

Fall 2014

Volume 7

Rogue Valley Chorale

*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



Our 42nd season takes us on a journey to celebrate the music of cultures near and far. Join the Rogue Valley Chorale Association's youth and adult singers as we travel the world in song.

This season marks our second with Laurie Anne Hunter, who became Artistic Director of the Rogue Valley Chorale Association in 2013. We look forward to sharing another year with you as we *Celebrate the Joy of Singing*.

To order tickets for RVC concerts call the Craterian Stage Box Office at 541-799-3000 or visit www.roguevalleychorale.org. Discounts are available for students and Oregon Trail cardholders.

Rogue Valley Youth Choruses concerts are held at North Medford High School. Tickets are available at the door.



Christmas Around the World

Join the Chorale as we present a multi-cultural extravaganza in story and song. The whole family will enjoy this festive holiday celebration!

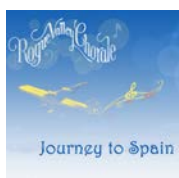
Friday, December 5 & Sunday, December 7



Festival of Choirs

More than 300 voices of all ages will continue this season's theme of world music. Don't miss this historic occasion as all five of our choruses take the stage together for the very first time.

Saturday, March 14



Journey to Spain

In preparation for our 2015 Summer tour of Spain, we will sing some of the great music that defines the American spirit, as well as the rich music of Latin heritage.

Saturday, May 2 & Sunday, May 3



**2014/2015
Concerts**



Saturday, December 6, 7:00 pm

Fall is in the air and Winter is waiting in the wings. Come join the Rogue Valley Youth Choruses as our Young Singers present a musical feast of delightful songs to usher in the holiday season.



May, 2015 (Date and Time TBA)

Springtime, gentle rain, blossoms, sunlight, love ... fall in love with the Rogue Valley Youth Choruses as you listen to a variety of uplifting melodies.

Reflections From the Artistic Director



I love the summer for many reasons. We all need time to recover, rethink, and regroup. For me, summer is the time to plan for the coming year. Putting together new and interesting programs is always a challenge, particularly when there is so much wonderful choral music in existence and even more wonderful music being written!

This summer, I returned for my third year to the Presbyterian Association of Musicians' conference in Montreat, North Carolina, where I was part of a 40-voice adult chamber choir, as well as 300-voice adult mass choir. Every year there is a new choral clinician and conductor to inspire us with new warm-ups, new repertoire, and new rehearsal techniques. This year, I had a wonderful time working with conductor Chris Aspaas from St. Olaf College in Minnesota and I am anxious to share with the Chorale many of the fun exercises he taught us. I also came away with many new pieces of music, one of which will be the opening number for this year's Christmas with the Chorale concert.

One of my other choral adventures this summer was attending the Perspectives Choral Workshop in Santa Fe, New Mexico. In preparation for the Chorale's trip to Spain in the coming year, I was especially interested in sessions given by Maria Guinand from Venezuela on choral music in Spanish. Some of you may have heard of a new system of music education from Venezuela known as "El Sistema". I had seen an episode of "60 Minutes" on TV a few years ago which featured a story on the dynamic new conductor of the Los Angeles Philharmonic, Gustavo Dudamel, who is a graduate of this program, which has now been expanded to the United States and many countries around the world. I did not know until this summer that there was a choral "wing" to this program, and that Maria Guinand had helped to create it! So as we sing some of her music in the spring, it will be as if we are bringing a piece of that to the Rogue Valley.

I've always loved musical collaboration and I'm particularly excited to have the Chorale collaborating with all four youth choirs for our "Festival of Choirs" concert in March. As part of that festival concert, we are planning to bring together the young men of the Cantare and Youth Ensemble choruses with the men of the Chorale in a beautiful and inspiring piece for male voices. And I'm excited to be involved in my first commissioning of a piece to be written for all five choruses as a grand finale. Stay tuned for more on that later!

- Laurie Anne Hunter
Artistic Director/Conductor

A Message From Our Board President



I am honored and excited to be the incoming Board President for the Rogue Valley Chorale Association. As someone raised in the Rogue Valley I have a profound respect for everything this organization means to vocal music in our community. It is with great pleasure that I approach the privilege of serving in this role.

The joy of singing begins early in life. I first sang on stage at age five. I had the opportunity to sing in choir at Howard Elementary School and continued singing through High School under the direction of Lynn Sjolund. More than thirty years ago music educator Doris Sjolund saw the need to begin offering quality music education alongside the declining opportunities presented by the public schools. She founded the Rogue Valley Children's Chorus. Now the Rogue Valley Youth Choruses consist of four choruses offering excellent music education beginning in third grade through the senior year in high school.

It is these five choruses – the Rogue Valley Chorale, Discovery Chorus, Children's Chorus, Cantare and Youth Ensemble – that comprise the Rogue Valley Chorale Association. Many people, perhaps even some of our strongest supporters, are unaware of the deep connection between the Chorale and the Rogue Valley Youth Choruses. It is our passion to promote and nurture a lifetime of singing. We feel the Rogue Valley Chorale Association is uniquely the place where singers are able to develop their gifts and perform great choral music throughout their lives.

I couldn't be more optimistic about the future of the RVCA. The Rogue Valley Chorale had a wonderful first season under our new Artistic Director, Laurie Anne Hunter. She has an exciting season planned which includes a **Festival of Choirs** concert. For the first time in the history of our organization all five choruses will be featured on stage together. We have commissioned an original work to sing together for the finale. You certainly will not want to miss this historic concert.

Nonprofit arts organizations, like ours, rely heavily on the generous support of corporations and individuals that believe in their importance. We believe our mission is critical, and even more so as it becomes increasingly difficult for students to receive arts education in the public schools. Be looking for our support letter this fall. We hope you will consider a generous gift to the Rogue Valley Chorale Association to support all five of our choruses as we celebrate the joy of singing!

Because harmony is worth pursuing,

- Kenne Horton

Newly Installed Board President Kenne Horton

Kenne Horton, newly installed Rogue Valley Chorale Association Board President, was born into a musical family. His mother sang for many years with Sweet Adelines, and his father with barbershop quartets. In 1973, Kenne accompanied his father to an international barbershop convention in Portland and was hooked! Kenne and his dad sang in quartets together throughout the USA and Canada.

10 C The MAIL TRIBUNE, Medford, Oregon, Wednesday, May 5, 1976



Kenne Horton, left

Kenne attended the Medford Schools; Howard Elementary, Hedrick, Medford Mid-High, and Medford Senior High. His chorus teachers and mentors included Chorale singers Gary Lovre, Carroll Graber, and Lynn Sjolund. He also studied voice with Ken Orsow in Ashland.

Following high school, Kenne joined the Marine Corps and worked with computers. He attended Coleman College in San Diego. Music and computers have long been parts of Kenne's life.

Kenne's wife, Laura, works as a realtor with Windemere Van Vleet. The couple has three daughters; Lindsay, a graphic artist in Pueblo, CA, Ali, a labor and delivery nurse in Medford, and Natalie, a music student at SOU.

Kenne is a business-to-business sales representative with Ricoh, a global company specializing in office technology. He has been with Ricoh for seven years. Prior to joining Ricoh he served as a music minister for 12 years. He is still active in the ministry as a volunteer, and once a month accompanies a group of men to Pelican Bay State Prison in California to share ministry with the prisoners. He also is active in the Jacksonville Presbyterian Church.

Kenne joined the Chorale ten years ago. In addition to singing, he has served as a rehearsal assistant with Cantare, although he is taking a break from that duty due to his presidential responsibilities. Kenne loves working with junior high-aged kids so he may be back with Cantare when his stint as Chorale president is over. The vision Kenne has for Chorale took root in his own life, and has grown to encompass the kids in the Youth Choruses. He says that once kids are hooked on music with the Discovery Chorus (grades 3-4), they tend to continue through Children's Chorus (grades 5-6), Cantare (grades 7-9), until they "graduate" from the Youth Ensemble (grades 10-12).

Kenne takes seriously the mission of the Chorale Association. He passionately believes that music can become an integral part of life for people of all ages, beginning early on. All of us in the Chorale welcome Kenne as our president and look forward to the pure enjoyment of making wonderful music together.

- Karen Foster

We Sing Because We Must

To many of us in the Rogue Valley Chorale singing is essential, as fundamental as breathing, or the beating of our hearts. It's a form of emotional expression that allows us to process, and ultimately understand our feelings. And when we sing with others? Oh my! There is a tangible power in the sound generated by many voices joining together.

During Rogue Valley Chorale rehearsals we have all felt moved by the power of our one hundred voices expressing the emotional content of the music. It makes us smile, fills us with joy, causes us to shed tears, and brings us closer to our spirituality.

I am reminded that singing is a precious gift. As a very young child my songs resembled squeaking and chirping. With age my songs had melodies and pitch. Eventually I called myself a singer and told my story through my voice. As I grow older I am aware that the power of my voice is diminishing. As range, breath control and quality lessen I remind myself that I sing because I must, because if I silence my voice I will disappear. My days of having a pretty voice are numbered, but I will always sing.

The Rogue Valley Chorale is a gift to our community, but it is also a gift to those of us who must sing. We come to rehearsals at the end of the day, some of us tired from a long day at work, but when the music starts nothing exists but the sound of our voices creating harmony. The stresses of daily life ride away on our breath and we feel joy. At Chorale rehearsals we truly do *celebrate the joy of singing*.

- Laura Rich

Portland Gay Men's Chorus At SOU

The Portland Gay Men's Chorus will perform at the Southern Oregon University Recital Hall on September 20, 2014 at 7:30 PM. The group is visiting numerous cities in the state on their "Celebrate Oregon" tour.

Founded in 1980, the 150 member chorus has toured nationally, produced several recordings and commissioned 40 new choral works. The Portland Gay Men's Chorus aspires to expand, redefine, and perfect the choral arts through eclectic performances that affirm the worth of all people. The group was the first gay chorus to sing in a state capitol when they performed at the swearing-in ceremonies of then Secretary of State, Barbara Roberts. PGMC has also performed for the inaugurations of Governors Roberts, Kitzhaber and Kulongoski. The Portland Gay Men's Chorus commands great praise as an ensemble of remarkable ability with an exceptional capacity for entertaining and inspiring.

Bob Mensel has served as the Artistic Director of the Portland Gay Men's Chorus since 1993. Prior to moving to Portland, he was Conductor of the Salt Lake Men's Choir and co-founder of the Salt Lake Choral Scholars. He recently completed a PhD in Music History and has served on the panel for the Arts Industry Development Grants of the Oregon Arts Commission.

Proceeds from the Portland Gay Men's Chorus performance will benefit the Rogue Valley Youth Chorus, Women With Wings, Rogue Valley LGBT Elders and Lotus Rising Project. Tickets can be purchased at Paddington Station, the Music Coop, at the door or can be reserved at www.roguevalleychorale.org.



Season Sponsor/Philanthropist Jim Collier



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 Bakersfield, California and in his hometown of Des Moines, Iowa. 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 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 early musical 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 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. Several organizations have adopted his name, and the Craterian Stage is now housed in the Collier Center for the Performing Arts. Our community is richer because of this tireless and dedicated philanthropist whose legacy will endure for generations to come.

Invitation to Observe A Rehearsal

Have you ever wondered how the Chorale achieves such a beautiful sound? We invite you to come watch a rehearsal. The Chorale rehearses on Monday evenings, September through April. Email us at office@roguevalleychorale.org and let us know when you would like to come.

U of O Honors Alumnus Lynn Sjolund



Conductor Emeritus, Lynn Sjolund, is the recipient of the 2014 Distinguished Alumnus Award, the highest honor the University of Oregon bestows upon alumni. Sjolund was recognized at the university's Commencement exercises on Monday, June 16, and at a dinner for Commencement guests on Sunday, June 15. He graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Music in 1951 and a Master of Arts in Music in Education in 1956, both from

the University of Oregon.

The University of Oregon's Distinguished Alumni Award is bestowed annually upon an alumnus of the university who has served the nation, state or the university, or who has distinguished him or herself by personal endeavor. Lynn Sjolund is the first alumnus recognized with the award to have graduated from the university's music program.

Sjolund's career highlights demonstrate his dedication to music and community. From 1956 to 1986, Sjolund was choral music director and fine arts chair at Medford High School, where he established a reputation as one of the most outstanding choral conductors in the Northwest. Sjolund's ensembles appeared frequently at gatherings of music educators, and he was often asked to conduct honors choirs.

Sjolund was founding director and conductor of the Rogue Valley Chorale for a tenure spanning 40 years, interrupted only by a position (1987-1990) as director of choral studies at Loyola University in New Orleans. He retired at the end of the 2013 season and was awarded the title of Conductor Emeritus one year later.

The Rogue Valley Chorale Association congratulates Conductor Emeritus Lynn Sjolund for this well-deserved honor.



Discovery Chorus Welcomes Michelle Cipollone



Michelle Cipollone will be joining the Rogue Valley Chorale Association as Director of the Discovery Chorus. She served as a rehearsal assistant under former director, Sandy Roney, and when the position became available she was asked to come on board.

Michelle earned her BA in Music Education from Pacific

Lutheran University in Tacoma, WA in 2012. While attending PLU, Michelle was a member of the Choir of the West, which toured the United States and Europe. She moved to Southern Oregon to teach music at the John Muir School in Ashland. In addition to directing the Discovery Chorus, Michelle serves as the Music Director for the Medford First Christian Church, where the Chorale holds its rehearsals.

Michelle developed a passion for music early in life. She sang constantly; in the shower, in the car, while doing household chores, and with school choirs. In high school she decided to explore singing at a deeper level. She took voice lessons and auditioned for solos. "I was fortunate to have outstanding choir directors," she said. "They inspired me to pursue music education as a career."

Michelle intends to honor the name "Discovery Chorus" by creating a place for children to discover the joy of singing. She wants children to find out ways in which music enriches their lives and creates an outlet for expression and creativity. She will provide the children with basic, age appropriate music theory instruction so that the foundation is laid for future learning

"I have taken my cues for next season's literature from the kids; silly songs that make them laugh, music from their favorite movie, *Frozen*, and songs that provide them with opportunities to learn to work with each other. But most importantly, everyone will have fun."



The Rogue Valley Chorale Association's Youth Choruses provide opportunities for talented young singers to participate in choral activities of the highest quality. For more information contact deedee.rvyc@gmail.com

or visit www.roguevalleychorale.org/rvyouthchoruses.

The Words

My high school glee club and voice teacher called it "thought content."

It is one of the elements of learning to sing -- along with time signature, key signature, the values of notes, and the meanings of all the markings among and between those five parallel lines.

It's not just about **how** you are singing. It's also **what** you are singing. Thought content. **The words.**

Do you remember when you started noticing, really noticing, **the words**? Was it the Beatles' Sgt. Pepper? The poetry of Joni Mitchell, Dylan or rhyming Simon? The lyrics of Leonard Cohen, Cole Porter, Oscar Hammerstein II or Stephen Sondheim? Frostiana or Sandburg's "Fog"? The words of Scripture brought to life by Mendelssohn in "Elijah" or Handel in "Messiah"?

A lad who stood beside me in the high school glee club said when he sang "The Battle Hymn of the Republic" it brought him to tears. **The words.**

Our performances differ from those of a symphony orchestra in a simple but profound way: our instruments convey meaning as well as music.

Getting the words across is one thing for an articulate speaker, story teller or actor. But 80 to 100 voices attaching words to varying pitches and rhythms face a whole different challenge!

And so our director adds elocution to musicality: uniform vowel sounds, crisp rhythmic consonants, start together, end together, emphasize the right syllables, as we do in speech. And let our expression of the words give emotional meaning to our message.

To convey the words is our joy, our privilege, and our high calling.

"High calling"? Think of it. A poet is inspired to write. A composer reading the poem is moved to compose. Once published, the conductor discovers. We, my dear fellow singers, are the final and crucial link in the chain. We bring the message to ears, minds and hearts.

Without us, it's all so many black marks on a silent page.

In our Spring Splendor concert, we spoke for the lover imploring a rose to tell his beloved not to be so reticent in showing her beauty; we celebrated the glories of the moon in a night sky, and a sudden thunderstorm -- giving musical and dramatic life to the poetry of Edmund Waller's "Go, Lovely Rose," Sara Teasdale's "To-night," and Octavio Paz in "Cloudburst" in compositions of Eric Whitacre and Jodi French. We perpetuate the power of poetry put to music!

In the coming season, as we celebrate the joy of singing, may our words ring clear, as we continue to lift spirits and touch hearts with the message of our music.

- Peter Yeager

Peter Yeager is a baritone in the Rogue Valley Chorale and a legal writer/appellate specialist in Medford.

Youth Ensemble Singer, Tana Garcia



Tana Garcia joined the Youth Ensemble in the Fall of 2013. This season marks her final one with Rogue Valley Youth Choruses. She begins her college career in 2015, seeking a degree in criminal psychology with a music minor.

Tana toured with the Youth Ensemble to Disneyland on June 20-25, 2014, where the group participated in a recording session

with Disney professionals and performed twice on the California Adventure Stage. "The second performance was the best one we have ever done," said Tana. "We made people cry. It is so gratifying to touch people by singing."

Tana attributes the success of their performance to the bonding the singers experienced after a week of being together. "We were like a family. No one judged or gossiped. We all cared for and supported each other. Because of the bonds that were created we were united on stage and sang as one voice. It was amazing."



Support the Rogue Valley Chorale Association

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.

To make a charitable contribution to the Rogue Valley Chorale 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 generosity.

The Sjolund Endowment Fund

In 2013 the Rogue Valley Chorale launched the *Sjolund Endowment Fund*. The fund has as its goal continuing, long-term support for the Association.

The Oregon Community Foundation (OCF) manages the Sjolund Endowment Fund. The investment earnings are used to support the mission and activities of the Rogue Valley Chorale Association for generations to come. Gifts can take the form of a cash contribution, a bequest in your will, stocks or other securities, or ongoing annual donations.

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. To contact the Oregon Community Foundation call Cristina Sanz at 541-773-8987.

Everyone's situation is different. We encourage you to talk with your financial planner or lawyer when making your estate plans.

Southern Oregon Subaru Sponsors Festival of Choirs Concert

The Rogue Valley Chorale welcomes Southern Oregon Subaru once again as a corporate sponsor. Subaru has generously offered their sponsorship for the March 14, *Festival of Choirs* concerts at the Craterian Theater at the Collier Center for the Performing Arts.

Southern Oregon Subaru has an extensive history of philanthropy in the Southern Oregon Community. We are grateful for their interest in the Chorale and look forward to many years of valuable support from our friends at Southern Oregon Subaru.

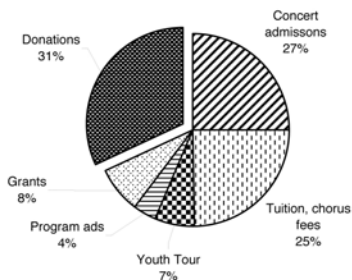
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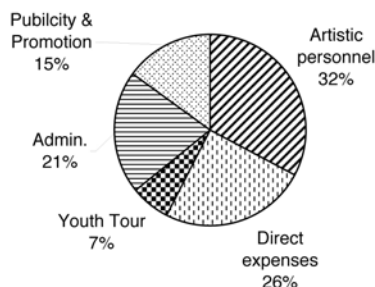
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Rogue Valley Chorale Association 2014/2015 Budget

TOTAL INCOME BUDGET 2014-15



TOTAL EXPENSE BUDGET 2014-15



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

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Celebrating the joy of singing

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Shaun Garner, Cantare
Gerry Flock, Children's Chorus
Michelle Cipollone, Discovery Chorus

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Pat Daly, Youth Ensemble
Jim Stickrod, Children's Chorus
Barbara Hetzel, Discovery Chorus

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Eric Smith, Children's Chorus
September Flock, Children's Chorus

To contact the Rogue Valley Chorale visit our website at www.roguevalleychorale.org or email office@roguevalleychorale.org.



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