

# Around Town

## Rogue Valley Chorale Presents Mozart's *Requiem*

The Rogue Valley Chorale dives into the 2020 season with a performance of Wolfgang Amadeus

Mozart's *Requiem in D minor*, one of the most enigmatic pieces ever composed due to the myths and controversies surrounding it. The *Requiem* was the last piece to be written by Mozart before his death at the young age of 35. Full of musical drama, beautiful melodies and progressive harmonies, this piece stands the test of time as one of choral literature's greatest compositions. The *Requiem*, which was left unfinished at the time of Mozart's death on December 5, 1791, was written for the deceased wife of Count Franz von Walsegg, but in the end became the composer's own requiem. Franz Xaver Niemetschek, who wrote the first biography about Mozart, wrote, "He asked for the score to be brought to his bedside. 'Did I not say before, that I was writing this *Requiem* for myself?' After saying this, he looked yet again with tears in his eyes through the whole work." Mozart is reported to have died eleven hours later. *Requiem in D minor* was completed in 1792 by Mozart's friend and copyist, Franz Xaver Süssmayr.

During the performance, Artistic Director Michael Morris will conduct 175 singers, including the Rogue Valley Chorale, Rogue Valley Youth Ensemble, South Medford High School Chamber Choir, and the Rogue Valley Chorale's Chamber Orchestra.

The concert opens with *Mass in G* by Franz Schubert and features the Chorale, along with soloists Danika Locey, soprano, Ralph Dady, tenor, and Ken Depp, bass and the Rogue Valley Chorale's Chamber Orchestra. Schubert's *Mass in G* was composed in less than a week in 1815. The original score was not printed until 1845, seventeen years after Schubert's death at the age of 31. The work remained one of his lesser known compositions until 1980 when a set of changes and additions to the mass were discovered in Klosterneuberg, Austria. Minor changes throughout the composition and the addition of trumpet and timpani express Schubert's ultimate intent for the work.

Following the *Mass in G*, the Rogue Valley Youth Ensemble and the South Medford High School Chamber Choir,

who represent some of the finest youth singers in Southern Oregon, will perform a set of three works. *Bohoroditse Divo*, by composer Roman Hurko, is the a cappella setting of the familiar "Ave Maria" text. The piece will be conducted by Peter Nordquist. Andrea Brock will conduct *Dance of Zálongo*, a Greek folk song arranged by Carol Barnett with percussion (Theresa McCoy) and piano (Danika Locey). The final piece in the set is René Clausen's enigmatic work, *O My Love's Like a Red, Red Rose*, conducted by Pamela Nordquist with Abigail Wilensky on Violin, Tom Stauffer on Cello, and Danika Locey on Piano. The text was collected by Robert Burns in *Scotts*, a book of traditional Scottish songs compiled to preserve them for future generations.

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart's *Requiem in D minor*, conducted by Michael Morris, will be performed as the second act of the concert. The Rogue Valley Chorale, Rogue Valley Youth Ensemble, South Medford High School Chamber Choir and Rogue Valley Chorale Chamber Orchestra will take the stage with soloists Rachel Nelson, soprano, Mary Ann Graham, alto, Phil Koenig, tenor, and Dan Fowler, bass to perform Mozart's prophetic final work.

For almost five decades the Rogue Valley Chorale Association has been at the heart of the arts scene in Southern Oregon. Three hundred youth and adult members make up the Chorale, all with diverse musical backgrounds including professional singers, actors, music educators and gifted vocalists who simply love to sing. Rogue Valley Chorale was selected for the 2020 Best of Medford Award in the Performing Arts Group category by the Medford Award Program.

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart's *Requiem in D minor* will be performed on Saturday, March 7, 7:30 pm and Sunday, March 8, 3:00pm at the Collier Center's Craterian Theater. Ticket prices are \$23 (\$5 off for early purchase) and \$16 for adults, \$5 for students and children. To order tickets visit [www.craterian.org](http://www.craterian.org) or call 541-779-3000. For additional information visit [www.roguevalleychorale.org](http://www.roguevalleychorale.org).