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*The  
Golden  
Age of  
Operetta*

April 29 and 30, 2017

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## FROM THE DIRECTOR



CHRISTOPHER BRISCOE

Welcome to the Golden Age of Operetta! Today when most people think about operetta, they may think primarily of Gilbert and Sullivan, whose brand of musical satire was a staple of British musical theatre in the latter part of the 19th century. In contrast, the operettas we are showcasing offer a glimpse of what was playing on Broadway in the early part of the 20th century.

Today's program features the music of Sigmund Romberg, a composer who was born in Hungary, studied in Vienna, and moved to the United States in 1909. My original inspiration for this concert was the news that the Rogue Valley Manor had acquired Romberg's piano. I hoped we could present Romberg's music using his own piano, but one of the stipulations of its purchase was that it was not to be moved. However this music will sound every bit as lovely as brought to life by the Chorale and our wonderful soloists – even without that particular piano.

You will hear a sampling of Romberg's greatest hits from *The Student Prince*, *The Desert Song*, *The New Moon* and *Maytime*. The first of these to open on Broadway was *Maytime*, which ran from 1917 to 1918 and established Romberg as one of the leading composers of operettas. Its most famous song is called "Will You Remember", but is known more commonly as "Sweetheart". *The Student Prince* opened on Broadway in 1924, and became the longest-running Broadway show of the 1920s. It was revived on Broadway in 1931 and again in 1943 and the famous tenor Mario Lanza starred in a film version in 1954.

For *The Desert Song*, Romberg collaborated with, among others, Oscar Hammerstein II, long before Hammerstein paired up with Richard Rodgers. The original Broadway production opened in 1926. Many revivals and film adaptations followed, including an adaptation for live television in 1955 starring Nelson Eddy.

*The New Moon* was a failure during its original tryouts and was extensively revised before it hit Broadway in 1929. Like many of Romberg's other shows, it captured Hollywood's attention, resulting in two film versions, one produced in 1930 and the more famous one starring Jeanette MacDonald and Nelson Eddy in 1940.

Composers Rudolf Friml and Victor Herbert also worked on Broadway during this time. Friml was born in Prague and studied composition under Antonin Dvorak at the Prague Conservatory. He first came to the United States on a tour as accompanist to violinist Jan Kubelik, and moved to New York permanently in 1906, where he started out as a rehearsal pianist for the Metropolitan Opera. His best-known works are *Rose-Marie* (1924) and *The Vagabond King* (1925), both of which were adapted for film following successful runs on Broadway. Friml's most enduring song is the "Indian Love Call" from

*Rose-Marie*, which became Jeanette MacDonald and Nelson Eddy's "signature song".

Born in Ireland and raised in Germany, Victor Herbert had a career as a cellist in Europe before moving to the United States in 1886 with his opera singer wife. Like Friml, his first job in New York was with the Metropolitan Opera. He wrote many successful operettas that premiered on Broadway, the most famous of which are *Babes in Toyland* (1903) and *Naughty Marietta* (1910).

Following intermission we turn to two very well known works, Johann Strauss's *Die Fledermaus* (1874) and Franz Lehár's *The Merry Widow*. Both operettas originated in Europe, but have become staples of opera companies throughout the United States to this day. *The Merry Widow* played on Broadway in 1907 and film versions were produced in 1925 and 1934. Jeanette MacDonald played the widow in the later film version, opposite Maurice Chevalier.

You might be wondering how Cole Porter fits in to an operetta concert. Well, like many of our featured composers, he was part of what came to be known as Tin Pan Alley. This was the nickname given to the street where many music publishers worked during the early part of the 20th century, at a time when a song's success was gauged by the number of copies of sheet music it sold. Porter was one of the most popular composers of the era and his *Anything Goes* had its debut on Broadway in 1934. It continues to enjoy frequent revivals, the most recent of which was on Broadway in 2011.

So, sit back, relax and enjoy an entertaining array of great songs that have stood the test of time!

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*Don Pasquale* 2017

Photo by Jean-Francois



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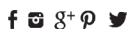
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CARI BAKER PHOTOGRAPHY



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CHORALE



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*Conductor/Artistic  
Director*

Mikiko Petrucelli  
*Accompanist*

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Donna Barrett  
Dee-Marie Broyles  
Jessica Buckman  
Michelle Cipollone  
Janet Dolan  
Ruth Engle  
Connie Fisher-Crooks  
Nina Frost  
Erin Galbraith  
Beth Gibson  
Kathy Gordon  
Joelle Graves  
Mary Kay Harmon  
Natalie Horton  
Jan Jacobs  
Judith Kloetzel  
Shirley Lenz  
Laurie Morey  
Alice Nykreim  
Gay Pollard  
Laura Rich  
Phyllis Skinner  
Deanna St. Martin  
Maureen Vega  
j j Zwang

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Adams Carmen  
Jean Adams  
Beverly Bowman-Gergen  
Joani Bristol  
Liz Cooper  
Sharon Dady  
Donna Daniels  
Kristy Denman  
Charleen Fike  
Pat Franks  
Susan Franks  
Merry Harris  
Jana Hogan  
Carol Jacobs  
Kimberly Little  
Mary Lynn Lucas  
Larissa Montegna  
Cathy Morrison  
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Deborah Sanford  
Geri Shimabukuro  
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Sandy Walper  
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Nancy Yie

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Michael Kempf  
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# PROGRAM

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The Student Prince

Choral Selections

Soloists: Joelle Graves, Roger Graves

Sigmund Romberg  
arr. Douglas MacLean

Rose Marie

*Indian Love Call*

Soloists: Joseph Meyers, Krista Wigle

Rudolf Friml

Desert Song

*One Alone*

Soloist: Joseph Meyers

*Romance*

Soloist: Krista Wigle

*Blue Heaven*

Soloists: Joseph Meyers, Krista Wigle

Sigmund Romberg

New Moon

*Softly, As In a Morning Sunrise*

Soloist: Joseph Meyers

*One Kiss*

Soloist: Krista Wigle

*Wanting You*

Soloists: Joseph Meyers, Krista Wigle

Sigmund Romberg

Naughty Marietta

*Ah, Sweet Mystery of Life — Italian Street Song*

Soloists: Joseph Meyers, Krista Wigle

Victor Herbert

INTERMISSION



Maytime

Sweetheart

Sigmund Romberg

Die Fledermaus

*Watch Duet*

Soloists: Joseph Meyers, Krista Wigle

*Champagne's Delicious Bubbles*

Johann Strauss

Merry Widow

*Born on the Breeze of April*

Soloist: Joseph Meyers

*Vilia*

Soloist: Krista Wigle

*Merry Widow Waltz*

Soloists: Joseph Meyers, Krista Wigle

Franz Lehar

Anything Goes

Classic Cole Porter

*Anything Goes*

*You're the Top*

*It's De-Lovely*

*Let's Misbehave*

*My Heart Belongs to Daddy*

*Be a Clown*

*Friendship*

*Begin the Beguine*

*Night and Day*

*From This Moment On*

Soloists (in order of appearance): Natalie Horton, Kenne Horton,  
Sandy Walper, Larissa Montegna, Mary Lynn Lucas, Laura Rich,  
Nora Smith, Dan Fowler, Kathy Gordon

Cole Porter  
arr. Mac Huff

## KRISTA WIGLE - Soprano

Krista Wigle, Soprano, is thrilled to be performing with Rogue Valley Chorale under the baton of the wonderful Laurie Ann Hunter! The last time she performed under Maestra Hunter, she played Miss Jessel in *The Turn of the Screw* with Brava! Opera in Talent, Oregon, under the direction of the incredible Willene Gunn.



Ms. Wigle is a crossover artist, performing in both the opera and musical theater genres. She was described as a “major find” by Opera News, and was just recently nominated for a San Francisco Bay Area Theater Critics Circle Award as Best Featured Actress in a Musical for her performance as Cleo in *The Most Happy Fella* with Cinnabar Theater.

Other roles include Marcellina in *The Marriage of Figaro*, Dame Quickly in *Falstaff*, and The Third Lady in *The Magic Flute*, also with Cinnabar Theater; Clorinda in *La Cenerentola* with Opera on Tap, Musetta in *La Boheme* and Yum-Yum in *The Mikado* with Livermore Valley Opera, Blonde in *The Abduction from the Seraglio* with Sonoma City Opera, Sister Liliame in *Dead Man Walking* with Opera Parallèle, Mabel in *The Pirates of Penzance* and Adina in *L'Elisir d'Amore* with The San Francisco Opera Guild, The First Lady in *The Magic Flute* with Pocket Opera, The First Lay Sister in *Suor Angelica* with Opera Santa Barbara, Zerlina in *Don Giovanni* with San Francisco Lyric Opera and Carlotta in the Las Vegas and San Francisco productions of *The Phantom of the Opera*.

As a concert artist, Ms. Wigle appeared as a special guest artist at the Chintimini Chamber Music Festival in Corvallis, Oregon, her home town. She has performed as the Soprano Soloist in Beethoven's *Symphony No. 9*, Mozart's *Requiem*, Mendelssohn's *Lobgesang*, and Handel's *Messiah*, with such organizations as The Santa Rosa Sympho-

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ny, The U.C. Berkeley Orchestra, The Winchester Orchestra, The Santa Cruz Symphony, Ballet San Jose, and Berkeley's Chora Nova. She has a private vocal studio in San Francisco, teaches musical theater/cabaret at the American Conservatory Theater, and is a Resident Artist at the Ruth Asawa School of the Arts in San Francisco. In July, she will be performing as Rosie in *Mamma Mia* with Woodminster Theater in Oakland, California, and in February, 2018, she will be performing as The Soprano (Trio) in *Trouble in Tahiti* with Opera Parallele.

## JOE RAYMOND MEYERS - Tenor

Joe Raymond Meyers is a highly sought after West Coast tenor with projects ranging from Verdi to Weill with many other stops along the way. Over the past five years, he's turned his attention to the leading roles of the lyric stage. The Duke in *Rigoletto*, Pinkerton in *Madama Butterfly*, Ferrando in *Così fan Tutte*, Rodolfo in *La Bohème*, Hoffmann in *The Tales of Hoffmann*, Ernesto in *Don Pasquale*, Camille in *The Merry Widow*, Rinuccio in *Gianni Schicci* and Alfred in *Die Fledermaus* are just of a few of the roles for which he has become known.



Mr. Meyers has been involved in myriad different productions, and in so many different capacities as a singer that to say, "Lyric Tenor" captures only a small part of the many roles that have defined him in the opera world. Goro in *Madama Butterfly*, Beppe in *I Pagliacci*, Bardolfo in *Falstaff*, Remendado in *Carmen*, the Four Macabre's in *The Tales of Hoffmann*, and other character roles compromise a part of his work load. His versatility spans a broad range of operatic singing and character acting. Instead of being referred to as an "actor-singer," Mr. Meyers prefers the reverse of "singing-actor" to illustrate his place in the opera world.

Mr. Meyers been a frequent performer with many of America's premiere opera companies. Highlights from seasons past include the 2001–2002 season with the San Francisco Opera as Goro in *Madama Butterfly*, Remendado in *Carmen* and Bardolfo in *Falstaff*. In 2003, he made his debut with Portland Opera as Tony in the West Coast Premiere of William Bolcolm's *A View from the Bridge*. In 2004–2005, Mr. Meyers continued his long-standing relationship with Opera San Jose, where he first started singing the character roles that would shape his early career. He was pleased to sing one of his signature roles, Alfred in *Die Fledermaus* as well as Giles Corey in *The Crucible*. During the 2006 summer season the tenor made his Prague debut singing the *Requiem Mass* of Czech composer F. Hidas. He then returned to the U.S. for his debut at Opera Grand Rapids as Goro in *Madama Butterfly*. He was tenor soloist in San Francisco Ballet's *West Side Story Suite*, sang *Carmina Burana* with Ballet San Jose in Shanghai, China, and sang Rodolfo in *La Bohème* at Pocket Opera in San Francisco.

Mr. Meyers made his Motion Picture debut in 2009 portraying an opera singer in the movie "Milk," starring Sean Penn and directed by Gus van Sant. The movie won academy awards for best original screen play (Dustin Lance Black) and Best Actor (Sean Penn).

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ARTISTIC DIRECTOR  
LAURIE HUNTER



CHRISTOPHER BRISCOE

A native of Pasadena, California, Laurie Anne Hunter received her B.A. from the University of Winnipeg and her Masters in Piano Accompanying from the Juilliard School in New York. She spent five seasons as an Assistant Conductor and Vocal Coach with the New York City Opera, becoming only the fourth woman ever to conduct there when she made her Lincoln Center debut with Marc Blitzstein's *Regina* in 1992. Guest conducting appearances followed with the New England Lyric Operetta, Skylight Opera Theatre in Milwaukee, and the Kitchen-Waterloo Symphony.

She was Associate Conductor of *Phantom of the Opera* in Toronto and *Showboat* on Broadway, and Assistant Conductor and Vocal Coach for the Opera Theatre of Saint Louis, Augusta Opera, Mobile Opera, Boston Concert Opera, and the Metropolitan Opera Guild's educational productions. She headed the music staff for two years at the Banff Centre's Music Theater program in Canada, and worked with American Musical Theater of San Jose and the Seattle Opera. Ms. Hunter has been on the faculty of the Hartt School of Music in Hartford, Connecticut, the Israel Vocal Arts Institute in Tel Aviv, and the Musicians Club of America summer Opera and Lieder Institutes in North Carolina.

In 2001, the Oregon Shakespeare Festival brought her to Ashland as Musical Director and Pianist for *Enter the Guardsman*, and she has been an active and valuable part of the Rogue Valley's musical scene ever since. She has been an adjunct faculty member at Southern Oregon University since 2001, and music director at the First Presbyterian Church in Ashland since 2010. Additional contributions to the musical life of the Rogue Valley include work with the Oregon Cabaret Theatre, Southern Oregon University Theatre Productions, Southern Oregon Repertory Singers, Rogue Valley Symphony, Rogue Opera, and the Brava! Opera Theatre/James M. Collier Young Artist program. She took up the harp while earning her certification from the "Music for Healing and Transition Program" and for many years played therapeutic harp music for Providence Cancer Center and Hospice in Medford.

Ms. Hunter has been a part of the Rogue Valley Chorale community since 2002, serving as guest accompanist, Board member, and guest conductor before being appointed as the Chorale's Artistic Director and Conductor in 2013. She is delighted to have become more closely acquainted with this fine group of singers and to have gained so many new friends.



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 Weller, Sandra

### *In Memory of John Leavens*

Bristol, Joani  
 Coulter, Carol (The Three  
 Coulter Women)  
 Denman, Kristy  
 Gibson, Mike and Beth  
 Gordon, Dick and Kathy  
 Haberlach, Bill and Bette  
 Harmon, John and Mary Kay  
 Jahnke, Peggy  
 Johnson, Barbara  
 Lucas, Bill and Mary Lynn  
 Nykreim, Alice  
 Purdy, Bill and Nancy  
 Rich, Laura and Booth, Philip  
 Smith, La Rhea

### *In Memory of Kelvin Rich*

Rich, Laura and Booth, Philip

### *In Memory of Don Denman*

Denman, Kristy

### *In Memory of Frank Sullivan*

Weisel, Joann and Lee  
 Rich, Laura and Booth, Philip



The Rogue Valley Chorale  
 Association wishes to  
 express its gratitude to  
 Jeanie Saint Germain,  
 owner of Central Place,  
 for her generous donation  
 of a suite to house the  
 Chorale music library  
 and office.



## James F. & Marion L. Miller Foundation



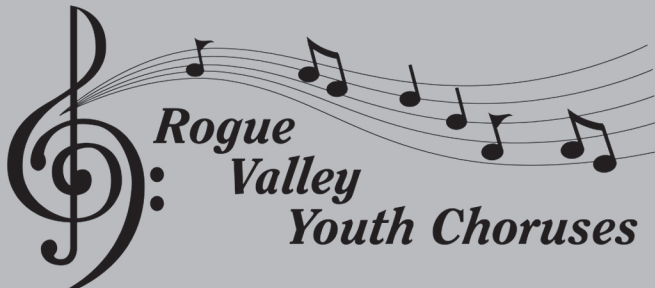
Here for Oregon. Here for Good.

The Rogue Valley Chorale Association is a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation.

All donations are tax-deductible to the extent of the law.

Every effort has been made to assure the accuracy of our treasured list of supporters.

If we have erred or omitted in recognizing your generosity,  
 please bring it to our attention and accept our sincere apology.



*Celebrating the Joy of Singing*

## AUDITIONS

**ALL 2nd - 5th GRADE SINGERS  
ARE INVITED TO AUDITION.**

**DISCOVERY CHORUS - GRADES 3 - 4**

**CHILDREN'S CHORUS - GRADES 5 - 6**

Wednesday, May 3, 4:30-6:00 pm  
South Medford High School Choir Room  
1551 Cunningham Ave.



To learn more visit our website at  
<http://roguevalleychorale.org/youth-choruses/>  
or call us at 541-414-8309

## CONTACT INFORMATION

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724 S. Central Ave. Suite 102, Medford, OR 97501  
541-414-8309 · info@roguevalleychorale.org  
www.roguevalleychorale.org

## CHORUS DIRECTORS

Wendy Cawthorne, Discovery Chorus  
Gerry Flock, Children's Chorus  
Shaun Garner, Cantare Chorus  
Pamela Nordquist, Youth ensemble  
Laurie Anne Hunter, Rogue Valley Chorale

## ACCOMPANISTS

Ron Ochs, Discovery Chorus  
Jim Stickrod, Children's Chorus, Cantare Chorus  
Mikiko Petrucelli, Rogue Valley Chorale

## ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Laurie Anne Hunter

## OPERATIONS MANAGER

Laura Rich

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Kristy Denman	Eric Smith
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Program layout: Impact Publications

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



For 44 years the Rogue Valley Chorale Association has been at the heart of the arts scene in Southern Oregon. Since the Chorale's debut performance on the Craterian Stage, the organization has grown to include over 100 adult and 200 youth singers.

[rick@rwbrewstercpa.com](mailto:rick@rwbrewstercpa.com)

**RICHARD W. BREWSTER, CPA, PC**

CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANT

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CONDUCTOR EMERITUS  
LYNN SJOLUND

DAVID GIBB PHOTOGRAPHY



Lynn Sjolund, Conductor Emeritus of the Rogue Valley Chorale, served as Artistic Director from 1973 until 2013. During his tenure the Chorale presented concerts to the community several times a year, toured Europe 7 times, performed at Carnegie Hall and made a lasting impact on the Southern Oregon community. His tenure with the Chorale began with its founding and spanned four decades.

Mr. Sjolund taught for many years in the Medford Public Schools and served as President of the Oregon Music Educator's Association and of the Northwest Division of the Music Educators National Conference. He also served on the American Choral Directors Association Board of Directors for Oregon. Following his retirement from teaching in public schools, Mr. Sjolund taught at Lewis and Clark College, University of Oregon, and Southern Oregon University on an interim basis. He was also Artistic Director and Conductor for Rogue Opera and Rogue Opera Programs for Youth. Mr. Sjolund has conducted the Britt Festival Orchestra and the Rogue Valley Symphony in concerts with the Chorale as the featured group. He also has conducted all-state and festival choirs in the Northwestern and Southeastern United States.

The Rogue Valley Chorale singers will forever hold a place in their hearts for Conductor Emeritus Lynn Sjolund.



**RVCA**  
ROGUE VALLEY  
CHORALE ASSOCIATION

**2017-18  
SEASON**



**Gloria!**  
Dec. 2, 2017, 7:30 pm  
Dec. 3, 2017, 3:00 pm



**Walking in  
Beauty**  
June 2, 2018, 7:30 pm  
June 3, 2018, 3:00 pm



**Gifts of the  
Emerald Isle**  
March 10, 2018, 7:30 pm  
March 11, 2018, 3:00 pm



Concert appearances with  
**ROGUE VALLEY SYMPHONY**  
**Beethoven**  
**Ninth Symphony**  
April 20-22, 2018

**Call 541-779-3000 or visit [craterian.org](http://craterian.org)**  
**For more information visit [roguevalleychorale.org](http://roguevalleychorale.org)**