

CELEBRATING THE JOY OF SINGING



ROGUE VALLEY  
**CHORALE**  
ASSOCIATION

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

## Rogue Valley Chorale Association Newsletter

### 2017 - 2018 Season

#### GIFTS OF THE EMERALD ISLE



**Sat. March 10, 7:30pm**  
**Sun. Mar.11, 2018, 3:00pm**  
**Collier Center**  
Men of Worth, our featured guests, help us celebrate St. Patrick's Day with Celtic and Irish favorites. Guitar, harp and other traditional Irish instruments add to the

magical feeling of this spirited music.  
Sponsored by Southern Oregon Subaru



**ROGUE VALLEY YOUTH CHORUSES**  
**SPRING CONCERT**  
**Sat. May 12, 2018, 7:00pm**  
**North Medford High School Sjolund Auditorium**  
This award-winning group of singers presents a feast of musical selections that are sure to delight and entertain.



**WALKING IN BEAUTY**  
**Sat. June 2, 2018, 7:30 pm**  
**Sun. June 3, 2018, 3:00 pm**  
**Collier Center**  
We present a collage of music that inspires, celebrates beauty, and reflects the diversity of our cultural landscape.

### Community Collaborations

**February 24, 25, 2018** - Rogue Valley Youth Choruses Cantare and Youth Ensemble join the Youth Symphony of Southern Oregon for their winter concert series. For details visit [craterian.org](http://craterian.org).



**April 20, 21, 22, 2018** - The Chorale will be guests of the Rogue Valley Symphony in a performance of Beethoven's *Symphony No. 9*. For tickets call the Symphony box office: 541-708-6400.



### Summer, 2018

During the summer of 2018 the Chorale will embark upon its 9th singing tour.

We will bring the musical richness of our American homeland to Ireland as we enjoy the beauty of the Green Isle.

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

### Looking Back, Letting Go and Moving On

I announced to the Board in August and to the choir in September that this will be my last season as Artistic Director of the Rogue Valley Chorale, so this will likely be my last newsletter article. I have been with you in this

capacity for only five years, but what a rich five years it has been!

When I first joined you as Artistic Director, my aim was to use my position as a member of other performing groups in the valley to bring about greater collaboration as a way of bringing our mission to a larger audience as well as growing our sense of community as singers.

My first concert in December 2013 featured the Rogue Valley Children's Choir who joined us for Benjamin Britten's *Saint Nicolas*, which also featured world-class tenor, Brian Thorsett. Our *Live at the Crate* concert in May of 2014 featured many members of the Chorale as soloists with music from Broadway, Opera and Operetta and *Spring Splendor*, that same year, featured the SOU Chamber Choir which also joined us for Eric Whitacre's challenging *Cloudburst*. Subsequent seasons brought collaborations with the Rogue Valley Youth Choruses, as all five choirs of the Rogue Valley Chorale Association performed together for the first time. The Cantare Chorus and Ballet Folklorico Ritmo Alegre shared the stage with us when we performed *Misa Azteca* by Joseph Julian Gonzales in 2016.

New friendships are forged and old ones deepened when we travel together. I witnessed this with our Journey to Spain tour in 2015 and look forward to *Walking in Beauty* as the Chorale travels to Ireland this coming summer. In between, we had a number of opportunities to collaborate with the Britt Festival, first with *Carmina Burana*, then with Mahler's fantastic *Resurrection Symphony*, and the unique creation that was *Natural History*, performed both on Britt Hill and at Crater Lake.

Our collaboration with the Celtic duo Men of Worth for our Christmas concert in 2015 was such a success that we are looking forward to performing with them again for our upcoming *Gifts of the Emerald Isle* in March.

The *Festival of Church Choirs* in 2016 brought many members of other choirs into our midst as we celebrated the joy of singing with guest conductor Donald Brinegar in a festive workshop setting. Then at the end of the year, we raised the rafters and sold out the Craterian Theater with our Gospel Christmas concert.

(continued on page 6)

## Reflections from the Board President



By Spence Webber

Singing is a way of expressing and giving voice to our emotional core and communicating it to others. Singing feels good, and feeling good makes us want to sing. When I am enjoying a walk in the woods, or nursing a strong cup of coffee I find myself

singing. When I hold my grandchild in my lap, I sing.

Many of us sing because others want to listen. It is an honor to share our voices with others. And when we sing together our collective voice has the power to induce in others the same passions with which our songs are delivered. We sing to communicate. We sing to offer a moment of beauty.

Singing is a language in and of itself. We can listen to a choral work in a foreign language we do not understand, and suddenly find fluency and beauty. The raw emotion portrayed in the song is understandable to us. And that understanding extends beyond deciphering words. Music builds bridges of understanding as we explore our shared humanity through song. The purity of music's role in expressing culture enables us to find awareness where little common ground exists.

I believe that singing is a fundamental aspect of the human condition, and the need to sing is encoded into our genes. I sing because I must, because that's what my very being commands. I sing because music is the most honest form of personal expression I have. I sing because it is how I share who I am with others. I sing because it is beautiful and simple; I need no instrument other than my voice. And when I cannot express myself, there is a song that can.

May you continue to find the joy in singing by attending our programs and supporting our mission in 2018.

May you all find your own song and forever celebrate the joy of singing.

*I don't sing because I'm happy; I'm happy because I sing.  
And those who wish to sing always find a song.*

~William James

## Reflections from the Executive Director

### Nurturing A Love of Lifelong Singing

By Laura Rich

The benefits of engaging children in singing are many. Chorus America's 2009 Chorus Impact Study found that young singers experience greater academic success and have more advanced social skills than non-singers. Several other studies reveal that kids involved with music score higher on math tests and have a greater understanding of arithmetic. Studies have shown that singing can improve cardiovascular function, relieve stress, and decrease anxiety. Children learn valuable life skills while singing in a chorus: commitment, working as a part of a team, punctuality, and interpersonal communication, to name a few. Such skills may very well carry over into their professional and personal lives.

"What one learns about commitment, being part of a group and seeing oneself as one piece of a greater whole is applicable to other aspects of life," says Joy Hirokawa, who conducts the Bel Canto Children's Chorus.

The Chorus Impact Study has shown that people who sing in a choir are more likely to volunteer, vote, and contribute to philanthropic causes—so it's a good bet that their willingness to engage will keep them close to choral music. Even if singers don't continue performing on stage, there's a high likelihood that their commitment to community will keep them in the audience.

Sharon Paul serves as Chair of Music at the University of Oregon. She sees a pattern in children who continue to sing into adulthood.

"Besides loving music, the camaraderie that they experienced as children in choir has fed their enjoyment of being part of a community of singers," Paul says.



Discovery Chorus singers engaged in the process

In fact, social connectedness is a primary reason for participating in choruses. Several studies have concluded that aesthetic fulfillment is the most important factor keeping kids involved in choral activities.

For those of us involved with a children's chorus as musicians, parents or volunteers, it's important to remind ourselves why these young singers are there. Kids show up to rehearsals mainly for the emotional fulfillment and camaraderie. In other words, they're not there just to perform. Musical excellence and rehearsing for concerts is very important, but it's equally important to create bonding experiences for young singers.

Children's Chorus singers building bonds of friendship



As leaders in the choral arts community we ask ourselves, why do children join youth choruses? They join because they like to sing. Why do they stay? They stay because they made a friend. Sharon Paul says, "You can walk into a classroom and create a very controlled environment and the children will listen, but creativity and love of the process will not become part of the fabric of who they are without that social and emotional connection."

Rogue Valley Youth Choruses participants are there to sing, but they also come to make friends and nurture a feeling of connectedness. As such, RVYC involvement is the first step on a pathway toward lifelong singing.

"The bottom line is that we instill a love of singing for a lifetime," Henry Leck says. "If they loved their choir, if they loved the process...one way or another, they will always be drawn back to good singing."



## The Joy of Collaboration

This season the Rogue Valley Chorale Association has several occasions to engage in the collaborative process. Each experience draws us closer to the many arts partners who enrich the lives of area residents.

Our Children's Chorus singers performed with the Rogue Valley Symphony on December 1st, 2nd and 3rd, which offered them an opportunity to work with a group of adult musicians in front of live audiences. Members of the Symphony treated the young singers with respect and spoke to them as one professional does to another. The experience provided our Children's Chorus singers a glimpse into a future of musical participation.



RV Children's Chorus Rehearses with the Symphony

Members of RVCA joined together with the Collier Center's Craterian Theater and other local singers under the direction of Conductor Emeritus Lynn Sjolund to present a sing-along Handel's *Messiah*. The audience was overjoyed to participate in that spectacular composition and demanded that Mr. Sjolund repeat the Hallelujah chorus twice!

In February RVCA's Cantare Chorus and Youth Ensemble will collaborate with the Youth Symphony of Southern Oregon during their February 24th and 25th Winter Concert.

On March 10th and 11th we will once again join together with the Celtic/Irish duo, Men of Worth. Guitar, harp and other traditional Irish instruments will bring the spirited music of the Green Isle to audience members.

In our culturally rich community we have endless opportunities to come together artistically and present compelling works. Stay tuned. The ideas are endless!

## Nine Reasons Why Singing Is Important

Nine reasons why people should sing together:

### 1. *Because we can*

Singing is natural. Really, everyone can sing. We cannot say this about many other actions.

### 2. *To create identity*

Singing together creates solidarity among groups of people. It is one of the ways we forge a definable identity as a community.

### 3. *To express emotion*

Whether singing makes us feel or feeling makes us sing, singing connects to the emotional part of our humanity.

### 4. *To express words*

Singing words is different than speaking them. It opens up a range of expression of words not possible if they were spoken and not sung. Singing the same words differently (to a different tune, tempo, or chord structure) allows us to more tangibly see the many facets of a single statement.

### 5. *To revisit the past*

Singing triggers nostalgia. We often associate special songs with significant events or transformative times in our lives. Singing can have the power of re-immersing ourselves in that past event or time.

### 6. *To tell stories*

We sing to pass on the content of our history and cultural traditions from one generation to the next.

### 7. *To voice our spiritual practice*

Singing can serve as an expression of our spirituality.

### 8. *To exercise our creativity*

Creativity and imagination are inherent in our being. Singing is one of the few art forms where every human being can participate together in a unified creative act.

### 9. *To give of ourselves*

We sing to give of ourselves to others, to edify, and to stir emotions through artistic expression.

## 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



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### Jeanie Saint Germain Chorale Singer and So Much More



Jeanie Saint Germain joined the chorale in 1993 in response to an invitation from Lynn Sjolund, who was seeking singers for a European tour. After returning from the tour Jeanie continued singing with the Chorale as an alto. Twenty-five years ago there was no established system for acquiring performance attire, and Jeanie struggled to find a dress. She decided to establish a system of wardrobe

management, dressing every female Chorale singer for the following twenty-two years. She was instrumental in selecting the current women's dresses and established a numbered system for tracking dress ownership, size and height. As a result, when singers move away or retire, their dresses can "stay in the family" to be used by someone else.

Jeanie studied theater and costume design at Stanford University. Angus Bowmer regularly recruited talent from Stanford, and in 1964 Jeanie came to the Oregon Shakespeare Festival to build costume props. During summer breaks in her MFA program, she supervised the production shop. In 1969, she was invited to join the design staff as Resident Costume Designer. Jeanie (then Jeanie Davidson) relocated to Oregon with her husband and four children and designed at OSF until her retirement 23 years later.

Jeanie designed costumes for well over one hundred productions while at OSF. During her tenure, she advanced the range of design and production quality, and in collaboration with directors and other designers ventured into divergent and innovative (sometimes risky) directions, such as Julius Caesar cast in the Mideast in



modern times. OSF paved the way for many other theatres to stage Shakespeare and other classic works in atypical settings. Jeanie was in the midst of it all, bringing the plays to life with her exceptional design capabilities.

Jeanie has also worked for Portland Center Stage, ACT in San Francisco, Minneapolis Children's Theatre, and Denver Center. Her work has been exhibited at the Prague Quadrennial Exhibition of Theatre Design.

In 1979, Bryan Saint Germain joined OSF as the assistant to scenic designer Richard Hay. Jeanie and Bryan were introduced, hit it off and married in 1980.

The Rogue Valley Chorale has been fortunate to have had this gifted woman serve as a board member and chair of the wardrobe committee for over 20 years. Jeanie put into place much of the infrastructure that enables the organization to function smoothly and effectively. Her greatest contributions to the board came in the form of her vision and imagination, and in her ability to identify needs and develop systems to facilitate RVCA processes.



Over the decades the Rogue Valley Chorale Association amassed an extensive library of choral literature. The library eventually became too large to be housed in a garage or spare bedroom. As with many other situations, Jeanie identified a need and presented a solution by offering office space and a permanent home for the library in her commercial building at 724 S. Central Ave.

Jeanie continues to contribute to the growth of RVCA. Still on her wish list is the creation of an archive to document and preserve decades of Chorale history.

#### Significant Contributions by Jeanie Saint Germain.

- Designing ten intricate and elaborate costumes for RVC's *Elijah* performance along with 100 full length chorus tabards
- Dressing 100 singers for RVC's semi-staged production of *Most Happy Fella*.

### Looking Back, Letting Go and Moving On

(Continued from page 2)

Life does bring challenges along with joy. We lost several dear singers who passed away during these five years, as well as a number of spouses of singers. This hit home to me very directly as I faced my own husband's battle with cancer and his subsequent death. I don't know how I could have gotten through all of that without your support. Getting to know all of you has been one of my greatest joys, and I have witnessed just how powerful music can be as a carrying force in difficult times.

So, it is with immense love and gratitude that I leave you. There is always excitement in the new. The unknown is pregnant with possibility. I feel this for you, as you get ready to welcome a new conductor and a new energy into your midst. And I feel it for myself, stepping into the unknown of a new life. I'm finding that the longer I linger in this unknown and become aware of the limitless possibilities it brings, the more I allow for new possibilities and opportunities to become present in my life.

### What's Next?

Laurie Anne Hunter's decision to step down as Artistic Director of the Rogue Valley Chorale Association has surprised and saddened many of the singers. The Chorale members have all grown musically due to her leadership and standard of excellence. Her musicality and professionalism are exceptional. The camaraderie she has nurtured and the bonds of friendship she has inspired run deep. Laurie Anne will no longer stand in front of us in rehearsals or performances, but the tremendous impact she has had will remain as her legacy.

So what's next? The board of Directors of the Rogue Valley Chorale Association formed a search committee that posted the Artistic Director position opening. The response to the announcement has been rewarding. The process continuing forward includes Interviews, auditions and ultimately, selection of a new Artistic Director. Interviews with the applicants will take place on January 27th. On February 10th, Chorale singers will have an opportunity to weigh in on each applicant during an audition when candidates will conduct the Chorale members. The Board of Directors will make a final determination based upon singer feedback, the interview process and the strength of the candidate applications. We expect to be able to announce the next Artistic Director of the Rogue Valley Chorale Association in March of 2018.

As difficult as it will be to say farewell to our beloved Laurie Anne Hunter, it will be equally exciting to usher in this next phase of our evolution as a contributing force in our Rogue Valley arts community. We look forward to introducing you to the next Artistic Director during our 2018-2019 season.



### Men of Worth Joins the Chorale for the Gifts of the Emerald Isle Concert



The folk-music duo, Men of Worth, will join the Rogue Valley Chorale as guest artists for the upcoming March 10th and 11th concert, *Gifts of the Emerald Isle*. The duo includes James

Keigher (Ireland) and Donnie MacDonald (Scotland). James and Donnie will blend their voices with the Chorale and add a varied selection of instruments, a unique combination of humor, exciting tunes, and soulful ballads. The result will be a delightful feast of Celtic and Scotch/Irish music just in time for Saint Patty's Day.

Donnie MacDonald comes from the Isle of Lewis off the west coast of Scotland. Writing original songs in both his first language, Gaelic, and in English, Donnie presents the music from his native Scotland with passion and humor. Donnie performs on vocals, octave mandolin, tenor banjo, concertina, and bodhran.

James Keigher comes from County Mayo in the west of Ireland. He is a singer, writer and collector of traditional and contemporary folk music. James was raised in Charlestown, a community steeped in traditional music and stories. He performs on vocals, guitar, mando-cello, and bodhran.



**Sat. March 10, 7:30pm & Sun. Mar.11, 2018, 3:00pm  
at the Collier Center's Craterian Theater**

**For tickets call 541-779-3000 or visit [craterian.org](http://craterian.org)**

### SINGERS WANTED!!!!

The Rogue Valley Chorale Association welcomes new singers, ages 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)



## 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, the Rogue Valley Chorale Association depends upon you, our supporters, to help fulfill the mission.

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

- Provides children with outstanding musical education so that they can become lifelong singers
- Provides **all** Rogue Valley residents with access to exceptional choral music performances
- Continues providing singers with a performance art outlet
- Keeps 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 by supporting production expenses.

**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 provide support.

**Memorial Gifts** - A Memorial Gift honors the life of a loved one who has passed and is a gesture of support 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.

### Funding Special Initiatives

We offer our supporters the opportunity to fund specific projects or a particular component of our organization that aligns with philanthropic goals. If you want to target your donation please contact us to discuss your giving intentions.

Areas of giving interest include, but are not limited to:

- Concert sponsorship
- Youth Choruses
- Commissions
- Field trips for youth singers
- Endowment giving
- Singer scholarships (youth and/or adult)
- Guest artists and/or musicians



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



### 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.



**RVCA**  
Rogue Valley  
Chorale Association

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Laura Rich, Executive Director  
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Pete Nordquist, Youth Ensemble Assistant Conductor  
Shaun Garner, Cantare  
Gerry Flock, Children's Chorus  
Wendy Cawthorne, Discovery Chorus

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Ian McCarty, Cantare  
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**CHORUS MANAGERS**

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Julie Brunson, 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).*



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**Celebrating the Joy of Singing**

