



*Celebrating the  
joy of singing*

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

## Rogue Valley Chorale Association Newsletter

### Lynn Sjolund Announces His Retirement



In May of 2012 our much-loved Artistic Director Lynn Sjolund notified the Chorale Board of his intent to retire, effective May of 2013. While we all knew it was coming the reality was difficult to swallow. We will treasure our last year with Mr. Sjolund at the helm. A search is in

progress for a new Artistic Director. We will never be able to replace Lynn Sjolund, but we feel certain our next conductor will bring his/her own magic to the Rogue Valley Chorale. Please read Lynn's message below...

To all the friends of the Chorale,

Forty years sounds like a very long time when you look ahead, but when you look back the years seem to have rushed by rather quickly. Yes, it has been forty years since the Founding Mothers of the Chorale sat in my living room and asked if I would be willing to direct a group of adult singers. The agreement was they would help with the non-musical aspects of organizing and running a choir.

Little did they know just how far their request would take us!

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### Rogue Valley Chorale Celebrates Its 40th Anniversary Season



Since 1973 the Rogue Valley Chorale has been presenting the best in choral music. This season marks our 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary and we intend to make it memorable. Many of the musical selections will revisit

old favorites, special works, as well as commissioned pieces. Check our website often for additions to our schedule. Here's the line-up so far...

**Dec. 8 and 9, 2012 at the Craterian... *Christmas with the Chorale, Let it Snow* ...** a traditional Christmas program featuring a sing-along to some of your favorite carols.

**Feb. 24, 2013 – Sunday at the Craterian... *Hallelujah* ...** a program of sacred music through time, a tribute to how religion has shaped our culture and musical repertoire.

**April 27 and 28, 2013 at the Craterian... *Forte at Forty* ...** a 40 year celebration of the Chorale's favorite works including *To Music*, an original composition commissioned by the Chorale from Dr. David Childs, premiered in 2011.

*To purchase tickets call the Craterian Ginger Rogers Theater Box Office at 541-779-3000 or order on-line at [www.craterian.org](http://www.craterian.org).*

## Executive Director's Report



I came on board as the Chorale's Executive Director a little over a year ago and felt a bit like Dorothy in the *Wizard of Oz*. I was propelled into a tornado of activity and new terrain. When the dust settled, everything around me was melodic and vibrant.

At the party following our 2011 Spring concert, Lynn Sjolund and I talked about the upcoming 10th anniversary of the 9/11 Day of Remembrance. We learned from other Chorale members who had joined our conversation that a "Rolling Requiem" had been planned by choirs throughout the USA. **Mozart's Requiem** would be performed starting on the East Coast and continuing each hour as it moved across the nation. We knew we had to take part in this event. It made no logical sense as our entire season was planned and advertised. 9/11 was a mere three months away and most of our Board Members were off singing in Europe. But with the support of our donors, local businesses and our singing members, we were able to provide the public with two free performances of **Mozart's Requiem** with orchestra. All in attendance, both performers and audience, were deeply moved.

We performed our traditional **Christmas with the Chorale** concert and then launched into rehearsals for the **Brahms Requiem**. We wanted to perform with an orchestra, so again we turned to our donors for support. We were overwhelmed with contributions and within two weeks we met our fundraising goal.

The Chorale finished the season with our popular Broadway concert, **Can't Help Singing**. Artistic Director Lynn Sjolund opened the show, singing *Willkommen* from *Cabaret*, a treat for all in attendance.

As I look back on all that we accomplished in our 39th season I know it could not have been done without our wonderful volunteers and donors. We are embarking upon our 40th anniversary season. With Lynn Sjolund as our Artistic Director, talented singers, generous donors and tireless volunteers, the upcoming year is sure to be memorable.

*By Jacque Schmidt, Executive Director*

## A Message From Our Board President



**Celebrate....**that is what this year is about for the Rogue Valley Chorale, our 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of providing great choral music to our Rogue Valley community. Our theme for this celebratory year is **Forte at Forty!**

For the past thirty-one years I have been a singer with the Rogue Valley Chorale and have served on the Board for eight years. These years have been an amazing and wonderful journey in which I've taken part in multiple tours to Europe to sing in the great cathedrals. I traveled with the Chorale to the stage of Carnegie Hall, sang in numerous churches, North Medford's Lynn Sjolund Auditorium, Southern Oregon University's Music Recital Hall, the Craterian Theater and many other venues throughout our region.

Singing with the Chorale has generated many friendships among fellow singers and great respect and honor for a very gifted Director, Lynn Sjolund. He has the ability to bring out the best in the chorus to create beautiful music year after year, time and time again. We have performed music that has brought excitement, joy, tears and peace to our souls!

We are looking forward to another wonderful year and we invite you to join us. Bring a friend or two and fill the Craterian Theater seats for our three concerts this season. Come let us entertain you. Smile, laugh, sing along, become emotionally moved by the lyrics and music, and perhaps shed a few tears. Be a part of this special anniversary year with the Rogue Valley Chorale and **Celebrate!**

*By Beth Gibson, Board President*

## Welcome New Board Members

### Spence Webber, Laurie Anne Hunter and Donna Barrett



**Spence Webber**

Robert Spencer (Spence) Webber was born in Medford, Oregon at Sacred Heart Hospital. Growing up in the west hills of the Rogue Valley included rafting down the irrigation canals, capturing frogs and gliding down hillsides on a 'Flexy Flier.' Spence attended Medford High School and sang with the A Capella Choir under the direction of Lynn Sjolund where he performed lead roles in several musical productions. He earned a BS degree from Oregon State, a Masters of Religious Studies from Yale Divinity School, and a Masters in Education from Southern Oregon University.

Spence and his wife, Becca (also a member of the Chorale and of Women With Wings), have raised three children; Kashauna, Jamie and Kevin. They also have three lovely grandchildren; Avrahm, Cora and Kellen.

Spence is looking forward to serving on the RVC Board of Directors. He hopes to assist in promoting the continued success of the organization.



Photo by Robert Begg

**Laurie Anne Hunter**

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 Operetta, Skylight Opera Theatre in Milwaukee, and the Kitchener-*Waterloo Symphony*.

Laurie 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



**Donna Barrett**

Donna Barrett, Youth Choruses liaison, has been a member of the Chorale for ten years. She is past president of the Youth Choruses and has been the accompanist for Discovery Chorus, the youngest group of singers, since its inception.

Donna has a music education degree from Butler University, Indianapolis and a Masters degree in counseling from OSU. She taught music for 5 years at all levels before she moved into the school counselor role. She has worked in Indiana, Florida, Colorado, Corvallis, Roseburg and Ashland.

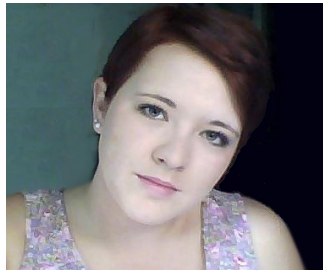
After retiring from education Donna became the organist for First United Methodist Church in Medford. She was also choir director for 2 years, as well as a musician at Sacred Heart Church where she led the congregation in singing.

Donna recently became a new grandmother. Her grandson, Lance, is seven months old and lives in Denver, Colorado with parents Randy and Kaci.

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### About Catherine Adams, Former Youth Choruses Singer



Catherine Adams is a student at Seattle Pacific University pursuing a career in Neurologic Music Therapy. Her career choice combines music and medicine to help those with massive

brain injuries regain lost function through music. Catherine will complete a 4-year degree, followed by a six-month internship and Board Certification that will qualify her to work in her chosen field. She received a voice scholarship from Seattle Pacific University.

Catherine started singing with Children's Chorus, part of Rogue Valley Youth Choruses, in the 4<sup>th</sup> grade under the direction of Gerry Flock. She remained with the Youth Choruses until she graduated high school and left for college. She remembers RVYC as a wonderful supplement to the instruction she received in school. She highly recommends Rogue Valley Youth Choruses for anyone who wishes to pursue a career in music.

*The Rogue Valley Chorale Association's Youth Choruses are celebrating 30 years of providing opportunities for talented young singers to participate in choral organizations of the highest quality. For more information contact Margie Grether at [margiegrether@gmail.com](mailto:margiegrether@gmail.com).*

### About Kathy Gordon, Chorale Singer



Kathy Gordon serves as the 1<sup>st</sup> soprano section leader in the Rogue Valley Chorale. She is a frequent soloist and an inspiration to decades of Chorale singers, always practicing, leading, and caring.

Kathy was born in Grants Pass and she became an orphan when her mother died two days after her birth. Her father, a pilot in the US Air Force, was in a Japanese POW camp. With her father absent from her life, Kathy was raised by her maternal grandmother.

Kathy attended the University of Oregon on an academic scholarship and majored in vocal performance under Exine Bailey. With no theory and unable to adequately read music, Kathy signed up for a heavy class load. Mrs. Bailey, after warning Kathy that she was facing a huge challenge, gave her a pile of difficult literature with rhythms she couldn't count and texts she couldn't pronounce, and said "Have this ready by next week, Dear." In Kathy's words, "Sometimes self-help is one's best teacher."

During college summer vacations Kathy worked at Oregon Caves. She met her future husband, Dick Gordon, who also worked summers there. They married after her sophomore year. Of course, they honeymooned at Oregon Caves. (Continued on Page 6)

### RVCA Receives Grant Awards

It has been a wonderfully fruitful year for the Chorale. During the past year, grants were awarded from the Carpenter Foundation, Meyer Memorial Trust, the Oregon Arts Commission, Target Corporation and the Miller Foundation. Funds received totaled over \$35,000. The grant awards funded a variety of projects including our Youth Choruses Spring Sing concerts, capacity building projects designed to enhance the impact and effectiveness of our organization, Board fundraising training and support for our seasonal concerts. We are grateful to our many supporters who make it possible for us to celebrate the joy of singing with our community.



## The Singing High

After a Rutgers Glee Club concert in the late 60's I noticed that after singing I felt high. Why? Here are a few theories I have come up with:

**BREATHING:** Deep, regular, rhythmic breathing. The discipline. The exercise. Think yoga meditation breathing exercises. (I have done it; it works.)

**GOOD VIBRATIONS:** Not only are we breathing, but each sustained exhalation rides the wings of the various pitches in each phrase we sing. Yogis have their OM. We create a variety of sounds and tones according to the words and the little black dots on the page. Do we get high on the good vibrations we create?

**MELODY:** Our vibrations do not occur in random sequence. The magic of melody unfolds. Melody! A mystery songwriters have likened to a pretty girl (or was that the other way around?) that haunts you night and day (especially the nights and days after a concert). Surely we get high on each melody that floats by!

**HARMONY:** Melody is lovely, but ah, the depth and texture that comes when our voices complement chordally in harmony! How grand and glorious the woven tones when voices resonate – in layers of two, three, four, or five, or even six or seven or eight!

**"CHANNELING"** spirits of genius: The beauty of the performing arts is bringing to life the spirit of each artist who composed the works we perform. From Bach and Brahms, Handel and Hayden, Mozart and Mendelssohn, to Bernstein and Childs and oh so many more. Surely the joy of our singing comes from being lifted by the winds of inspiration, which moved the many great composers to put to music the themes that stir our hearts.

**EMOTION:** Music is the universal language, the language of emotion. Music expresses and awakens the full range of human emotions from pathos, sadness and melancholy to joy, celebration and love - the themes that stir our hearts. Choral composers have captured in melodies and harmonies patriotic fervor, communal and family loyalties, romantic love and our deepest and most exalted religious impulses. The faces of tragedy and comedy, the world's greatest poetry and drama, and the words, themes and stories of Holy Scripture find new life in the majesty and pulse of choral music. Music we have the privilege to sing.

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## Lynn Sjolund To Retire (Continued from Page 1)

Over the years the Chorale has sung a whole library of choral literature, made six trips to Europe and England and performed at New York's Carnegie Hall. Even more importantly the Chorale has sung some of the greatest choral masterpieces ever written including Bach's *St. Matthew* and *St. John Passions* and his *B Minor Mass*, twice. There were three Handel oratorios, *Requiems* by Verdi, Brahms, Duruflé, Mozart and Fauré and both a staged production and a concert of Mendelssohn's *Elijah*. An abbreviated but exciting concert that featured music of Bernstein's *Mass* included other Broadway hits and ended with choruses from *Candide*. Ernest Bloch's *Sacred Service* was sung twice with the second performance done with Philip Frohnmayer, who sang the Cantor's role.

Soloists who have visited us included Chris Thompson, baritone; James Brown, tenor; Alfred Walker, bass-baritone; Heidi Vanderford, mezzo soprano; Neil Wilson, bass/baritone; Anthony Webb, tenor; and Brian Hymel, tenor. Of course, our own fine Chorale soloists have helped complete our artist's roster.

On the lighter side the semi-staged production of Frank Loesser's masterpiece, *Most Happy Fella* and Kurt



Mr. Sjolund at York Minster Cathedral

Weill's folk opera, *Down In the Valley* went along with other music from Broadway that featured the Gershwin brothers, Rodgers and Hammerstein, Cole Porter and Lerner and Loewe.

And if that's not enough, there were great motets of both traditional and

contemporary composers such as Benjamin Britten, Ralph Vaughan Williams, David Childs, Z. Randall Stroope, Palestrina, Schütz and Purcell.

But everything must come to an end, and it is time to burn the baton and allow a new director the privilege of directing the Chorale. It will not be easy for me to do, for not only is the group musically talented, they also are great friends. However, change is good and the present Board of Directors is determined to see that the long tradition of beautiful singing by the group continues to inspire audiences and singers. You can be sure I will be there urging them on to new heights of excellence.

To learn more about Lynn Sjolund visit our website at [www.roguevalleychorale.org](http://www.roguevalleychorale.org).

**The Singing High**

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**MIXED MEDIA:** We're talking about the thrill of making music, which brings a message to life. The power of poetry unleashed by music. Consider this poem:

**MORE THAN WORDS**

The power of words  
Is second only  
To the power of music.

The power of words and music -  
- the power of song -  
Is second to none. (PEY, 6/6/11)

**COMMUNITY:** Finally – last, but certainly not least. – we are making music **together**. We are in harmony. Or we are in dissonance. Or we may be in counterpoint. Or we may be just fuguing around (a round). Chasing each other. Sometimes listening to each other. And hopefully all giving at least half an eye to that guy (or gal) in front of us working so hard to keep us together and making the music that the text deserves. For we are all of us doing this **together**. And so to paraphrase the inimitable Stephen Sondheim, “Company, community, choral harmony, that’s what it’s really about, isn’t it? Life is harmony. Love is harmony...” The community of choral company. Who could ask for a better common endeavor? Who could ask for a more joyous bond for human kinship?

Multiple choice: which is it? All of the above!! Isn’t it great that we don’t have to choose or figure out a reason why? Just do it and enjoy.

Look forward to another wonderful year of making music together – enjoying each other’s company, savoring the songs and arrangements, and appreciating and loving (watching and following!) our wonderful director,  
Lynn  
Sjolund!

*By Peter E.  
Yeager  
Baritone,  
starting my  
21st year  
with RVC*



Peter Yeager With Daughter Leah

**Laurie Anne Hunter**

(Continued from Page 2)

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 served 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.

**Kathy Gordon**

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After two years in Portland, where Dick worked with First National Bank and Kathy performed with the Portland Opera Chorus, the couple moved to Medford.

Kathy was a "Founding Mother" of Rogue Valley Chorale in 1973 and has been singing with it ever since. She, along with Judy Cushing and Diane Newland, helped Doris Sjolund form the Rogue Valley Youth Choruses. Highlights of her years with the Chorale are the Carnegie Hall trip in 2000 and the Britt Ballroom and Stage concerts. A trip to Klamath Falls is especially memorable for the duet she performed with Nick Tennant while eight months pregnant. The piece was, *People Will Say We're In Love*!

Kathy is proud of her three sons, all of whom have served our country in foreign wars, and of her husband, who is the Medford City Council Immediate Past President. She is grateful to her mentors; her grandmother, who often accompanied her on the piano; to MarAbel Frohnmayer, who gave her limitless opportunities to further her musical abilities, and to Lynn Sjolund for enrichment through the Chorale. She also credits her many loyal friends who have beautified her life.

*By Karen Foster*



## Leaving A Legacy Bequest to the Rogue Valley Chorale

Making a gift to the Rogue Valley Chorale through your will or revocable living trust is a simple way to support our mission of inspiring and enriching our communities through the performance of great choral music performed by choruses of all ages.

Making a will or trust is a very personal act with enduring implications. Some of you may wish to leave a lasting impression on the community. There is no better way to do so than to leave a bequest to charity. The Rogue Valley Chorale is a 501(c)(3) corporation with tax-exempt status from the Internal Revenue Service and is able to accept charitable donations from estates of all sizes. This means that you can designate proceeds from life insurance, investments, your will or revocable living trust, or many other sources.

Some of you have already made your estate plans. Some of you have not. Others see estate planning as a complicated maze of documents that can always be postponed to a later date. The fact is that your wishes cannot be fulfilled unless you complete estate planning. Making the Chorale part of your estate plan has many positive implications. It benefits the community by helping the choral arts remain a part of our Rogue Valley for generations to come. It can benefit your estate in that it can lower taxes. Additionally, it benefits your soul to know that YOU have made a difference. Of course, every situation is different so talk to your attorney or CPA to get details as to how and whether your particular estate would benefit.

If you are interested in making the Chorale part of your estate plan, it is important to contact an attorney, CPA, and/or financial planner of your choice. They have the knowledge and tools to make your wishes become a reality. - *By Chris Cauble, LLP*

### Ways To Give

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

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

**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.

**Memorial Gifts** - A Memorial Gift is a beautiful testimony to the life of a beloved person who has passed on. It can be just the right touch for expressing compassion to someone who has experienced a loss.



For more than 35 years, the Rogue Valley Chorale has been at the heart of the arts scene and has enjoyed the support of our community, without whom we could not have reached our current level of excellence. Financial support is essential to the Chorale's ability to entertain and enrich the lives of Rogue Valley audiences.

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. On-line contributions are routed through *PayPal* and are safe and secure. You can also mail your donation to Rogue Valley Chorale, 724 S Central, Suite 102, Medford, OR 97501. We thank you for your support.



*Celebrating the joy of singing*

**Rogue Valley Chorale Board of Directors**

Beth Gibson, President  
Kenne Horton, President Elect  
Barbara Johnson, Treasurer  
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Ken Engelund, Past President  
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Sue Kupillas  
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Tina Pedersen  
Laura Rich  
Eric Smith  
Spence Webber

Carmen Adams, Youth Choruses President

**Rogue Valley Chorale Staff**

Lynn Sjolund, Artistic Director  
Jacque Schmidt, Executive Director  
Andrea Brock, Accompanist, Rogue Valley Chorale  
Sandy Roney, Discovery Chorus Director  
Gerry Flock, Children's Chorus Director  
Pam Nordquist, Cantare /Youth Ensemble Director  
Margie Grether, Youth Choruses Administrator/Treasurer  
Marcia Lafond, Discovery Chorus Rehearsal Assistant  
Marilyn Reppert, Discovery Chorus Rehearsal Assistant  
September Flock, Children's Chorus Rehearsal Assistant  
Eric Smith, Children's Chorus Rehearsal Assistant  
Kelsey Huntley, Discovery Chorus Rehearsal Assistant  
Kenne Horton, Cantare Rehearsal Assistant  
Pete Nordquist, Youth Ensemble Rehearsal assistant  
Daniel Rodriguez, Youth Ensemble Rehearsal Assistant  
Pat Daly, Youth Ensemble Accompanist  
Jim Stickrod, Accompanist, Children's Chorus  
Donna Barrett, Accompanist, Discovery Chorus

To contact the Rogue Valley Chorale visit our website at [www.roguevalleychorale.org](http://www.roguevalleychorale.org).



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