

Rogue Valley Chorale

Rogue Valley Chorale Association Newsletter

Chorale Receives Capacity Building Grant

In March of 2012 The Rogue Valley Chorale received notice that it was the recipient of an \$8,400 grant. The award was provided by the Oregon Arts Commission. Funds will be used to advance fundraising and marketing skills with the goal of increasing visibility, advancing programming and expanding services to members of the Rogue Valley Community.

While 55 applicants submitted applications, only 18 requests were granted. "These very competitive grants will help a cohort of arts groups who are ready with specific plans to strengthen the capacity of their organizations. We received far more strong requests than we could fund in this round – evidence that arts groups across the state are working hard to improve their organizational performance," noted Christine D'Arcy, Executive Director of the Oregon Arts Commission.

The Rogue Valley Chorale is grateful to the Oregon Arts Commission and their continued support of our service to the community.

The Oregon Arts Commission was established in 1967 to foster the arts in Oregon and ensure their excellence. In 1993, the Oregon Arts Commission became a division of the Oregon Business Development Department in recognition of the expanding role the arts play in the broader social, economic and educational arenas of Oregon communities.

For additional information on the Rogue Valley Chorale visit our website at:
www.roguevalleychorale.org.

Rogue Valley Chorale Board Member Sue Kupillas Honored As Woman Of Achievement



Congratulations to Rogue Valley Chorale Board of Directors member Sue Kupillas, who will receive the March of Dimes White Rose Reward for her remarkable contributions to our community.

Sue Kupillas is truly an Oregon treasure. A Jackson County Commissioner for a record 16 years, she is their only female commissioner since 1982. In 1990 Kupillas assisted in starting the White City Community Improvement Association and the White City Urban Renewal Agency to better the unincorporated area. Kupillas served on the District 9 Board of Directors and as president of Oregon School Boards Association. She developed the first community policing district in Southern Oregon and saw crime and vandalism decline by 10% in the first year. She also brought the Rogue Family Center into being, co-locating state and local human services under one roof, thereby creating the first one-stop human services program in the state of Oregon.

Additionally, Kupillas has served on various federal forest advisory committees and testified at congressional hearings about the impact of federal legislation on rural communities and counties. She's served on the Southern Oregon University Foundation Board, Rogue Valley Chorale Board, Heart of Medford Committee and was the first female member of Rogue River Valley University Club.

Sue Kupillas will be honored by the Greater Oregon Chapter of March of Dimes at the White Rose Luncheon on May 21 at the Portland Marriott Hotel.

Children, Adults and Communities Benefit From Choruses

Chorus America's 2009 Choral Impact Study

In 2009 Chorus America commissioned a new study of choruses in American life with two primary goals: first to update baseline research that Chorus America commissioned in 2003 which sought to remedy the absence of information about choral singers, choruses, and their impact; and second to gather new data to shed light on the role of choral music experience in childhood education and development as viewed from the perspective of both educators and parents. The picture that emerges from this data is striking. Across a wide variety of qualities found in successful people, there are strong associations between these characteristics and chorus participation. This powerful connection applies to both adults and children.

- 18.1% of households report one or more adults currently participate in a chorus. When children are added to the equation, participation jumps to 22.9% of households.

- 42.6 million adults regularly singing in choruses today.

- There are nearly 270,000 choruses nationwide.

- Chorus members are avid patrons of the arts, significantly more so than members of the general public.

- Chorus members volunteer significantly more frequently than the general public.

- Chorus members contribute financially much more to philanthropic organizations than the average American.

- Children who sing in choruses get significantly better grades in school than kids who have never been part of a choir.

- Parents report that their child's ability or performance in language arts, mathematics, and academics overall improved after joining a choir.

- Parents whose children sing in choirs are significantly more likely to report that their child has a good memory, good homework habits, and high levels of creativity.

- Parents of children in choirs are significantly and consistently more likely to report that their children are better team players and have more advanced social skills than parents of children who've never participated.

- An overwhelming majority of these parents date improvements in these areas to when their child joined a choir, and also say their child's ability to manage his/her emotions and/or read the emotions of others improved after they became choral singers.

- 80% of educators report that choir participation helps make students better participants in groups, helps develop stronger social skills, leads to better emotional expression and management, improves overall academic performance, helps instill self-discipline and punctuality.

- Educators believe choirs help keep some students engaged in school who might otherwise be lost, help make students more active participants in school and more likely to attend classes in general, help get students more involved in their communities, and add to the overall sense of community in schools.

- In spite of its apparent and myriad potential benefits, more than one in four educators say there is no choir program in their schools and one in five parents say there are no choir opportunities for their children in their communities.



In summation, The Chorus Impact Study confirms that introducing children to choral music opportunities when they are young develops future performers, audience members, and consumers of arts and culture well into adult years. Choral singing is an activity that fosters personal fulfillment and an appreciation of beauty for a lifetime. Moreover, singing with a chorus has life-long collateral benefits including fostering behaviors that lead to good citizenship. This is information that is important for policymakers, funders, educators, and chorus leaders to understand and leverage in their work on behalf of their communities.

- Chorus America, *The Chorus Impact Study*, 2009

Chorus America is the advocacy, research, and leadership development organization that advances the choral field. It supports and serves choral conductors, administrators, board members, and singers with tools, training, peer networking, and access so that choruses are better able to contribute to their communities.

Featured Artist

About Andrea Brock, Accompanist



The Rogue Valley Chorale is fortunate to have Andrea Brock as its accompanist and piano soloist. Andrea is the choir instructor at South Medford High School, where she has taught since 1996. Previously Andrea taught at Joseph Lane Junior High in Roseburg, Oregon (1991-1996).

Andrea has directed myriad musical productions including *Joseph and His Amazing Technicolor Dream Coat*, *My Fair Lady* and *Guys and Dolls*.

Andrea Brock studied with Helen Walker-Hill while attending the University of Colorado in Boulder as an undergraduate student. She furthered her studies with Dean Kramer at the University of Oregon where she received a Master's Degree, in Music Education. She was honored with the prestigious Max Reisinger Award for Music Education in 1996. Her post-graduate work included a course in collaborative piano with Barbara Gonzalez-Palmer in Lyon, France.

Ms. Brock is a highly sought after piano instructor. She shares her gifts with the community as a pianist in concerts and local productions. She accompanied the All-State and All-Northwest choirs on four separate occasions. She was the accompanist for the Oregon Bach Festival's Youth Choral Academy in Eugene, Oregon, directed by Anton Armstrong. In addition to her piano skills Ms. Brock is a singer and has performed solos with the Rogue Valley Chorale.

Andrea Brock currently resides in Medford, Oregon with her husband, Andrew (Tenor Soloist with the Rogue Valley Chorale), and their three children, Keenan, Molly and William.

Q: How many altos does it take to change a light bulb?



A: None. They can't get that high.

Upcoming Concert

Broadway: Can't Help Singing

Everyone loves Broadway! On April 14 and 15, 2012, the Rogue Valley Chorale will present music from a variety of Broadway shows in a performance called *Can't Help Singing*. Highlighted selections from *Les Miserables*, *Avenue Q*, *Spamalot*, *Company*, *A Little Night Music*, *Wicked*, *A funny Thing Happened On The Way To The Forum*, *Sweeney Todd*, *The Sound Of Music*, *Evita*, *Funny Girl* and many more will feature numerous soloists from amongst the Chorale Singers. What a fabulous and exciting way to close our season. Broadway's irresistible melodies and memorable lyrics are so compelling one simply *Can't Help Singing*. Show times are Saturday, April 14, 7:30 PM and Sunday, April 15, 3:00 PM. Ticket prices are \$20.00 for adults and \$5.00 for students. To order your tickets contact the Craterian Ginger Rogers Theater Box Office at 541-779-3000.



Assure Rogue Valley's Choral Music Future

Are you interested in helping the Rogue Valley Chorale continue its tradition of bringing exceptional choral music to our community? Here are two ways you can help.

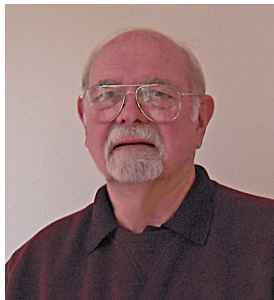
- 1) We are looking for individuals or corporations who would like to underwrite a concert.
- 2) Consider leaving a gift to the Chorale in your will.

Your contribution is tax deductible.

For more information contact us at
info@roguevalleychorale.org.

President's Notes

Rogue Valley Chorale's Grand Year



It has been a year of magnificent performances by your Rogue Valley Choral (RVC) from the 2011 summer singing tour to Wales and England, Mozart's Requiem in honor of the 9/11 first responders sung with voices from other local choirs, to the fantastic

Brahms Requiem. Lighthearted expectations are running high for the upcoming 'Broadway, Can't Help Singing' spring program.

Among the many highlights of the last year was that rare unique moment at the end of the Brahms Requiem when the baton fell, the last violin bow came to rest, and the concert hall was breathtakingly silent for just a brief moment before the applause. It was as if every heart was beating as one, in sync with Brahms' music, the musicians and the audience. It was one of those special moments shared by both musicians and audiences.

During this past year the performances have simply been grand. Thanks to all of the singers, those volunteers behind the scenes and our Artistic Director Lynn Sjolund.

Also, behind the scenes your board of directors has accomplished a great deal this year. The board has worked to build upon the efforts of those who have gone before and to strengthen the infrastructure that supports such a great musical tradition. Our new grant funded Executive Director, Ms Jacque Schmidt, has brought passion and results during this first year of her leadership. All of the board has contributed to a revised strategic plan, an update of our bylaws and

"A bird doesn't sing because it has an answer, it sings because it has a song."

- Maya Angelou

new policies.

During the nearly 40 years of wonderful singers, since the founding mothers and fathers, aunts and uncles, and of course our founding Director Sjolund began the RVC, the artistic programs have become ever more important in the lives of our singers, memorable to our audiences abroad, and essential to our community here at home in our beautiful Rogue Valley.

Our gift of music to our audience and the artistic enrichment of our community is made possible as a result of the support of donors, grantors and annual contributors to the RVC. We invite you to join with us as a volunteer or financial supporter as we move toward our grand 40-year anniversary celebration.

Ken Engelund, Board President

Rogue Valley Youth Choruses *Spring Sing*

The Rogue Valley Youth Choruses will once again entertain the students of Medford during their annual performance called *Spring Sing*. The concert will take place at Central High School on May 4, 2012. The performance not only provides a wonderful selection of choral pieces, but serves as an inspiring demonstration of the joys of singing for Rogue Valley youth. Following each Spring Sing many students who attended the concerts contact our Youth Choruses to request an audition. They will once again have an opportunity to do so on May 9th.

If you know someone who would like to audition for Rogue Valley Youth Choruses please contact margiegrether@gmail.com.

The Rogue Valley Youth Choruses provide opportunities for talented young singers of Southern Oregon to participate in a choral organization of the highest quality.

**Rogue Valley Chorale Association**

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Staff

Executive Director *Jacque Schmidt*

Artistic Director *Lynn Sjolund*

Accompanist *Andrea Brock*

Board of Directors

Ken Engelund (President), Beth Gibson (President Elect), Robert Begg (Past President), Barbara Johnson (Treasurer), Chuck Watson (Secretary), Kenne Horton, Sue Kupillas, Carmen Adams, Alice Nykreim, Tina Pedersen, Laura Rich, Jeannie Saint Germain, Eric Smith, David Vistaunet,

To purchase tickets contact the Craterian Ginger Rogers Theater Box Office at 541-779-3000.

The Rogue Valley Chorale is a 501(c)(3), non-profit organization. All donations are tax deductible.

To make a charitable contribution visit www.roguevalleychorale.org/donate.html

To mail fold here.

