted guitarist and songwriter Dave Storie in the powerfully dynamic "Bishop Mayfield Band" (*R&B, Funk, Blues-Rock, Fusion*) based in Southern Oregon. Bishop is currently in studio recording with platinum record producer Sylvia Massey at Radio Star Studios. Bishop has performed in noted venues throughout the county, and is just as comfortable singing Gospel as he is singing Funk, Jazz, or Blues. Bishop is married to Suzette Mayfield and has 4 Children and 8 Grandchildren.



BRITNEY SIMPSON, Guest Soloist

Britney Simpson's love for singing, music, and faith started in the church at 8 years old, and by age 16 she made the choice to facilitate a career in the Performing Arts. In 2011, she joined the two-year program of the Pacific Conservatory of the Performing

Arts. There, she was featured in the productions of *The Wizard of Oz* as Dorothy, *Fiddler on the Roof* as Grandma Tzeitel, and *Our Town* as Myrtle Webb. After graduating in the spring of 2013 she started work that summer at Oregon Cabaret Theatre playing the role of Nina in the show *S'wonderful*, followed by her first season at the Oregon Shakespeare Festival in 2014. She has made Ashland her home for 3 seasons at OSF, in productions including *The Wiz* (Dorothy and Glinda), *Yeomen of the Guard* (Pheobe and Krazy Kate), *Head Over Heels* (Mopsa) and *Guys & Dolls* (ensemble). She has also been featured in the 2016 Britt Festival, 2014-16 Daedalus Projects, and several outside readings, including *Blues For Mister Charlie* and *Force Continuum*. She is thankful for the opportunity to harken back to the gospel that ignited her love of the arts and enjoys being a part of the passionate, supportive community of the Rogue Valley.



BRENT OLSTAD, Keyboard

Brent Olstad has played keyboards with a variety of groups including the Rogue Valley Gospel Group, the Jefferson State Jazz Coalition and the Southern Oregon Jazz Orchestra. He has also been the musical arranger and director for many of the Spotlight series at the Camelot Theater. He is a published music arranger and served as worship leader in several churches for the past 25 years. He is currently the Director of Joni and Friends Southern Oregon which hosts community events and provides resources for families affected by disability as well as training and disability awareness workshops for churches and schools.



REED BENTLEY, Percussion

A graduate from the percussion program at SOU, Reed has been a musician for the Oregon Shakespeare Festival for multiple seasons with *Guys & Dolls* and *Into the Woods* and performed both shows at “The Wallis” theater in Beverly Hills, CA. He has performed with the Rogue Valley Symphony for over a decade, and has appeared with other orchestras in Northern California and Southern Oregon. Locally, Reed is a member of numerous music ensembles in the Rogue Valley.



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Your generous contributions ensure that the Rogue Valley Community receives the gift of fine choral music for all to enjoy. We thank you for your support.

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(Mr. Collier has made an endowed gift to the Rogue Valley Chorale Association to support its holiday concert in perpetuity. Our community thanks you, Jim.)

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www.roguevalleychorale.org

CHORUS DIRECTORS

Wendy Cawthorne, Discovery Chorus
Gerry Flock, Children's Chorus
Shaun Garner, Cantare Chorus
Pam Nordquist, Youth ensemble
Laurie Anne Hunter, Rogue Valley Chorale

ACCOMPANISTS

Ron Ochs, Discovery Chorus
Jim Stickrod, Children's Chorus, Cantare Chorus
Annette Lynn, Youth Ensemble
Mikiko Petrucelli, Rogue Valley Chorale

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Laurie Anne Hunter

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



For 44 years the Rogue Valley Chorale Association has been at the heart of the arts scene in Southern Oregon. Since the Chorale's debut performance on the Craterian Stage, the organization has grown to include over 100 adult and 200 youth singers.



Auditions are
January 10, 2017,
4:30-6:00 at South
Medford High School. For
more information email
info@roguevalleychorale.
org, call 541-414-8309 or
visit roguevalleychorale.org

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Singers interested in joining the Rogue Valley Chorale are invited to contact us. We hold auditions in August, although private auditions may be held at other times during the year. For more information call 541-414-8309, email conductor@roguevalleychorale.org, or visit roguevalleychorale.org.

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The Rogue Valley Youth Choruses provide opportunities for talented young singers to participate in choruses of the highest quality. Our four choruses provide students in grades 3 through 12 with performance experience in local theaters, area schools, at choral festivals and for community groups.

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Cantare Chorus - grades 7-9

Children's Chorus - grades 5-6

Youth Ensemble - grades 10-12

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