Chorale launches 21st season

The Rogue Valley Chorale is launching its 21st season in an innovative way — with neighborhood sampler parties and a prerehearsal potluck,

Actual concerts don't start until Dec. 11, but the Chorale is making an effort to sell season tickets in advance.

Members of the Chorale board are hosting sampler tea parties to acquaint friends with the group's music, its recent successful European tour and the availability of season tickets.

The pre-rehearsal potluck will provide an opportunity for the more than 70 members of this year's Chorale to get acquainted as rehearsals begin.

Season tickets cost \$20 and are available by calling the Britt box office at 773-6077. Tickets for individual concerts will be \$8.

The Christmas concerts, set for Dec. 11-12, will feature Benjamin Britten's arrangement of parts of Christopher Smart's poem "Rejoice in the Lamb." Also on the program are Respighi's "Laud to the Nativity" and "Three Latvian Carols."

A mid-winter program called

"Let Freedom Sing" will present songs of liberation from Africa and Eastern Europe, as well as "They Called Her Moses," an American work based on Harriet Tubman and the underground railroad.

In May the Chorale will present the Gilbert & Sullivan operetta "The Gondoliers," set in Venice.