

# Rogue Valley Chorale

2014-15 SEASON



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Laurie Anne Hunter, Artistic Director/Conductor

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# Rogue Valley Chorale

Celebrating the Joy of Singing

PRESENTS

## Christmas AROUND THE World

Friday, December 5, 7:30 pm  
Sunday, December 7, 3:00 pm

**Laurie Anne Hunter**  
**Artistic Director/Conductor**

### *Laurie Hunter Artistic Director/Conductor*



Laurie Anne Hunter" is in her second season as Artistic Director and Conductor of the Rogue Valley Chorale.

A native of Pasadena, California, Ms 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.

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 Metropolitan Opera Guild's educational productions. 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.

She has been on the faculty of the Hartt School of Music, the Israel Vocal Arts Institute in Tel Aviv, the Musicians Club of America 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, voice and piano.

### *Andrea Brock, Accompanist*



Andrea Brock has tickled the ivories for the Rogue Valley Chorale for 18 years now, and she enjoys playing for this wonderful group. She is also one of two choral directors at South Medford High School, where she has been since 1996. Her choirs at South perform throughout the state, and travel to fun and faraway places, such as Disneyland. In her time at South, she has been the musical director for productions of *Grease*, *Guys and Dolls*, *Pirates of Penzance*, *My Fair Lady*, *Damn Yankees*, and *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*. She will be musical director for *Anything Goes* this spring.

Recently, she has added 6th grade beginning band to her teaching schedule, as well as teaching guitar to students at Central Medford HS. Her favorite accomplishment is being a mom to Keenan(12), Molly(9) and William(6), and a wife to Andrew.



### **Jim Collier, Season Sponsor**

***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.

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, Calif. He was nominated as Outstanding Individual Philanthropist of Central Iowa in 2006. He 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 was exposed to music as a young boy. He took piano lessons, but when it came time to showcase his talents during his first recital, Jim pretended to be sick. His savvy mother didn’t buy it and made him perform. Jim reports that no one was sorry to see him give up the piano after his “less than perfect” performance. But his piano experience planted a seed that grew into an intense love of the arts. Jim says, “I am a much better patron of the arts than a performing artist. I’ll leave that to others.”

Jim retired to Medford after teaching high school English in California 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.

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**Contact**  
724 S. Central Ave. Suite 102,  
Medford, OR 97501  
[www.roguevalleychorale.org](http://www.roguevalleychorale.org)  
[office@roguevalleychorale.org](mailto:office@roguevalleychorale.org)



## Guest Artists

### **Kathleen Finnegan, Flute**



Kathleen Finnegan is a member of the Ashland City Band, The Rogue Valley Wind Ensemble and the Southern Oregon Concert Band. She has performed with “Finn ‘n Dee, Celtic Harp and Flute duo” and with harpist Laurie Anne Hunter. She has been a professional counselor in the area for 22 years, and has previously sung with the Jefferson State Choral Coalition, Siskiyou Chamber Singers and Contra Costa Chorale. This is her first season singing soprano with the Chorale.

### **James Keigher, Guest soloist**



James Keigher is a singer and writer of traditional and contemporary folk music. He was raised in a small community in the west of Ireland, steeped in traditional music and stories. James tours with Scotsman Donnie Macdonald, combining traditional and contemporary Scottish and Irish Folk music styles. The duo calls themselves ‘Men of Worth’ chosen from the title of a Scottish Folk song. They have earned respect and success through decades of touring both nationally and internationally.

### **Theresa McCoy, Percussion**



Theresa McCoy is a percussionist with experience in a variety of musical settings. She has been timpanist and principal percussionist with several orchestras in the Los Angeles area, worked as a studio musician on several movie soundtracks, performed in a wide variety of genres with such music greats as Leonard Bernstein, Quincy Jones, Lalo Schifrin, Donna Summer, and Bernadette Peters. Though her formal training was in classical percussion, she is an experienced set drummer and hand percussionist. Theresa currently performs locally with the Rogue Valley Symphony, the Britt Festival Orchestra, Opus 3 jazz trio, Salsa Brava, and jazz pianist Thor Polson.

### **Grace Pruitt, Guest soloist**



Grace was born and raised in Kenya, East Africa, where she participated in many productions at Rosslyn Academy International School. She also performed in school productions at Ashland Middle School and the Rogue Valley Youth Chorus. She is a tenth-grader at Ashland High School. Grace loves to sing and plays a variety of sports. A former member of the Cantare Chorus, she currently studies voice with Ellie Holt-Murray. In the last two seasons with the Oregon Shakespeare Festival she was a Fairy and in the Ensemble in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and *Outlaw* and in the Ensemble in *Two Gentlemen of Verona*.

### **The Rogue Ringers, Guest Artists**

**The Rogue Ringers** were formed in 2007 by Cyndy Patterson and Diane Barnes. Their vision was to form a community handbell ensemble with the goal of providing a home for ringers wanting to stretch their abilities in new directions. By forming as a community ensemble, the hope has been that the group would find venues for performance outside the traditional church setting in order to expand the appreciation of English Handbell ringing. We are proud to be asked to perform with the Rogue Valley Chorale in its Christmas concert this year.

**Diane Barnes** is co-director of the Rogue Ringers and directs the Grace Notes at Ascension Lutheran Church. She began her ringing career in 1979 and had directed handbell choirs for the past 25 years when she took over directing duties for the Frankfurt Central Chapel Handbell Choir. Diane received her musical training at Mary Washington College from 1994-1997 with continued choral and handbell conducting Master Classes over the past 15 years. She founded children's youth and adult Handbell choirs in chapels and churches in Germany and the United States over her 25 years as a director.

**Cyndy Patterson** discovered the art of English Handbell ringing in 1978 while spending a year in Michigan. It has been a passion of hers ever since. She began directing as well as ringing handbells in the Rogue Valley in 1990, starting with a choir at First Presbyterian Church in Central Point. She is currently director of the combined church choir, The Shepherd's Bells, at First Presbyterian Churches in Medford and Central Point as well as co-director of the Rogue Ringers, a community handbell ensemble. She plays with Tintinnabulation, a small ensemble, as well as performing solo handbell pieces.



## Christmas Around the World

December 2014



### From the Director:



Welcome to a musical tour celebrating holiday music from around the world!

*On This Day Earth Will Ring* is a setting of *Personent hodie*, a carol originally published in 1582 in a Finnish songbook with Latin texts collected by a Swedish Lutheran cleric. Our arrangement is by Dr. Neil Harmon, Director of Music and Organist at Grace United Methodist Church in Wilmington, Delaware. Kathleen Finnegan, who is a new singing member of the Chorale this year, joins us on flute. We also welcome the Rogue

Ringers under the direction of Diane Barnes and Cyndy Patterson.

Mark Hayes is an internationally known and award-winning composer, arranger, concert pianist and conductor who makes his home in Kansas City, Missouri. *An Olde English Christmas* is a fun medley of a number of well-known carols that also gives us an opportunity to show off many of the Chorale's fine soloists.

The 15th century Spanish *villancico* was a common poetic and musical form of the time, characterized by a repeated refrain before and between the verses. *Riu Riu Chiu* may be the most widely recognized villancico of all time. The theme of the song is the nativity of Christ, although the title is made up of nonsense syllables, said to represent a bird's song.

*Still, Still, Still* is an Austrian Christmas carol that I have frequently performed during the holiday season in my work as a harpist for hospice. I thought it would be a nice touch to share my harp with the Chorale audience, and this arrangement was the result.

Jeffrey Biegel is no stranger to the Rogue Valley, having performed here with both the Britt Orchestra and the Rogue Valley Symphony. In fact, he will be performing here with the Rogue Valley Symphony again in January, 2015. The Chorale performed his charming *Hanukah Fantasy* in 2010, and we are happy to share it with you once again.

Next we go to Africa with the Gloria from *Missa Kenya*. Composer Paul Basler spent time in Nairobi, Kenya as a Fulbright Senior Lecturer in Music at Kenyatta University. He now teaches French Horn and Composition at the University of Florida. In his *Missa Kenya* he aims to synthesize Kenyan and American musical styles.

Short of traveling to and spending time in a foreign country, there is no better way to experience a culture than through the people who have lived there. Grace Pruitt was born in Nairobi, Kenya and is no stranger to the stage, having performed with the Oregon Shakespeare Festival as a child actor for the last two



seasons. She shares with us a praise song from her early childhood at the Nairobi Chapel.

We close our African set with the Nigerian carol *Betelehemu*. This arrangement is a collaboration between Nigerian drummer, Babatunde Olatunji, and Dr. Wendell P. Whalum. Olatunji received a Rotary scholarship to study at Morehouse College in Atlanta, Georgia in 1950, where Whalum was the director of the Glee Club.

Dominick Argento is an Italian-American who divides his time between Minneapolis and Florence, Italy. I actually had the great pleasure of having tea with him on the terrace of his home in Florence when I was studying there in the 1980s. *The Masque of Angels* was a one-act opera that he wrote in 1963 about a band of restless angels who occupy an empty church. And although the opera is no longer performed, the *Gloria* is an exciting piece that has found a lasting place in the choral repertory.

From Italy we journey next to France with the charming carol, *Noël Nouvelet*, arranged by Donna Gartman Schultz who lives here in the Pacific Northwest, having been a member of the adjunct faculty at the Evergreen State College in Olympia.

When I decided to include a Celtic set in our program I thought immediately of James Keigher's performance of John McCutcheon's, *Christmas in the Trenches*, that he recorded with his duo, "Men of Worth," in my husband's recording studio in 2004. I was thrilled to learn that James was available to perform the song with us, and even more thrilled to realize that this year is the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the event that inspired the song: the World War I Christmas truce of 1914.

The familiar carol, *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*, has an interesting back-story. The famous hymn writer, Charles Wesley, wrote the original poem in 1739 with the opening line, "Hark how all the welkin rings." His contemporary, the evangelist, George Whitefield, changed it to the lyric we recognize today. But the tune by Felix Mendelssohn was not written for another hundred years, and it was not intended for religious purposes! Organist William Cummings came along in 1855 and put the tune and lyrics together as we know it today. British conductor and composer, David Willcocks, added the now-popular descant in 1961.

To end our musical journey we come home to America for a contemporary favorite, *It's the Most Wonderful Time of the Year*, followed by a delightful medley of Irving Berlin holiday tunes and the perennial favorite, *Jingle Bells*. May you leave the theater with music in your heart and may we all continue to "Count Our Blessings" (instead of sheep)! We wish you a heartfelt and joyous holiday season!





# Christmas AROUND THE World



## **On This Day, Earth Shall Ring**

arr. Neil Harmon

*Kathleen Finnegan, flute*

*Rogue Ringers: Diane Barnes and Cyndy Patterson, co-directors;*

*Julie Drengson, Ann Lowe, Denna Manning, Cathe Morse, Val Morse,*

*Stephanie Risner, Barbara Roberts, Terry Rosenberger*

## **An Olde English Christmas**

arr. Mark Hayes

### **Gather Around**

*Joelle Graves, soprano      Roger Graves, tenor*

*Larissa Montegna, alto      Eric Smith, bass*

**Good King Wenceslas** *Dan Gibbs, bass*

### **The Holly and the Ivy**

*Soprano: Beth Gibson, Mande Light, Gay Pollard*

*Alto: Joani Bristol, Kelly Nuss, Nora Smith*

*Tenor: Doug McDonald, David Works*

*Bass: Chris Cauble, Adam Callaway*

### **Coventry Carol**

*Michelle Cipollone, soprano*

## **Riu Riu Chiu**

Trad. Spanish

*Soloists: Michelle, Cippolone, Dan Gibbs, Eric Smith*

### **Ensemble:**

#### **Soprano:**

*Karen Campbell*

*Michelle Cipollone*

*Beth Gibson*

*Jan Jacobs*

*Mande Light*

#### **Alto:**

*Joani Bristol*

*Ketzal McCready*

*Larissa Montegna*

*Kelly Nuss*

*Nora Smith*

*Nancy Yie*

#### **Tenor:**

*Roger Graves*

*Doug McDonald*

*David Works*

#### **Bass:**

*Adam Callaway*

*Dan Gibbs*

*Eric Smith*

## **Still, Still, Still**

arr. Laurie Anne Hunter

*Andrea Brock, conductor*

*Laurie Anne Hunter, harp*

**Hanukah Fantasy** arr. Jeffrey Biegel  
*Karen Campbell, soprano; David Works, tenor*

**Gloria from Missa Kenya** Paul Basler  
*Terry Faulkner, tenor*

**Yesu Nakupenda** George Dulo  
*Grace Pruitt, guest soloist*

**Betelehemu** arr. Wendell Whalum  
*Kenne Horton, baritone*

- Intermission -

**Gloria from Masque of Angels** Dominic Argento

**Noel Nouvelet** Donna Gartman Schultz  
*Andrea Brock, conductor  
Kathleen Finnegan, flute  
Laurie Anne Hunter, harp*

**A Celtic Noel** Michael Barrett

**Christmas in the Trenches** John McCutcheon  
*James Keigher, guest soloist*

**Hark! The Herald Angels Sing** Felix Mendelssohn  
arr. William Cummings & David Willcocks

**It's the Most Wonderful Time of the Year** Eddie Pola and George Wyle  
arr. Mark Hayes

**Irving Berlin's Christmas** arr. Brymer & Brown

**Jingle Bells** arr. David Willcocks





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Cauble and Cauble wishes everyone  
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## Members of the Rogue Valley Chorale performing in this concert



### Soprano

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Melodee Adams  
Donna Barrett  
Dee-Marie Broyles  
Karen Campbell  
Michelle Cipollone  
Diane Combs  
Janet Dolan  
Kathleen Finnegan  
Connie Fisher-Crooks  
Karen Foster  
Beth Gibson

Natalie Goodeill  
Kathy Gordon  
Joelle Graves  
Mary Kay Harmon  
Merry Harris  
Jan Jacobs  
Cecilia Kerwin  
Mandee Light  
Ketzal McCready  
Gina McDonald

Tina Pedersen  
Gay Pollard  
Laura Rich  
Jacque Schmidt  
Phyllis Skinner  
Deanna St. Martin  
Maureen Vega  
Julie Vistaunet  
Jean J. Zwang

### Alto

---

Andrea Armstead  
Mary Jo Bergstrom  
Joani Bristol  
Lindsay Caldwell  
Donna Daniels  
Joan Davidson  
Barbara Dellenback  
Kristy Denman  
Carol Doty

Charleen Fike  
Pat Franks  
Candace Green  
Jana Hogan  
Carol Jacobs  
Mary Lynn Lucas  
Nancy Mason  
Larissa Montegna  
Ellie Holt Murray

Kelly Nuss  
Nancy Purdy  
Jeanie Saint Germain  
Deborah Sanford  
Diana Shiplet  
Nora Smith  
Sue Ward  
Nancy Yie

### Tenor

---

Don Bolles  
Philip Booth  
Scott Calvert  
Terry Faulkner  
Susan Franks

Cori Gibson  
Roger Graves  
Ed Houck  
Bill Matthews  
Doug McDonald

Mark Pedersen  
Michael Quirk  
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Jeff Works

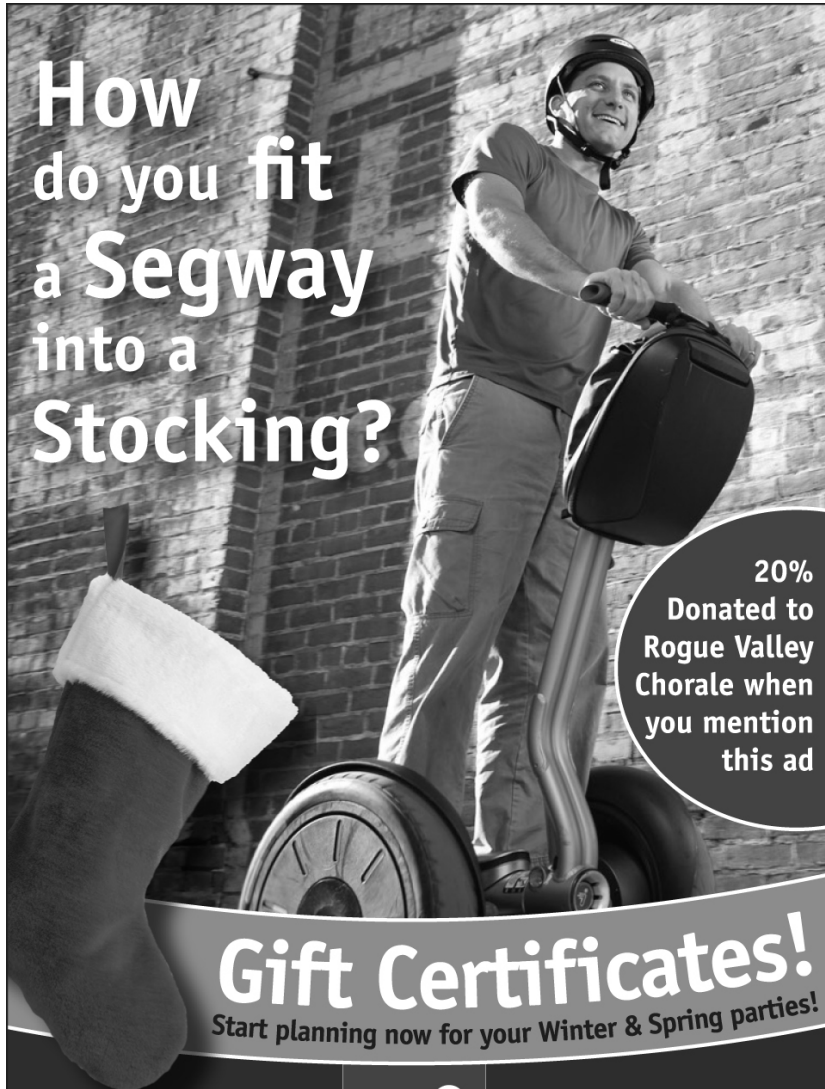
### Baritone/Bass

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Robert Begg  
Bud Bergstrom  
Adam Callaway  
Chris Cauble  
Fred DeArmond  
Don Dolan  
Lou Franks  
Dan Gibbs

Carroll Graber  
Paul Hagedorn  
Steve Haskell  
Bill Henderson  
Kenne Horton  
Bob Larson  
John Leavens  
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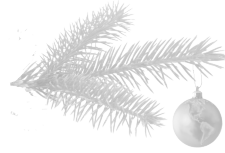
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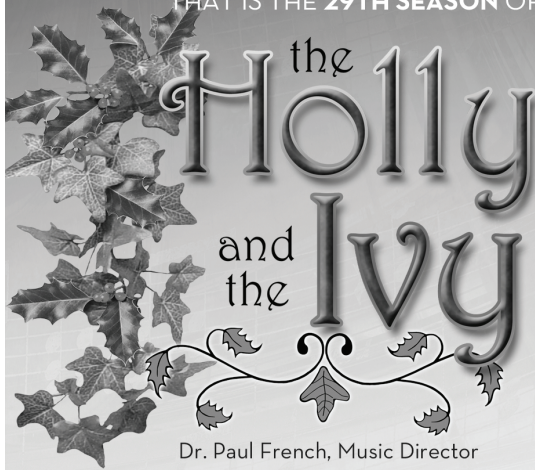
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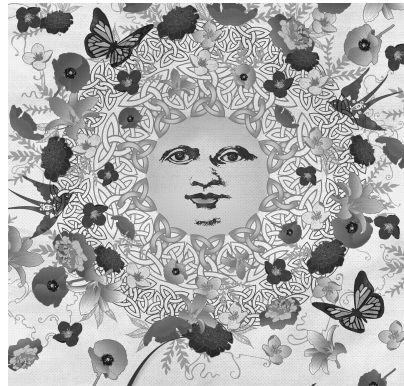
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The Rogue Valley Chorale Association includes four youth choruses and an adult chorus serving over 300 singers.

Our mission is to enrich and inspire our communities with great choral music performed by choruses of all ages.

The Rogue Valley Chorale Association is Southern Oregon's oldest public choral singing organization – 42 years!

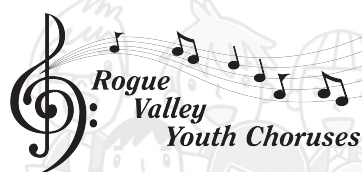
Would you like to make a donation to the Rogue Valley Chorale? To make a charitable contribution simply visit our website at [www.roguevalleychorale.org](http://www.roguevalleychorale.org) and click on Donate. You can also mail your donation to Rogue Valley Chorale, 724 S Central, Suite 102, Medford, OR 97501. We thank you for your support.



### The Sjolund Endowment Fund

The *Sjolund Endowment Fund* provides long-term support for the Rogue Valley Chorale Association. Managed by the Oregon Community Foundation (OCF), earnings from the endowment are used to support the mission of the RVCA for generations to come.

If you would like to consider making a gift to the Sjolund Endowment Fund, OCF can help you turn your wish into a reality. Their expert team of advisors can help you design a plan that fits your giving level.



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.

Each choir performs a wide variety of age appropriate choral literature and receives weekly training in vocal development and musicianship. Considered one of our region's leading youth choirs, RVYC has appeared in concerts in Oregon, Washington, California and Canada.

If you have a child or youth who loves to sing, or for more information please contact the Rogue Valley Youth Choruses at (541)941-3568 or visit us at <http://roguevalleychorale.org/youth-choruses>.

# Rogue Valley Chorale



Craterian Theater at the Collier Center for the Performing

Laurie Anne Hunter  
Artistic Director/Conductor

## Christmas Around the World

Friday, Dec. 5, 7:30 PM and Sunday, Dec. 7, 3:00 PM, 2014

We celebrate the "season of giving" with a multi-cultural extravaganza in story and song. The whole family will enjoy this festive holiday celebration!

## Festival of Choirs

Saturday, March 14, 2:00 PM and 7:30 PM, 2015

For the first time, all five Rogue Valley Chorale Association choruses take the stage together to *Celebrate the Joy of Singing*.

## Journey to Spain

Saturday, May 2, 7:30 PM and Sunday, May 3, 3:00 PM, 2015

During the Chorale's 2015 summer tour of Spain, we will present some of the great music that defines the American spirit. Come hear our tour selections and enjoy a rhythmic tapestry that will have you dancing in your seats!

Order tickets by calling the Craterian Box Office: 541-779-3000 or visit [www.roguevalleychorale.org](http://www.roguevalleychorale.org)



## Rogue Valley Youth Choruses Spring Concert

May 2, 2015, 7:00 pm  
North Medford High School Auditorium

For tickets or more information call (541) 941-3568 or visit <http://roguevalleychorale.org/youth-choruses>