

Celebrating the joy of singing

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

Rogue Valley Chorale Association Newsletter



Welcome Laurie Anne Hunter, Artistic Director

To say I'm excited about the coming Chorale season is probably an understatement. I see not only the opportunity for making new and beautiful music, but also for community building. I'm a great believer in lifelong learning, and this has already been an educational experience for me. Even before I was officially on contract, the

deadline for printing the Craterian Theater brochure was looming requiring concert dates and titles. Kudos go out to our wonderful Executive Director Jacque Schmidt and her excellent team on the Marketing Committee who came up with dates and titles around which I could wrap my repertoire choices.

Next came the budget deadline (also well in advance of my actually being on contract), for which I had to come up with some figures as to how much money I planned to spend. Thanks here go out to Treasurer Barbara Johnson and the budget committee who provided me with accurate records from past years, and of course, to Lynn Sjolund for his wise counsel.

July 20 was the deadline for ordering music from University Music Service to obtain their "Early Bird" 25% discount on music. I was thankful for the work Laura Rich and I did earlier this year to go through all the existing programs since the Chorale's inception and create a chronological database listing of what pieces the group has performed over the last forty years. I also gained a new appreciation for the work of our librarian Alice Nykreim and her team, as we met in the music library storage space, so I (continued on page 6)

To learn more about Laurie Anne Hunter go to www.roguevalleychorale.org/lauriehunter.htm.

Rogue Valley Chorale's 41st Season

The Rogue Valley Chorale's 41st season marks the first with new Artistic Director Laurie Anne Hunter. Ms Hunter has selected a diverse

repertoire o

opera and
operetta, musical theater,
classical and comtemporaty
pieces.

Come enjoy the season with us.

Christmas With The Chorale - The spirit of the season is celebrated with Benjamin Britten's Cantata Saint Nicolas, Christmas carols and holiday favorites. Cantata Saint Nicolas includes strings, piano, Guest Soloist Brian Thorsett, and our Children's Chorus. Saturday, Dec. 14, 7:30 PM and Sunday, Dec. 15, 3:00 PM.

Live at the Crate - opera, operetta and musical theater selections. Saturday, Feb. 15, 7:30 PM and Sunday, Feb. 16, 3:00 PM, 2014.

Spring Splendor - Life and love are in full bloom as we embrce the season with songs inspired by the beauty that surrounds us. Saturday, Apr. 26, 7:30 PM and Sunday, Apr. 27, 3:00 PM, 2014

And also... Rogue Valley Youth Choruses Winter Concert - North Medford High School Sjolund Auditorium, November 23 at 7:00 PM. For tickets call 541-941-3568 or email deedee.rvyc@gmail.com.

To purchase tickets go to www.roguevalleychorale.org, call the Collier Center for Performing Arts Box Office at 541-779-3000.

Executive Director's Report



Last year was one of immense growth and change for the Rogue Valley Chorale Association. The departure of Lynn Sjolund, our muchloved Conductor of 40 years, expansion of our donor base, farewell concerts, special projects and events, and the selection of our new Artistic Director, Laurie Anne Hunter, have kept us on our toes.

The baton has been passed and Laurie Anne Hunter will begin serving as our artistic director during our weekly rehearsals and seasonal performances. Ms Hunter is a superb

musician and human being with exceptional training and experience. Among her many accomplishments, she received her Master's Degree at Juilliard and became the fourth woman ever to conduct the New York City Opera. She was brought here by the Shakespeare Festival in 2001 to serve as Musical Director for *Enter the Guardsman*. We are thrilled that Laurie Anne Hunter is at the helm and look forward to many years under her guidance and direction.

We anticipate an exciting season of music and look forward to seeing you at the Collier Center For The Performing Arts.

~ Jacque Schmidt, Executive Director

Rogue Valley Youth Choruses Conductor Pam Nordquist to serve as ACDA President Elect



Rogue Valley Youth Choruses Conductor Pam Nordquist was recently selected as President Elect of the American Choral Director's Association. Pam joined American Choral Director's Association in 1981. She describes ACDA

conventions as amazing experiences that rejuvenate and remind participants of the importance of choral music in our world. After years of her colleagues goading her to run for the position of ACDA President. Pam put her name up for consideration. Ballots were distributed to the entire Oregon ACDA membership. In the first week of August, Pam was informed that she had been chosen.

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A Message From Our Board President



September is here bringing with it the commencement of a wonderful season of music. We welcome our new artistic director, Laurie Anne Hunter as well as our new chorus

members. We look forward to the exciting and diverse musical literature Ms Hunter has selected for the upcoming season, collaborations with our Youth Choruses, local musicians and guest soloists. With the changes to our Chorale personnel it seems a good time to re-brand the organization by redesigning our logo and giving our website a facelift. Be on the lookout for these changes in the months to come.

This is my thirty-second year as a singer, ninth year on the Board and second year as president. I feel blessed to be a part of the Chorale as it has enriched my life in many ways. I'm looking forward to a year of wonderful music and being a part of the leadership team.

Come join us this concert season and bring your family, friends, and neighbors. You will be entertained, perhaps shed a tear or two, and I guarantee you will be moved by the music. Together we will celebrate the joy of singing.

~ Beth Gibson, Board President

Seeking Cantare Conductor

Pam Nordquist is releasing the directorship of the Cantare Chorus for the Rogue Valley Youth Choruses after the fall 2013 session.

Cantare is made up of singers from around the Rogue Valley in grades 7-9. It is a mixed SATB chorus of approximately 45-50 singers. The chorus rehearses for 90 minutes once a week at South Medford High School and performs 2-3 times each season.

Interested persons should submit a letter of application with a current resume and 3 reference contacts to: Carmen Adams, 3990 Foothill Road. Medford, OR 97504, adamscd@earthlink.net, 541-941-3547

Deadline for application is Monday, September 16. Finalist Interviews and auditions will be scheduled for mid-October. A new conductor will take the podium in January 2014.

Need more information? Contact Pam Nordquist at 541-301-1551 or pamarella@charter.net.

Lynn Sjolund Roast and Toast

A great time was had by all who joined in celebrating, roasting and toasting Lynn Sjolund at his retirement soiree. The event took place at the Rogue Valley Country Club on May 24, 2013. The event's planning committee, chaired by Marjorie Overland, surpassed themselves in presenting an unforgettable evening. Over two hundred people were in attendance including chorale members, chorale supporters, friends and former students.

The evening began with Terry Faulkner leading everyone in a spirited version of Raise A Ruckus, which was immediately followed by Oh, What A Beautiful Evening. Eric Smith acted as song leader and Spence Webber served as the emcee for the evening. During dinner, the house was treated to Who Will Buy This Wonderful Cookbook, a parody sung by the Executive Director Jacque Schmidt's children, appropriately called the Schmidt Family Singers. Lindsay Berryman was the first to wave a five-dollar bill in the air. Many others took her cue.

The dinner provided by the Country Club was very generous and delicious. Chorale members Phyllis Skinner and Mary Jo Bergstrom did an excellent job with menu planning, along with handling registration and greeting guests at the door.

Following dinner, Kathleen Davis was introduced and announced The Sjolund Endowment Fund (with the practiced confusion of many Chorale members who still have trouble "lining up and following directions.") The fund, to be managed by The Oregon Community Foundation, received over \$30,000.00 in just two weeks! Since the Toast and Roast additional endowment donations have been received.

As the evening's entertainment progressed there were roasts by John Leavens and Chris Thompson and toasts by Dave Frohnmayer, Michael Wing, Gary Lovre and Founding Mothers Mary Kay Harmon, Karen Foster, Leslie Hall, Judy Cushing, Kathy Gordon and Nancy Purdy. Gary Lovre gave an abridged history of how all these talented educators and choir directors came to Medford, Oregon. Thank you, Gary. Now we know "the rest of the story."

Lynn took the podium last and ever so humbly, in his own inimitable style, proclaimed that the past 40 years have not been about him but about us, the Rogue Valley Chorale members, people who love to sing, and, he added, the music. Great music. He said it was just luck that put him in the right place at the right time. Yeah, right!

Written by Spence Webber











Music and Spirit

Over the past year I had the great privilege of listening to a variety of sacred music: Russian Orthodox chanting, old favorites from the Baptist Hymnal, Jewish Torah readings, Islamic calls to prayer. The question this variety and abundance of spiritual music raised in my mind was, "Why do so many faiths worship through music?" Friend, Pastor and fellow Chorale member Paul Hagedorn addressed my question with perfect clarity. Here is his response:

Without question, the gift and the reality of music is intertwined/integrated with spirit/spiritualness.

The God-sense, the logic, the emotion, the reality of life and love, senses alerted and teased, satisfied through melody and rhythm - expressions of sights and sounds creative, formulated, rehearsed, reworked, repeated, blended together in unison and harmony - played, sung, enhanced in sharps, diminished in flats, in a major or a minor key, presented with delicious sounds of heart and soul with varieties of instrument and voice ... at times quiet, at times loud and louder, with rests and contemplations...

The Book of Psalms (and Songs) recorded in the Bible concludes wondrously with Psalm 150. Please read this Psalm, and let's practice it and live it!! "Hallelujah"!!

Paul Hagedorn With Introduction by Laura Rich



Brian Thorsett, Guest Artist Guest Artist Brian Thorsett will perform the tenor solo in Cantata Saint Nicolas with the Roque Valley Chorale during December concert at the Collier Center for the Performing Arts.

fosters a stylistically diversified repertoire of over 200 works, which has taken him to concert halls across the US and

Europe. Future engagements include Evangelist and soloist in Bach's St. Matthew Passion, Handel's Messiah, Stabat Mater. Haydn's Paukenmesse. Nelsonmesse and Seasons, Beethoven's Ninth Symphony and Mass in C, and the Coronation Mass and Requiem of Mozart. An avid recitalist, Brian will be presenting various vocal-chamber combinations along with premieres of lan Venables, David Conte, Shinji Eshima, Michel Bosc, Noah Luna, Laurence Lowe, Brian Holmes and Nicholas Carlozzi in 2013/2014. He is a graduate of San Francisco Opera's Merola Program, Glimmerglass Opera's Young American Artist program, American Bach Soloists' Academy, the Britten-Pears Young Artist Programme at Aldeburgh, England and spent two summers at the Music Academy of the West.

Brian is currently on faculty at Santa Clara University, where he directs and conducts Opera Workshop, teaches beginning voice and maintains a private studio.

Long Live the Chorale! The Sjolund Legacy

For the past several years three questions asked by Chorale members included: What will happen when Lynn retires? Will we have a celebration to commemorate his retirement? What kind of gift will express our appreciation to Lynn for his 40 years of leadership?

The first two questions were answered with the vision and diligence of a hard-working Board of Directors. First, the Chorale will move forward under the leadership of Laurie Anne Hunter, a fine musician who eagerly anticipates guiding the Chorale's artistic life. Second, the celebration called Lynn's "Toast and Roast" on May 24th was a festive gathering, with songs, poetry, even a few lighthearted insults and joyful surprises.

Third, one of the surprises at the "Toast and Roast" occurred when about 40 chorale members stood up in front of the guests with 8.5" by 11" colorful cards that spelled, when turned forward, SJOLUND ENDOWMENT FUND, \$35,460. Thus, the last question was answered.



The Fund's history is unique. As the 2013 concert season progressed, several of the "Founding Mothers" (women whose inspiration it was to create the Chorale), were figuratively wringing their hands hoping it wasn't too late to fashion an appropriate gift. They realized that an endowed fund in honor of Lynn and Doris would create a legacy that would support the future of the Chorale as well as honor the past. After receiving the blessing of the Board to move forward, Karen Foster and Judy Cushing approached Kathleen Davis, who had experience building endowments for Britt Festivals and at the Oregon Community Foundation. Kathleen and Karen recruited long-time Chorale supporters and they, along with Executive Director Jacque Schmidt, composed and sent a letter to every Chorale member, supporter, alumnus, or friend.

The combined love, care, financial support, and shared energy that created this fund is indeed a fitting tribute to Lynn Sjolund. Because his leadership was one of

A Good Journeyman



"I was a good journeyman," says Carroll Graber to his role as music teacher to hundreds of students during a thirty-year career in the Medford schools, his unflagging loyalty to Lynn and the Rogue Valley Chorale since 1973, as well as to his other community activities.

Carroll was born in Marion, South Dakota. His family was Mennonite, a pacifist group that was "kicked around Europe for two centuries, finally settling in Russia where Catherine the Great allowed them to farm and practice pacifism." When Catherine died, the next ruler required military service, whereupon Carroll's family left Russia and settled throughout the Midwest.

During World War II, Carroll's family left the farm and moved to Salem, Oregon. They ran a small farm and a gas station. After high school, Carroll went to Willamette University in Salem, majored in music education, and graduated in 1952. Carroll's first job after college was in Glide, OR where he taught music and band in elementary, junior and high school.

In 1957, at a state music conference, he was introduced to Lynn Sjolund. One year later Carroll was happily in Medford at Hedrick Jr. High where he spent ten years. From Hedrick he went to Mid-high. He says that every kid in music went through him before they got to high school. His groups went to the state competition every year and were always at the top. Carroll said four vocal music teachers: Gary Lovre, Keith Campbell, Lynn Sjolund and he, influenced many students during the years when music programs flourished. At one point there were four hundred students in Carroll's music program in grades 7 to 9, too many for one teacher, at which point Gary Lovre taught 7th grade while Carroll kept 8th and 9th.

Carroll retired in 1985 and kept himself busy playing tennis and directing music programs at the Manor. He directed a hand bell choir for which he composed numerous arrangements. He also accompanied the Joyful Noise Choir under the direction of former Chorale alto, Wanda Snow. He served on the Community Concert Association board for over forty years, most of which he spent handling logistics, such as providing pianos, podiums, risers, food, housing, and receptions. The Association is now housed at the Collier Center for the Performing Arts, and Carroll still serves on the board.

Carroll directed the choir at Eastwood Baptist Church for nearly forty years. In between his musical ventures, he became a runner and participated in races throughout the

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Spencer Schmidt, Youth Ensemble Singer



Spencer Schmidt developed a love of singing at an early Influenced by his age. mother (RVC Executive Director and soprano Jacque Schmidt) and a church filled with music, singing was as natural to him as walking or breathing. Spencer joined the Children's Chorus in the fourth grade under Conductor Gerry Flock. He loved being with his peers,

and especially loved sharing a common passion with them. Of the myriad genres performed by the Youth Choruses, Spencer is most drawn to classical music. His musical life is not limited to the Rogue Valley Youth Choruses. He plays the piano, sings with the North Medford High School Chamber and Concert Choirs and serves as Assistant Director of the Men's Choir. Spencer also participates in folk dancing at the LDS Church in Medford. His non-musical activities include snow boarding and Boy Scouts where he is finishing his Eagle Project to achieve the highest scouting rank. His financial prospects are looking up as he was recently hired by Les Schwab Tire Center

Spencer will begin his final year of High School in the fall of 2013. Upon completion of his 12th grade year he will begin a two-year mission service, although he has not been assigned a location yet. One thing is certain; he will always sing.

RVYC is an important part of Spencer's life. Singing is an activity that he shares with his friends in the Youth Ensemble. His peers have the same musical skill level and the same desire to participate. Spencer enjoys singing with a group that is as passionate about music as he is. RVYC has opened opportunities for Spencer that he otherwise would not have experienced. He was selected to sing with the Rogue Opera. He performed a solo in the Rogue Valley Chorale's productions of *Elijah* and *Carmina Burana*. His exposure to a wide range of music has enabled him to become aware of other cultures and time periods.

Spencer says, "Music uplifts me and improves my mood. Music is my life, and the more I sing, the better I feel."

The Rogue Valley Chorale Association's Youth Choruses provide opportunities for talented young singers to participate in choral organizations of the highest quality. For more information contact deedee.rvyc@gmail.com or visit www.roguevalleychorale.org/rvyouthchoruses.

Newsletter of the Rogue Valley Chorale Association

Fall 2013

A Good Journeyman

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5) Laurie Anne Hunter

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region. He and wife Jackie have also traveled with the Chorale and on their own. Some years ago they discovered Carroll's 5th great-grandfather's grave in Montpellier, France.

Carroll met his wife, Jackie, at the Baptist Church Youth Fellowship in Salem. Jackie was a year younger and went to Oregon State. Carroll and Jackie were married during Carroll's senior year at Willamette, so Jackie finished her education degree at after they moved to Medford.

Carroll and Jackie have two children; Pam in San Jose, CA (who has three children and six grandchildren), and Loren, a pilot in Seattle (who has one child and two grandchildren). This gives Carroll and Jackie four grandchildren and six great grandchildren!

Carroll Graber is an extraordinary man, with deep spiritual beliefs that include a dedication to pacifism, and, of course, music, music, music. He is much more than just a "good journeyman".

Written By Karen Foster

The Sjolund Legacy

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character and integrity, as well as artistic excellence, donations poured in from throughout the community.

The principal of the endowed fund, which now totals \$36,815, will never be invaded. Each gift will live in perpetuity. The income and increase in value will be used to support the mission and activities of the Rogue Valley Chorale for generations to come. The Fund is invested and managed by the Oregon Community Foundation, with distributions used at the discretion of the Chorale Board of Directors to support the costs of staff, instrumentalists, music purchases, and other operating costs. To make a tax-deductible gift to the Sjolund Endowment Fund visit our website at www.roguevalleychorale.org, and select DONATE.

could see what music we already had on hand and learn about her needs for processing the comings and goings of so much music.

I am thankful as well to the leaders of other choral groups in the area who shared their library databases with me. Dr. Paul French provided me with listings for both the university and Southern Oregon Repertory Singers. Mark Reppert sent me what listings he had on hand for Siskiyou Singers and Pam Nordquist provided me with a database for both North and South Medford High Schools. What a wealth of music we have here in our valley!

At present, my computer table, desk, and piano are all strewn with scores and choral octavos as I put the finishing touches on our programs for the coming year. I've learned about online resources through the American Choral Directors' Association, Chorus America, the Choral Public Domain Library, and music publishers' and composers' websites. I've enjoyed spending a fair bit of time on YouTube familiarizing myself with new music. There is so much wonderful music "out there", making it difficult to choose. My hope is that the programs I have chosen will enrich our souls, please our audiences AND balance the budget.

Finally, my thanks go out to Beth Gibson, board president (and also, as I have learned, my neighbor) and all of the Board of Directors. One of the wonderful things about choral singing is how the work of each individual is multiplied by a diverse group of people to create something marvelous and magical. The Rogue Valley Chorale is truly a wonderful organization. I'm thrilled to be a part of it, and I thank all of you for choosing me to lead you on these new musical adventures!

2012/2013 Concert DVD's Are Here!



Rogue Valley Chorale produced DVD's of each of last season's concerts. The DVD's are a wonderful of memento Lynn Sjolund's final year as the Chorale's Artistic Director. DVD's are \$20 for a single concert, or \$50 for a set of all three concerts. They can be purchased by visiting our website at www. roguevalleychorale.org clicking and merchandise.

Harpsicord For Sale

Harpsichord Neupert Spinet with Method Book containing many old tunes. \$2,000.00. For information



Pam Nordquist

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She will serve two years as Oregon ACDA President-Elect. followed by two years as President, finishing with two years as Past President.

Pam has a laundry list of goals. She hopes to build community among choral educators and conductors in the state and create awareness about the disparity in choral opportunities in large metropolitan areas and the more rural regions of the state. Pam also hopes to create more regional and district honor choirs for middle and high school singers throughout our state. Creating such choirs would both improve the way students are selected for the All-State and All Northwest Honor Choirs, and give a greater number of students opportunities to participate in a select choir outside of their school experience. Finally, Pam wants to challenge the way the Oregon State Activities Association runs the championship events for solo performers and large groups (band, orchestra, choir) which currently promotes a single winner. ACDA has been trying for years to get OSAA to move to a gold/silver/bronze award system that recognizes the excellence of quality performances without designating a single winner. Many schools do not participate in state-wide events because they feel the current "winner take all" model is detrimental to their programs.

When asked why she is the obvious choice as ACDA president Pam responded, "You know the old adage, you must be present to win." ACDA state members have noted Pam's presence at board meetings and conferences. Pam is also passionate about the benefits gained from membership in the organization. Her persona is welcoming. She exhibits a strong work ethic, diverse knowledge of music, enthusiasm for quality choral literature and effective conducting gesture. Pam continually seeks to improve her skills and to facilitate opportunities for others to grow as individuals, colleagues, and conductors. "I must admit I'm a bit wacky and weird," says Pam. "But I think people appreciate someone willing to step outside the 'normal' box with new ideas, who is funny and positive, has a zest for life, and genuinely cares for other people. That's me."

Artistic Director Laurie Hunter

Laurie Anne Hunter has been a long-time friend of the Chorale. She served on the Chorale Board and has filled in as Guest Conductor. Upon the retirement of Lynn Sjolund after 40 years, Laurie was enthusiastically nominated and Artistic Director. selected as the Chorale's new

A native of California, Laurie Anne Hunter received her B.A. from the University of Winnipeg and her Masters Degree from Juilliard in New York. She spent five seasons as Assistant Conductor with the New York City Opera, becoming its fourth woman conductor ever when she made her Lincoln Center debut with Marc Blitzstein's "Regina" in 1992.

She Conducted Phantom of the Opera in Toronto and Showboat on Broadway. She has served as Assistant Conductor 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 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 for Enter the Guardsman in 2001. She also served as Musical Director for the Oregon Cabaret Theater and Southern Oregon University's Department of Theater.

She was on the faculty of the Hartt School of Music, the Israel Vocal Arts Institute, the Musicians Club of America summer Opera and Lieder Institutes, and is currently on the adjunct faculty at Southern Oregon University. She earned certification from the "Music for Healing and Transition Program" and plays therapeutic harp music for Providence Cancer Center and Hospice in Medford. She is the music director at the First Presbyterian Church in Ashland and maintains a private teaching studio for harp, singing and piano.





For over 40 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 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.

We are grateful to our many supporters who make it possible for us to celebrate the joy of singing with our community.













Jackson County Cultural Coalition of the Oregon Cultural Trust













Celebrating the joy of singing

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To contact the Rogue Valley Chorale visit our website at www.roguevalleychorale.org.



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