

CELEBRATING THE JOY OF SINGING



ROGUE VALLEY  
CHORALE

*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

### 2017 Winter/Spring Concerts



#### **Festival of Choirs Saturday, March 11, 7:00pm**

All five Rogue Valley Chorale Association choruses come together to present an evening of fabulous musical selections. Included is Mozart's *Missa Brevis* performed with

chamber orchestra, Rogue Valley Youth Ensemble and Rogue Valley Chorale.



#### **The Golden Age of Operetta Saturday, April 29, 7:30pm Sunday, April 30, 3:00pm**

We turn the spotlight on composers Sigmund Romberg, Victor Herbert, and others of their time. You'll hear favorite songs made famous by Nelson Eddy and Jeanette

MacDonald as we explore gems from the early days of Broadway in this theatrical revue.

#### **Rogue Valley Youth Choruses Spring Concert Saturday, May 20, 7:00pm North Medford High School**



We close the season with a delightful concert presented by the lovely voices of the Chorale Association's young singers.

### Looking Ahead



**October 21st, 2017** - biennial "Joy of Singing" fundraising celebration

**December 1, 2, 3, 2017** - Rogue Valley Children's Chorus joins Rogue Valley Symphony for its holiday concert

**December 2 and 3, 2017** - Rogue Valley Chorale Holiday Concert

**March 10 and 11, 2018** - Celtic duo Men of Worth joins the Chorale in this musical collaboration.



**April 20, 21, 22, 2018** - Beethoven's *Ninth Symphony* with the Rogue Valley Symphony



**And also, Rogue Valley Youth Choruses** Fall and Spring concerts,  
Fall concert - December 9, 2017  
Spring concert - TBA (2018)

**May 2018** - The Chorale travels to Oregon's Paiute reservation to perform a commissioned work by Joseph Julian Gonzalez.

**Summer, 2018** - The Chorale will embark upon its 9th singing tour during the summer of 2018. We will perform in Ireland with the duo, Men of Worth.



To order Rogue Valley Chorale 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). Rogue Valley Youth Choruses tickets are available at the door.

## Reflections from the Artistic Director



Photo by Christopher Briscoe

By Laurie Anne Hunter

Many of us are still on a “high” from our gospel Christmas concert. I received a number of cards and emails from patrons who found the concert uplifting and complimented us on our energy and enthusiasm, saying that they had never seen the Chorale so engaged in the music. And of course, the energy and

enthusiasm of our wonderful soloists, Bishop Mayfield and Britney Simpson, helped bring us there as well!

We were all set to resume rehearsals on January 9, but winter weather caused us to delay a week. Fortunately, for our next concert we share the stage with the four Rogue Valley Youth Choruses in our second biennial Festival of Choirs, which means we don’t have quite so much music to learn. As in the concert two years ago, the Discovery Chorus, Children’s Chorus and Cantare Chorus will each be featured separately in several songs, and all choirs will combine for the grand finale. What we are doing a little differently this time is to have the Youth Ensemble join the adult Chorale for their portion of the concert. I wanted both to collaborate and to give the high school singers a chance to sing with a professional orchestra in a shorter major work. We have chosen Mozart’s *Missa Brevis* (“Short Mass”) in C major, K. 220. Though the piece runs just under 20 minutes, it contains all the usual movements associated with longer masses, and several of the movements also provide opportunities for soloists from within the choirs.

My idea for our spring concert, entitled “The Golden Age of Operetta,” was inspired by news that the Rogue Valley Manor had acquired composer Sigmund Romberg’s piano. Romberg immigrated to New York in 1909, and his works—along with those of such composers as Rudolf Friml, Franz Lehar and Victor Herbert—formed the core of popular Broadway shows at the time. I had hoped we could present this concert using Romberg’s piano, but one of the stipulations of its purchase was that it was not to be moved.

The Operettas, or “light operas,” that enjoyed huge popularity in the first two decades of the 20<sup>th</sup> century tended to be big romantic productions with happy endings, and the music of that era provides plenty of wonderful material to build an entertaining concert for today’s audience. This was also the age of “Tin Pan Alley,” an area in Manhattan where a large number of music publishers had their offices. Sheet music was the principal

## Reflections from the Board President



By Spence Webber

Happy New Year to all!! May 2017 be full of the joy of singing and the celebration of music every day of the year.

Looking back at 2016 your Rogue Valley Chorale Association had “a very good year” as Old Blue Eyes might

have crooned. It was filled with great music and musical experiences. All four of our youth choirs are excelling under the fabulous leadership of our directors, assistants and accompanists. The Rogue Valley Youth Choruses’ Fall Concert at North Medford High School performed in December was one of the year’s highlights for me. It is truly amazing to watch and listen to the growth and advancement that takes place between eight and eighteen.

The Chorale is excelling as well as we welcome more singers with almost every concert. For our Hallelujah Gospel Christmas concert over 100 voices filled the Collier Center for the Performing Arts. Audience members in two full houses enthusiastically received both concerts. The response to the entire program was pure joy and appreciation.

Our next concert will be something special as we perform both alongside and together with our Youth Choruses singers. I invite you to attend and look forward to seeing you at the Craterian!

## SINGERS WANTED!!!!

The Rogue Valley Chorale Association welcomes new singers, age 8 through adulthood. If you, or someone you know, would like to audition for one of our five choruses, please contact us.

Phone: 541-414-8309

Email: [info@roguevalleychorale.org](mailto:info@roguevalleychorale.org)

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

## Spring Sing - A Concert For Children, By Children

Each spring, multiple schools from throughout Oregon's Rogue Valley are treated to a choral singing concert performed by RVCA's Discovery Chorus (grades 3-4) and Children's Chorus (grades 5-6). The concerts are presented by children, for children, which demonstrates the accessibility of choral music as an activity requiring nothing more than a voice and a desire to sing.

Directors Wendy Cawthorne (Discovery Chorus) and Gerry Flock (Children's Chorus) offer a lively and joyful variety of music that is engaging and fun. One of the goals of Spring Sing is to inspire children from our community to seek out opportunities to bring music into their lives.



In 2008, multiple school districts in the Rogue Valley experienced a series of funding cuts, which resulted in music education being reduced or eliminated altogether. Pam Nordquist, President of the Oregon Chapter of the American Choral Director's Association and RVCA's Youth Ensemble Director, states that funding cuts have resulted in schools in Medford, which previously had a music teacher in every school, cutting back to one teacher per two or three schools serving over 1,000 children per instructor. Phoenix/Talent schools have eliminated music altogether, and Central Point employs one teacher for the entire district. Eliminating or cutting back music in the schools took the stroke of a pen. Bringing it back will take much longer.

While it is not the goal of RVCA to relieve the school districts of their state-mandated obligation to provide music education for children, we understand that a problem exists. An entire generation of children is at risk of receiving insufficient or no exposure to music education. Spring Sing offers children a chance to immerse themselves in the world of singing for an hour each spring. Many of the attending students will see friends on stage and will understand that they, too, can sing. The concert motivates children to seek out musical opportunities and bring them into their lives. Rogue Valley Youth Choruses never turn any child away due to an inability to pay tuition, making it a viable option for many children.

Spring Sing will take place on April 28, 2017. It will once again be funded through a generous grant from the Oregon Arts Commission, which enables RVCA to pay for busses to transport children from their schools to the Central Medford High School performance venue.

## Children's Chorus Director Gerry Flock



The Rogue Valley Youth Choruses has the distinction of being one of Oregon's most highly regarded youth choral organizations. It owes its success to a team of hard working volunteers and an outstanding musical staff. Children's Chorus Director Gerry Flock is one of four Youth Choruses conductors responsible for the impact RVYC

has on the musical experiences of young children.

Gerry, a native of Southern Oregon, received a bachelor's degree in music education from Columbia Christian College, a master's degree in music education from the University of Oregon, and administrative licensure from Portland State University. He taught music for twelve years before moving into an administrative position. Gerry currently serves as principal of Wilson Elementary School in Medford.

Nearly twenty years ago Gerry participated as an assistant to RVCA Director Wendy McPhetres. When she left the organization, Gerry's exceptional musicality and dedication to children unveiled him as her obvious replacement.

Rogue Valley Youth Choruses has become a shared passion for a family that loves singing. All three of Gerry's sons sang in the Youth Choruses. Two of them continued on to sing with the Rogue Valley Chorale. Gerry's wife, September Flock, serves as Manager for Children's Chorus, and their son Tyler and his wife Meagan currently serve as rehearsal assistants. Their oldest son pursued choral music education as his career, and currently is the choir teacher at Crater High School and Hanby Middle School. Gerry says, "We love what singing gives back to our family. Music expresses the depth of my emotions and meaning in life."

Gerry's involvement in RVYC allows him to continually watch that spark ignite in children as they develop a passion for singing. "I still get overwhelmed with emotion every time my chorus performs," he says.



In December of 2017, Children's Chorus will join the Rogue Valley Symphony to present a combined work of holiday carols. The concert offers Children's Chorus singers an outstanding opportunity to participate in an exciting musical collaboration. It is sure to be an experience they will remember for the rest of their lives.



### The "Art" of Collaboration

Some of the most groundbreaking musical works have resulted when artists with knowledge and experience from different genres and unrelated forms collide and ignite creativity. We have all seen and appreciated the results of these artistic collaborations, which often become memorable.

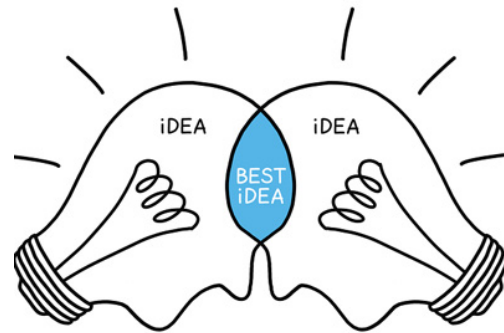
Creativity can appear as flashes of insight or happy accidents. They happen all the time, often when least expected. Add creative partners to the mix and you get abundant knowledge and experience to spark a multitude of artistic ideas. Collaborations can unlock untold creative riches that enrich and inspire those fortunate enough to witness the final product.

Music is collaborative by nature. A lone violin can be beautiful, but add a piano, or an orchestra, and a thing of beauty grows into magnificence.

Rogue Valley Chorale Association collaborations draw on multiple skill sets, experiences and perspectives to create musical experiences for all involved; singers, musicians, audience members. Every concert involves collaborations - some more so than others. Last season a memorable collaboration included Joseph Julian Gonzalez' *Misa Azteca*. The performance was the culmination of a collaboration between Mr. Gonzalez, RVCA, guest soloists, students from throughout the Rogue Valley (who created Mexican bark paintings), several funders, and Ballet Folklorico Ritmo Alegre. The final product provided a feast of music, dance and visual arts embellished through deeper understanding through composer lectures. This season all five Rogue Valley Association Choruses will join with chamber orchestra musicians to present a collaborative concert entitled A Festival of Choirs (see page 1).

Such collaborations enrich and inspire singers and audience members alike as the culmination of such endeavors grows in value and impact by the creative minds lending their skills and imaginations to the project.

As RVCA moves into the future, we will continue to find artistic partners, begin dialogues, watch ideas grow and bloom, and create art together.



### Quotes About Collaboration

*"Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much."* - Helen Keller

*"If I have seen further it is by standing on the shoulders of giants."* - Isaac Newton

*"Collaboration allows for the capture of creative intelligence."* - Mike Schmoker

*"It took a team of great minds working together to build the space shuttle."* - Dr. Robert Frosch, NASA

*"The strength of the team is each individual member. The strength of each member is the team."* - Phil Jackson

*"Everyone you will ever meet knows something you don't."* - Bill Nye

*"It takes a team to create a great artist; my hair stylist, my manicurist, my chauffeur, my voice coach, my personal trainer..."* - Miss Piggy

### Thank you Donors and Supporters!

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



TRADER JOE'S



Meyer Memorial Trust

James F. & Marion L. Miller Foundation



OREGON ARTS  
COMMISSION

## ESSA - Every Student Succeeds Act

By Debbie Galante Block

The Every Student Succeeds Act could be the law that puts music back in all classrooms. ESSA replaces No Child Left Behind, the current version of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act. In terms of emphasis on requirements, it might not be that different than No Child Left Behind, but as for philosophy on reform, it is radically different, according to Lynn M. Tuttle, Director of Content and Policy at the National Association for Music Education (NAfME).

Since 1965, Title I has focused on serving disadvantaged or poor children. In the new law, Title I serves the basic programs of state and school districts. The funds are not about the kids but about the schools and how their programs support children.

With this law, there are no longer core subjects. Instead, there is a definition for well-rounded education. "For the first time, music is listed as a stand-alone subject. What's really powerful is how the phrase 'well-rounded education' is found throughout the bill. This allows Title I funds to support well-rounded education, which could mean supplemental funds to support music and the arts, making music education available to more children," says Tuttle.

Another important part of the law notes that students should not be pulled from class for remediation. "The law is encouraging schools to think creatively about scheduling," says Tuttle. "It doesn't forbid pulling kids out of music classes, but it frowns on it. We need to help our parent advocates know that they can protest if their child is missing music for remedial math or reading."

Another section of the law is exciting because it has actual dollars attached to it. Under Title IV, grants will be given to districts to be spent on culture and well-rounded education, creating a pathway for bringing music back into the schools and into the lives of children.

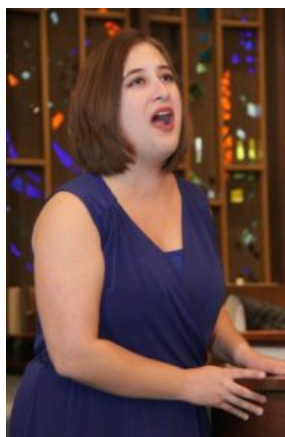
## Reflections From the Artistic Director

(Continued from page 2)

way for songwriters to advertise themselves and some of the more famous composers included Cole Porter, Irving Berlin, Jerome Kern, and later, George Gershwin.

Nowadays, the term "Broadway" might conjure up images of *Phantom of the Opera*, *Cats*, or any other musical theater show made famous in the last two or three decades. My aim is to focus on the early days of Broadway, when Operetta was king. Our older audience members may be the only ones to know some of the pieces, but I'm sure there will be enough familiar tunes to keep everyone humming when they leave the theater!

## Soprano Michelle Cipollone



The Rogue Valley Chorale Association is thrilled to welcome Michelle Cipollone to its board of directors. A member of the marketing committee, Michelle brings a fresh, youthful perspective to promotional strategies, including social media. Many of us who do not, or will not, understand this new mode of communication refer to Michelle as the Goddess of All Things Social Media!

An Oregon native, Michelle was born in Portland and raised in Corvallis. She has a twin brother, Michael, who lives in Medford. Her passion for singing was sparked at age three when she sang *Amazing Grace* at a singing competition. Michelle's interest in music was supported by her mother and nurtured by her grandmother. She recalls her grandmother playing old opera cassette tapes to which Michelle would sing along. Michelle made the decision to pursue singing as a career during high school and began voice lessons in earnest.

Michelle earned her Bachelor's in Music Education from Pacific Lutheran University in Tacoma, Washington. While attending PLU, Michelle was a member of the Choir of the West that toured the United States, as well as Europe. While singing with the PLU Opera Program, she performed the roles of La Ciesca (*Gianni Schicchi*) and Ino (*Semele*). She plans to pursue a Master's Degree in the upcoming year.

In addition to performing, Michelle also serves as a music educator in the Rogue Valley. She was the interim director for the Rogue Valley Discovery Chorus during the 2014-2015 season and currently teaches middle and high school music in area schools. She also teaches private voice and piano lessons to students of all ages.

Michelle lends her rich soprano voice to the Rogue Valley Chorale, Repertory Singers and Brava! Opera. She performed with the Chorale during its 2016 tour to Spain and is a frequent soloist.

RVCA is fortunate to have this talented singer as both a vocalist and a board member!



### Jim Collier's Holiday Gift to the Community



On December 3rd and 4th, the Rogue Valley Chorale presented its holiday concert, *Glory Hallelujah to the Newborn King*. The two performances were sold-out events attended by highly enthusiastic audience members who gave standing

ovations after several songs, and again at the end of the concert.

Guest artists Britney Simpson (Oregon Shakespeare Festival) and Bishop Mayfield (Bishop Mayfield Band) added their passion for gospel music to the concert during several numbers, including a beautiful rendition of *Silent Night* by Ms. Simpson and *Have You Seen That Child* by Mr. Mayfield.

The Rogue Valley Chorale Association partnered with ACCESS to collect canned goods for hungry members of our community by offering complimentary tickets for a future concert to all who donated 5 cans of food. The effort resulted in a collection of two full barrels of food. RVCA hopes to repeat this successful outreach endeavor at future concerts.

The 2016 holiday concert is the first funded by a generous endowment to Rogue Valley Chorale Association by James Morrison Collier. Mr. Collier gave the gift to enable RVCA to fund its holiday concert in perpetuity. Thank you, Mr. Collier, for making the music possible!



An additional concert sponsor, theDove TV and Radio, provided radio and television advertising for the concert.

### A few comments from both singers and audience members:

*I attend concerts quite often in Medford and Ashland, and I can say without a doubt that this one was my favorite. Bravo RVC! - Melissa Gambrell*

*Amazing performance! My cheeks hurt from smiling non-stop for two hours. -Richard Parkenson*

*Many of us sang those songs for a long time following the concert during the day, at night, and in our dreams until the ear worms finally settled down. What a glorious sound we created! -Philip Booth, Singer*

### A Little Choral Music Humor

Q: How many tenors does it take to change a light bulb?  
A: Five. One to do it, and four to say, "It's too high for him."

Q: Why did the choir laugh?  
A: Mass hysteria

Q: How many sopranos does it take to change a light bulb?  
A: Just one. She holds the bulb and the world revolves around her.

Q: How do you tell if the lead singer is at the door?  
A: He can't find the key and he doesn't know when to come in.

Did you hear about the choir boy who couldn't find a singing partner? He had to buy a duet yourself kit.

Q: How long does it take for a conductor to screw in a light bulb?  
A: Nobody knows because no one was watching.

Q: How are sopranos like pirates?  
A: They're all a terror on the high C's.

C, E-flat and G go into a bar. The bartender says, "Sorry, but we don't serve minors." So E-flat leaves, and C and G have an open fifth between them.

After a few drinks, the fifth is diminished and G is out flat. F comes in and tries to augment the situation, but is not sharp enough. D comes in and heads for the bathroom saying, "Excuse me. I'll just be a second."

Then A comes in, but the bartender is not convinced that this relative of C is not a minor.

Then the bartender notices B-flat hiding at the end of the bar and says, "Get out! You're the seventh minor I've found in this bar tonight."

E-Flat comes back the next night in a three-piece suit with nicely shined shoes. The bartender says, "You're looking sharp tonight. Come on in, this could be a major development." Sure enough, E-flat soon takes off his suit and everything else, and is au naturel.

Eventually C sobers up and realizes in horror that he's under a rest. C is brought to trial, found guilty of contributing to the diminution of a minor, and is sentenced to 10 years of D.S. without Coda at an upscale correctional facility.

## Make a Charitable Contribution to the Rogue Valley Chorale Association

The Rogue Valley Chorale Association is a 501(c)(3), non-profit corporation with a mission to inspire and enrich our communities with great choral music performed by choruses of all ages. Like many non-profit organizations, we depend upon you, our supporters, to help fulfill the mission.

Consider making a gift to RVCA. Your dollars provide the following:

- Provide children with outstanding musical education so that they can become lifelong singers
- Provide **all** Rogue Valley residents with access to exceptional choral music performances
- Continue providing singers with an outlet for performing their craft
- Keep beautiful choral music as a part of the Rogue Valley's arts menu for generations to come

*We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give.*  
-Winston Churchill

### Ways To Give

**General Giving** - Your gift will help maintain the daily needs of RVCA.

**Concert Support** - Funds enable us to provide the community with exceptional concerts that include guest artists, instrumentation, music purchases, and performance hall rental.

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

**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. Honor gifts include such events as anniversaries, birthdays and graduations. We will send the honoree a card letting them know a gift has been made in their honor.

**Youth Singer Support** - Make a young singer's dream come true by offsetting the cost of tuition.

**Bequests** - Making a gift to the Rogue Valley Chorale through your will or living trust is a simple way to support the Chorale. Please speak with your financial planner or attorney on how to make a bequest.

**Memorial Gifts** - A Memorial Gift is a beautiful testimony to the life of a beloved person who has passed. It can be just the right touch for expressing compassion to someone who has experienced a loss. Provide us with a mailing address of the loved ones so we can let them know of your gift.

### How to Give

The Rogue Valley Chorale Association can help you make donating simple and easy.

- Donate on-line at: [roguevalleychorale.org/donate](http://roguevalleychorale.org/donate)

- Send your check to:  
Rogue Valley Chorale Association  
724 S. Central Ave. Suite 102  
Medford, OR, 97501

- Call us at 541-414-8309 if you would like to make a secure credit card donation.

We are pleased to assist in turning your philanthropic goals into reality. Thank you for your generosity.

*Rogue Valley Chorale Association is a 501(c)(3), non-profit corporation.  
All donations are deductible to the extent of the law.*



Since 1973, the Rogue Valley Chorale Association 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 Association's ability to entertain and enrich the lives of Rogue Valley audiences.

Your support is greatly appreciated!



**RVCA**  
Rogue Valley  
Chorale Association

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Spence Webber, President  
Kenne Horton, Secretary  
Mary Lynn Lucas, Treasurer  
Donna Barrett, President Elect  
Jim Stickrod  
Kristy Denman  
Michelle Cipollone  
Jana Hogan  
Eric Smith  
Kelly Nuss  
Ramona Horton  
jj Zwang

Carmen Adams, RVYC President

**ROGUE VALLEY CHORALE ASSOCIATION STAFF**

Laurie Anne Hunter, Artistic Director  
Laura Rich, Operations Manager

**CHORUS DIRECTORS**

Laurie Anne Hunter, Rogue Valley Chorale  
Pam Nordquist, Youth Ensemble  
Pete Nordquist, Youth Ensemble Assistant Conductor  
Shaun Garner, Cantare  
Gerry Flock, Children's Chorus  
Wendy Cawthorne, Discovery Chorus

**ACCOMPANISTS**

Mikiko S. Petrucelli, Chorale  
Jim Stickrod, Cantare, Children's Chorus  
Ron Ochs, Discovery Chorus, Youth Ensemble

**REHEARSAL ASSISTANTS**

Eric Smith, Cantare  
Tyler Flock, Children's Chorus  
Megan Flock, Children's Chorus  
Leah DiMambro, Discovery Chorus  
Susan Hamilton, Discovery Chorus

**CHORUS MANAGERS**

Shawna Gann, Youth Ensemble  
Julie Farrow, Cantare  
September Flock, Children's Chorus  
Kyle Cawthorne, Discovery Chorus

*To contact the Rogue Valley Chorale Association  
call us at 541-414-8309,  
email us at [info@roguevalleychorale.org](mailto:info@roguevalleychorale.org),  
or visit our website at [www.roguevalleychorale.org](http://www.roguevalleychorale.org).*



**RVCA**  
Rogue Valley  
Chorale Association

724 S CENTRAL AVE. #102  
MEDFORD, OR, 97501

**Celebrating the Joy of Singing**

