



Spring 2015

Volume 8

## 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

#### 2015 CONCERT SEASON

**A Festival of Choirs**  
**Saturday, March 14, 2015**  
**2:00 pm and 7:30 pm**

For the first time ever, all five choruses of the Rogue Valley Chorale Association combine to present a concert! Featured works include *Umi Sono Ai (The Ocean's Love)* by Japanese composer Kousaku Dan, and the world premiere of Craig Bohmler's *Elements*, commissioned for this event. You will delight in hearing nearly 300 voices of all ages as the Rogue Valley Youth Choruses and the Rogue Valley Chorale *Celebrate the Joy of Singing*.



We are offering several seating options for this very special concert. Ticket prices are \$20, \$12, \$10 and \$5 (students and children).

**Journey to Spain**  
**Saturday, May 2, 2015, 7:30 PM**  
**Sunday, May 3, 2015, 3:00 PM**



We've found that our European audiences love American music. As the Chorale arranges our 2015 summer tour of Spain, we will be preparing some of the great music that has

helped define the American spirit. We will also celebrate the rich music of Latin heritage. Count on a rhythmic tapestry that will have you dancing in your seats!

Tickets are \$20 for adults and \$5 for students and children.

**Rogue Valley Youth Choruses**  
**Spring Concert**  
**Saturday, May 2, 7:00 PM**  
**North Medford High School Auditorium**



Join our young singers as they present a feast of choral music that is sure to enchant audiences.

To Order Tickets contact the Craterian Theater at the Collier Center for the Performing Arts, (541) 779-3000, or visit the box office at 16 S. Bartlett Street in Medford. Tickets are also available on-line at [www.craterian.org](http://www.craterian.org).

## Reflections from the Artistic Director



## Festival of Choirs

Many people in our community may not be aware that the Rogue Valley Youth Choruses and the Rogue Valley Chorale are part of the same organization. What better way could there be to spread the word than to perform a joint concert together with all FIVE choirs!

The Rogue Valley Youth Choruses include the Discovery Chorus, made up of 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> graders, conducted by Michelle Cipollone, The Rogue Valley Children's Chorus, for grades 5 and 6, conducted by Gerry Flock, Cantare Chorus for grades 7 through 9, conducted by Shauneen Garner, and the Rogue Valley Youth Ensemble for grades 10 through 12, conducted by Pam Nordquist.

Each of these choirs, in addition to the Rogue Valley Chorale, will perform a showcase of selections on their own. The first half of the concert will close with a joint performance of *Umi Sono Ai* by Kousaku Dan with the combined men and boys from the Chorale, Youth Ensemble and Cantare Choruses. An anthem celebrated by the St. Mary's International School in Tokyo, Japan, the song tells of a man who goes to the ocean to reflect upon his life. In each wave he sees opportunity. Though the retreat of each wave may reflect his failures, a new wave of hope soon appears.

The concert finale will be a world premiere commissioned for this event by composer Craig Bohmler and lyricist Marion Adler. I have heard and/or performed a number of Craig's pieces in various genres and have loved all of them. It was Craig and Marion's piece *Enter the Guardsman* which brought me to the Rogue Valley when I was music director for its run of performances at the Oregon Shakespeare Festival.

I asked Craig if he would write a paragraph about his process in writing the piece. I told him I wanted a finale, 5-6 minutes long, for 5 choirs, all at different levels, from small children to adults. It had to have piano accompaniment, with optional percussion. Though each choir would rehearse on its own, there would only be one rehearsal in which to put it all together. And I wanted it to be exciting.

He writes, "In every piece of music there is new terrain to be navigated, problems to be solved, and limitations to

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## Reflections from the Board President



## Rogue Valley Chorale Association Logo

I'm sure you've already noticed the new image in our newsletter banner. The Rogue Valley Chorale has a new logo.

The first logo designed for the chorale featured the pipes of a pipe organ with the words "Rogue Valley Chorale" arched elegantly over the top in formal script. In this issue is a delightful article about the founding of this group. The initial focus was to sing classical music. I've heard the story several times and often it is told with Lynn Sjolund saying something like, "Yes, I'll do it, but no show tunes."



Original Rogue Valley Chorale Association Logo

Over time the repertoire expanded to include wonderful music from many genres – including show tunes – and the Chorale got a reputation for performing a wide variety of styles. It was decided the pipe organ image should be dropped, leaving the logo you have seen for the last several years



2007 to 2014 Rogue Valley Chorale Association Logo

We began to feel the formal lettering which had served us for so long was in need of an update. We turned to artist Mark Mularz and along with input from a core team from the Rogue Valley Chorale Association board of directors, came up with the image you see adorning this publication.

I really like it. It is clean, simple and contemporary. It has a certain sophistication without being too formal and is whimsical without being cartoonish. I think it does a good job of capturing more accurately the personality of the Chorale. We are serious musicians in tuxedos and full-length gowns, bringing our best to the classics. Yet we also have a lot of fun with lively "show tunes" and spirituals. If you have been to our recent concerts I think you would agree.

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### A Singing Family - Lou, Pat and Susan Franks

Music is a universal language. It transcends boundaries and reaches beyond culture to touch the depths of our souls, expresses our common emotions, and inspires us all. So what happens to a family that expresses and explores its basic human instinct for making music together?

Meet the Franks family, Lou, Pat and Susan, who joined the chorale in 2012 to sing the Brahms *Requiem*, under the direction of Lynn Sjolund.

Singing together is nothing new to the Franks family. While living in Walnut Creek, all three Franks sang with Cantare con Vivo, a 90 to 100-member chorus that performed major works with orchestration. They also were active in the Festival Opera of Walnut Creek, singing in staged, fully costumed productions together. Pat describes the impact of music in their lives as the defining element that completes the family.

Pat and Lou met while singing in a Presbyterian church choir in Berkeley. They sang together, performing for Sunday morning broadcasts, and eventually married and moved out of Berkeley. Lou served as a choir director and Pat often sang with him. After the birth of Susan, they sought a church with a good youth program for their daughter. Eventually, and fortunately, Lou became choir director at a church that met the needs of all three family members.

Susan sang with madrigals and choruses as a student at Humboldt University. When Lou and Pat retired and moved to Southern Oregon Susan elected to follow her family to the Rogue Valley. She is currently employed with US Bank, and will be returning to school to study accounting.

Lou has always loved music. He began formal lessons on the tuba during his 5th grade year. He expressed an interest in becoming a music educator, much like the orchestra teacher who inspired him. His teacher encouraged him to learn piano, an instrument that has been a part of his life since 8<sup>th</sup> grade. He recently began studying again with Alexander Tutunov. He uses his piano skills to assist his family in learning their Chorale parts.

Pat was a math teacher and thoroughly loved her job teaching junior high school students. Lou, who tried teaching music at the junior high level, said he found it less than fulfilling. Pat told him, "You just have to be stronger than they are."

The Franks family exemplifies the impact of music on the human spirit. Their intimacy as a family is palpable, and anchors them in the closeness they experience together. "Music is a unifying central force in our family. I can't imagine life without music somewhere in our lives," says Lou.

### Founding Mothers of the Rogue Valley Chorale

Forty-two years ago a group of women who shared a passion for singing gathered in Mary Kay Harmon's living room with the expressed goal of forming a choral singing organization. It was Mary Kay's idea to start a chorus. She invited Kathy Gordon, Karen Foster, Mary Kay Harmon, Leslie Hall, Judy Cushing, and later, Nancy Purdy to help.



Founding Mothers, 2013 (L to R) Kathy Gordon, Karen Foster, Mary Kay Harmon, Leslie Hall, Judy Cushing, Nancy Purdy

There were no community choruses in Medford at the time. So the women, fondly referred to now as the Founding Mothers of the Rogue Valley Chorale Association, took it upon themselves to remedy the situation.

Meetings ensued, and Lynn Sjolund was the number one choice of a potential conductor. So the women, along with a number of other interested singers, approached Lynn at his home on Aloha Avenue with the suggestion that he assume the role of Conductor of the Rogue Valley's first community chorus. "Lynn's reputation and success as a high school conductor was excellent. He was the one," said Judy Cushing.

"I couldn't very well beg for the job without losing some dignity," said Lynn, "so I hemmed and hawed, but in my mind I was already selecting music for the first concert." So, with unanimous approval, Lynn Sjolund became the Rogue Valley Chorale's first conductor.

"When we started the organization, strong community patrons were a big help in writing the bylaws, forming the board and getting our 501c3 status," said Mary Kay Harmon. The Founding Mothers began announcing auditions, raising funds from local businesses, planning rehearsals and concerts. "Our first meeting was in the Spring of 1973 and we offered our first concert that same Fall! A lot of work in a very short period of time."

"I learned quickly that I wasn't going to be able to divorce myself from the nitty gritty operations," said Lynn. But highly



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### Rogue Valley Chorale Association Logo

I probably never would have thought of using a bird for our logo, but I think it is quite appropriate for a couple more reasons also. I enjoy observing a wide variety of birds on my property. I often sit and enjoy their songs. I watch as they bring up their young and send them out to fly on their own.

I think that identifies very well the work of the Rogue Valley Chorale and Rogue Valley Youth Choruses in our organization. Under the direction of talented conductors, the next generation of singers learns to celebrate the joy of singing. And as those students observe (and at times perform alongside) the singers in the Rogue Valley Chorale, they see firsthand the joy of singing lasts a lifetime!

Because singing brings joy to the heart,

Kenne Horton



New Rogue Valley Chorale Logo

ROGUE VALLEY  
CHORALE

### Reflections: Christmas Around the World

The Christmas Around the World Concert was PERFECTION! From the striking color balance of the bright red poinsettias against the black and white robes and glistening piano to the voices lifting our hearts to the spirit of the season all around the globe...I must say again, it was pure PERFECTION! Thank you for bringing us such a memorable experience during our holiday season! Kudos to you all at the Rogue Valley Chorale, it was amazing.

- By Joy Marshall



Joy Marshall is a fundraising event planner and development consultant. She and husband Larry Marshall have served as consultants for the Rogue Valley Chorale Association on numerous occasions.

To contact Joy and Larry Marshall call Marshall Fundraising & Event Management at 541-488-3121 or email [marshfund@gmail.com](mailto:marshfund@gmail.com)

### RVCA Receives Grant Awards

It has been a wonderfully fruitful year for the Rogue Valley Chorale Association. During the past year, grants and sponsorships totaled close to \$30,000. The support we received funded a variety of projects including concerts, collaborations with the Boy's and Girl's Club, guest artists and commissioned works. 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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## The Importance of Music for Children

Music researchers have found correlations between music making and some of the deepest workings of the human brain. Research has linked music involvement with increased language discrimination and development, better math ability, improved school grades, better social skills, and improvements in spatial-temporal reasoning, a cornerstone for problem solving.

**Music helps develop language skills:** When young children listen to familiar words in songs, their brains build connections to the sounds they hear. Singing songs and reciting rhymes with children helps to develop literacy skills.

**Music helps develop math skills:** Rhythm teaches the concept of sequencing, patterns, counting; all important pre-math concepts. Rhythm is fractions, and poly-rhythm, in particular, teaches that notes of various lengths can be combined to fill a standard space.

**Music helps develop self-esteem:** Music is nonjudgmental. There is no right or wrong. Sharing music with others creates a foundation for friendship and human contact. Making music with others helps to develop important social skills such as collaboration, listening and sharing.

**Music helps develop listening skills:** Music encourages the ability to listen and concentrate, and develop auditory discrimination, all critical components of the acquisition of spoken language.

**Music helps stimulate brain connections:** Neuroscience research shows that children involved in music have more neural activity than those without musical experience. A recent study from the University of California found that music trains the brain for higher forms of thinking. Researchers believe that music affects spatial-temporal reasoning, a skill necessary for achievement in math, science, and engineering.

**Music encourages creativity:** The arts are an important source of creativity. Schools without music miss a critical opportunity to instill creative thought in students, which is the launching point for problem solving, innovation and invention.

Discovery Chorus



The Rogue Valley Chorale Association recognizes the importance of early musical exposure for children. Involvement with a chorus is an accessible entry point to musical exploration, which needs nothing more than a voice and a desire to sing.

The Rogue Valley Youth Choruses serve children in grades 3 through 12. Participants develop skills in music theory and singing in a nurturing environment under the guidance of professional educators. Each chorus performs a wide variety of age-appropriate choral literature. Considered one of our region's leading youth choruses, RVYC has appeared in concerts in Oregon, Washington, California and Canada.



Youth Ensemble

**The Discovery Chorus** (Director, Michelle Cipollone) provides a unique opportunity for third and fourth grade children to explore choral singing. Through the use of diverse, quality literature, singers learn beginning choral techniques including breath control, unified natural tone, posture, rhythmic and melodic notation, and ensemble singing.

**The Children's Chorus** (Director, Gerry Flock) serves singers in grades 5 and 6. Repertoire is selected to fit the skills of beginning singers and varies widely from established classical works to art and folk songs, spirituals, jazz, and contemporary arrangements. Our singers have established a special relationship with the Rogue Valley Manor and perform in its Auditorium each season.

**Cantare Chorus** (Director, Shaun Garner) includes talented singers in grades 7-9 from around the Rogue Valley. This Mixed Chorus, singing SATB age-appropriate literature, performs throughout the year in local theaters, for community groups and regional choral festivals.

**Youth Ensemble** (Director Pam Nordquist) is an enriching, extra-curricular chorus for advanced high school singers. Students in grades 10-12 rehearse diverse, challenging, high-quality SATB literature. The ensemble tours each summer and performs multiple times throughout the year.

-By Laura Rich, Editor/Board Member

To contact Rogue Valley Youth Choruses visit  
[www.roguevalleychorale.org](http://www.roguevalleychorale.org) or email  
[deedee.rvyc@gmail.com](mailto:deedee.rvyc@gmail.com)

**Founding Mothers**

(Continued from page 3)

effective volunteers surfaced and the organization functioned like a well-oiled machine, as it does today. Having the opportunity to perform great works and challenging classical repertoire was very appealing."

The first concert included 38 singers who presented an ambitious program: Mozart, Bach, Respighi, Morley, Hindemith and Brahms. The success of the first concert drew interest from singers in the community and support from donors. The Chorale grew over the next few years to 60 singers. By 1985 the numbers swelled to 85 when the Chorale performed Bach's B Minor Mass. By the 1990s the organization began maintaining a roster of over 100 singers from throughout the Rogue Valley. Mary Kay Harmon believes the Chorale's longevity is due to the strength of its board, the dedication of its singers, and its excellent artistic leadership.



(L to R) Mary Kay Harmon, Kathy Gordon, Nancy Purdy, Karen Foster, Leslie Hall, Judy Cushing at a Chorale planning meeting

"I never thought the Chorale would have such lasting power," said Judy Cushing. "At one rehearsal I looked around at all the singers with amazing backgrounds, all walks of life...what a melting pot of talent and diversity, all with a common appreciation for music."

When asked about the direction the Chorale has taken Nancy Purdy replied, "I embrace the growth and changes. I feel pride that so many excellent singers want to come, week after week."

"It started out good and remained good," said Lynn Sjolund. "Attitude and spirit were established by the founding mothers and the goals that were set early on."

"The group is now Laurie's to guide. It is wonderful to see the Chorale continuing with quality. It's all about the future. I want to see it continue forever," said Nancy Purdy.

Forty-two years after that initial meeting in Mary Kay Harmon's living room to discuss forming a choral singing organization, five of the six Founding Mothers still sing with the Rogue Valley Chorale. We thank you, ladies.

-By Laura Rich, Editor/Board Member

**Festival of Choirs**

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address. This one posed some interesting ones. The obvious first problem to be solved was to find material that could develop from the simplest choir and open up to really be exciting and challenging for each successive choir. How could this material be performed within the space with so many people and how could I use the space to the greatest effect (like surround sound)? There also had to be a text that asked for 5 choirs to perform it. I discussed these issues with my lyricist and we came up with ELEMENTS (earth, air, fire, water, spirit) that evolve and grow towards the final pages. I kept the initial theme VERY simple for the elementary schools and made sure that they rarely deviated far from it. Their range is limited and their ears are not well refined at that age. I also used various piano techniques to visually illustrate the various "colors" within the text (shoveling coal, tidal waves, etc). The piano writing is also such that the pianist will easily define where beats are (with their arms and wrist) to help support the conductor if space and distance are an issue. Hopefully the audience in the middle of all of this will feel surrounded and transported by the world we were trying to create."

Lyricist, Marion Adler writes, "My plan is that each choir starts with the smallest representation of each element and builds until we have the 'greatest things' - mountains, hurricanes, infernos, tsunamis - but then - the 5th element which is the spirit - the ineffable, unquantifiable aspect of human understanding and participation in the world emerges to overcome, or transcend all in a big glorious joyful bursting into harmonies."

This special event will take place one day only, on Saturday, March 14 at 2:00 and 7:30 p.m. at the Craterian Theater at the Collier Center for the Performing Arts in Medford.

- By Laurie Anne Hunter, Artistic Director

**RVCA Seeks General Manager**

The Rogue Valley Chorale Association is seeking a part-time General Manager to assist with concert and rehearsal arrangements, oversight, correspondence, publicity and special events. The General Manager is pivotal in representing the organization to the public through multiple communication outlets.

People interested in applying for this rewarding position should email a resume to [office@roguevalleychorale.org](mailto:office@roguevalleychorale.org).



## 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 Christopher Cauble, Attorney at Law, Cauble and 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.

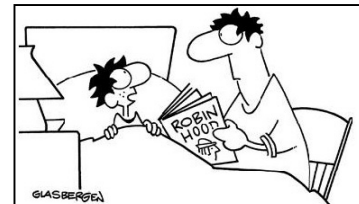
**Honor Gifts** - An Honor Gift is a wonderful way to celebrate the special people and events in your life and simultaneously support choral music in our community.

**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.

### Donating Made Easy

The Rogue Valley Chorale Association can help you make donating simple and easy. Monthly electronic fund transfers, billing, and regular credit card payments are some of the ways we can assist in making your philanthropic goals become reality.

There are several tax-advantages available to those who wish to give. Please speak with your estate planner about ways to help support choral music in our community.



How much of Robin Hood's money went to fundraising expenses and how much actually went to the Poor?

For more information contact  
Development Manager Gary Gillespie at  
[homeonthewing@gmail.com](mailto:homeonthewing@gmail.com) or call 541-944-8393.



For 42 years the Rogue Valley Chorale has been at the heart of the arts scene and has enjoyed the support of our community, without which 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 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.



**ROGUE VALLEY  
CHORALE ASSOCIATION**

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*Celebrating the joy of singing*

**Rogue Valley Chorale Association Staff**

Laurie Ann Hunter, Artistic Director  
Gary Gillespie, Development Manager  
Deedee Morgan, Youth Choruses Administrative Assistant

**CHORUS DIRECTORS**

Pam Nordquist, Youth Ensemble  
Shaun Garner, Cantare  
Gerry Flock, Children's Chorus  
Michelle Cipollone, Discovery Chorus

**ACCOMPANISTS**

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

**REHEARSAL ASSISTANTS**

Pete Nordquist, Youth Ensemble  
Eric Smith, Children's Chorus  
September Flock, Children's Chorus  
Wendy Cawthorne, Discovery Chorus

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



Rogue Valley Chorale Association  
724 S Central, Suite 102  
Medford, OR 97501

[www.roguevalleychorale.org](http://www.roguevalleychorale.org)