

## Important Coming Events



On March 1 and 2 the Chorale, orchestra and guest soloists from New York, Seattle, and San Francisco will present Bach's *Passion According to St. John*. This will be the opening event of the renovated Craterian Ginger Rogers Theatre and will mark a new era for the arts in Medford. Tickets to the production will go on sale through the Craterian Box Office shortly after the middle of January. Regular Chorale patrons can make early reservations by writing to: The Rogue Valley Chorale, P. O. Box 842, Medford, OR 97501. Because of special support by patrons and foundation grants, ticket prices are only ten dollars each.

## About the Chorale



The Chorale is always looking for talented singers as well as loyal audiences. We have just published a brochure giving a short history of the Chorale and telling about its organization. If you are interested in obtaining a copy of the brochure ask any usher. If you wish to audition or are interested in serving on the Board of Directors, phone Diane Newland at 779-8894, Charleen Fike at 779-1583 or Lynn Sjolund at 772-2163.

## Thank You



The Chorale wishes to thank the First Presbyterian Church for allowing us to perform in the beautiful sanctuary and use the superb Schoenstein Pipe Organ for this concert. People interested in knowing more about the church should contact Dr. Joyce DeGraaff at 779-1711.



*Christmas with the*

# Rogue Valley Chorale

**Featuring music by  
Women Composers**

Lynn Sjolund, Conductor and Music Director  
Jodi O'Connell Ware, Pianist

**Saturday, Dec. 14, 1996**  
8:00 p.m.

**Sunday, Dec. 15, 1996**  
3:00 p.m.

First Presbyterian Church  
8th and Holly • Medford, Oregon



# Program

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**Facta Est Cum Angelo** Raffaella Aleotti (c. 1574-after 1646)  
*"Suddenly there appeared a multitude of angels, praising the Lord our God saying: Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men of good will. Rejoice, let all the angels rejoice together, for our salvation has now appeared."*

**Ringeltänze** (Christmas Carol Dances) Libby Larsen (1950 -)  
Assisted by Tintinabulation Bell Ensemble  
Cyndy Patterson, Ann Lowe, Carol Wagenet,  
Cliff Lowe, Norman Van Manen  
*Welcome Yule*  
*O Hark the Bell's Glad Song*  
*Beautiful Star*  
Quartet: Cherise Black, Doris Sjolund,  
Phil Lind, Carroll Graber  
*Le Petit Nouveau Né*  
*At Christmas Be Merry*  
*The Shepherds All Are Waking*

**Congregational Carol** (Please join the Chorale)  
#34 *In Bethlehem a Babe Was Born* Barbara Mays, 1986

**The Alfred Burt Carols** (Set I) Alfred Burt  
*Caroling, Caroling* (Text: Wihla Hutson)  
*All On A Christmas Morning* (Text: Bates G. Burt)  
*We'll Dress the House* (Text: Wihla Hutson)  
*Ah, Bleak And Chill the Wintry Wind* (Text: Bates G. Burt)

# Intermission

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**A Feast for Christmas** Emma Lou Diemer (1927-)  
*The Christmas Tree* (Text: Peter Cornelius)  
*Blow, Blow, Thou Winter Wind* (Text: Wm. Shakespeare)  
*On Christmas Eve* (Text: Sir Walter Scott)  
*Sweet Dreams, Form a Shade* (Text: Wm. Blake)  
*Make We Joy Now in this Feast* (Text: Fifteenth century)

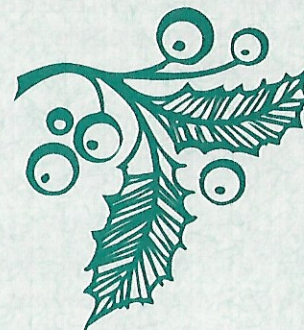
**Congregation Carol** (Please join the Chorale)  
# 29 *Go, Tell It on the Mountain* Adapt. by Melva Costen (1987)

**The Alfred Burt Carols** (Set II)  
*O Hearken Ye* (Text: Wihla Hutson)  
*Some Children See Him* (Text: Wihla Hutson)  
Tenor:  
*Jesu Parvule (Poor Little Jesus)* (Text: Bates G. Burt)  
*Bright, Bright the Holly Berries* (Text: Wihla Hutson)  
*The Star Carol* (Text: Wihla Hutson)

**Sing We Now of Christmas** French Carol, Arr. Salli Terri

**O Yule Full of Gladness** Norwegian Carol, Arr. Carolyn Jennings  
Flute: Luna Bitzer and Cynthia Scherr

**Jesus Christ the Apple Tree** Elizabeth Poston (1905-1987)  
*"The tree of life my soul hath seen, Laden with fruit and always green: Which makes my soul in haste to be with Jesus Christ, the apple tree."*  
Joshua Smith, 1784



# Program Notes



The music for today's program honors women composers. For most of the history of music, male composers have dominated the field. However, there are many women writing fine music today, and composers from earlier eras are being rediscovered. It is our intent to introduce you to some of America's best and most famous women. Their contributions have been noted by leading music organizations around the country. Using contemporary harmonic, rhythmic and melodic ideas they offer us fresh insights into the season.

## Ringeltänze

Libby Larsen is one of the most active and successful composers working today. She has produced a substantial body of important works for orchestra, dance, opera, chorus, chamber and solo performance. Her Sonnets from the Portuguese is featured on the 1994 Grammy Award-winning CD, *The Art of Arlene Auger*.

Ms. Larsen is an articulate and influential advocate for the arts. She is an advisor to many musical organizations, including the National Endowment for the Arts, ASCAP, and the American Symphony League. She has served as composer-in-residence with the Minnesota Orchestra and the Charlotte Symphony.

*She has written about the Ringeltänze: "A la creche' was the cry of the peasants and townspeople in the 16th-century France as they prepared to celebrate Christmas. Feasts and merriment surrounded Christmas Day then as now. The young people celebrated with dancing. At first, popular tunes were piped for the dances. Over the years, the words of popular tunes were replaced with the more sacred words which told the story of Christmas, creating new carols with old folk tunes. At the Christmas feasts, the new carols were used for ring dancing.*

*Carols II through VI were composed for the Grand Rapids Area Community Chorus of northern Minnesota in 1983. The first carol, completing the set, was composed in 1985. I made translations of the French texts, with the exception of the 'le petit nouveau né'. That phrase, loosely translated as 'the newborn', seemed too musical with which to tamper."*

## Alfred Burt Carols

The Burt carols have become an American tradition for many people. Their delightful, simple melodies and beautiful poetry speak easily to our times. The carols are the result of a tradition begun by the Reverend

Bates G. Burt, his composer son, Alfred, and friend-of-the-family Wihla Hutson. For many years these three collaborated on the creation of original carols, which were sent to friends as Christmas cards. Contrasts in tempi and moods make for easy listening and quiet contemplation.

## A Feast for Christmas

Emma Lou Diemer is another outstanding American woman composer. Born in Kansas City, Mo., she attended Yale University where she earned her BM and MM degrees in composition. There she studied with Richard Donovan, Paul Hindemith and William Gant. Her Ph. D. was earned at Eastman School of Music where she studied with Bernard Rogers, Howard Hanson and David Craighead. Her list of awards extends from student days at Yale to 1995 when she was given the Composer of the Year award by the American Guild of Organists and the Mu Phi Epsilon Award of Merit.

Ms. Diemer has a long list of published compositions in many genre and has been commissioned to write for many symphonies, choral organizations, chamber ensembles and organists. She taught at the University of Maryland before moving to the University of California, Santa Barbara where she is Professor Emeritus. She is the resident organist at First Presbyterian Church, Santa Barbara.

About the music: *The Christmas Tree* has an underlying current of excitement with its rhythmic repeated notes, the voices answering each other. The contrasting middle section recalls Christ's birth and the closing returns to quiet anticipation.

"Blow, blow, thou winter wind" is a line from *As You Like It* that comments metaphorically on human relationships. The setting uses word painting, with unpitched sounds to imitate the wind as it blows coldly and ominously.

The ringing of bells can be heard in *On Christmas Eve* in a piece full of tone painting. The open church-like sounds of Mass are contrasted with the lurching motive of drinking and the roaring up of the fire.

*Sweet dreams, form a shade* from Blake's *Songs of Innocence* is a bitter-sweet lullaby by a mother who compares her sleeping child to the Christ Child who "smiles on thee, on me, on all," but who "wept for me, for thee, for all."

*Make we joy now in this feast* is a celebratory, vigorous conclusion. Its rhythmic intensity and many meter changes carry the listener quickly through Latin phrases that mingle with the English and from which the English grows. By switching easily from Latin to English, Diemer has emphasized the universality of the joyous event.

Salli Terri was an arranger and singer for the Roger Wagner Chorale. Her many compositions using folk songs are complex and appealing. In *Sing We Now of Christmas* she moves the melody from part to part to enhance the robust nature of the carol.

Elizabeth Poston was born in Hertfordshire, England. She studied at the Royal Academy of Music and worked on the BBC music staff. Her compositions include songs and incidental scores for radio. She also edited various anthologies of songs and carols. *Jesus Christ the Apple Tree* uses a text by the New Hampshire poet, Joshua Smith.

## Board of Directors



Anita Caster, President	Mary Jo Bergstrom, Secretary
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Eileen Ashpole	Margaret McClellan
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### Music Staff:

Lynn E. Sjolund, Music Director/Conductor  
Jodi O'Connell Ware, Pianist  
Mark Simmons, Assistant Director  
Doug Wisely, Assistant Director

### Section Leaders:

Kathy Gordon, Diane Newland, Phil Lind, Carroll Graber, Eric Smith

## Personnel



Lynn Sjolund has been the music director/conductor of the Rogue Valley Chorale for twenty-one of its twenty-four years. His leadership has included many large works by Bach, Brahms, Mozart, Haydn, Mendelssohn, Handel, Britten and others. In addition the group has performed works ranging from the Renaissance to contemporary periods. Mr. Sjolund has music degrees from the University of Oregon and also studied in Germany. Before retiring he was director of choral ac-

tivities at Medford Senior High School. Since that time he has filled similar positions at Loyola University in New Orleans and at the University of Oregon. He also has been the regular conductor for Rogue Opera and a regular clinician and adjudicator for contests and choral workshops.

Jodi O'Connell Ware is relatively new to the valley and her talents are much in demand. A pianist, flutist and singer, she has worked for the Rogue Opera in all three capacities. She regularly accompanies many soloists and groups. She continues to study piano and presently is a student of Mark Wescott of Portland. Ms. Ware came to Medford from Minnesota where she was active in musical productions. In addition to her own playing she has a studio for piano and flute students. She is married to Mark Ware, owner of the Ware House of Pianos.

### Chorale Personnel:

**Sopranos:** Pamela Ator, Debby Bakalyar, Pamela Barlow, Cherise Black, Jeanne Bringham, Anne Canon, Virginia Dickie, Janet Dolan, Connie Fisher, Káren Foster, Beth Gilman, Kathy Gordon, Leslie Hall, Mary Kay Harmon, Jennifer Jacobs, Debra McFadden, Nancy Carol Nelson, Alice Nykreim, Susan Olson, Carolyn Ruck, Cynthia Scherr, Jacque Schmidt, Phyllis Skinner, Wanda Snow, Jolene Torres, Darlene VanDenBerg.

**Altos:** Vivian Baures, Barbara Beers, \*Luna Bitzer, Joani Bristol, Anita Caster, Glenda Cossette, Donna Daniels, \*Kathleen Davis, Kay Dix, Charleen Fike, Barbara Hewitt, Faye Hutchings, Carol Jacobs, Yvonne Jacobson, Barbara Johnson, Nancy Kiester, Judi Lowrey, Nancy Mason, Bonnie Miller, Cathy Morrison, Diane Newland, Myrna Pederson, Nancy Purdy, Jeanne Saint Germain, \*Doris Sjolund, Marjorie Swanson, Jean Tyndall. \*denotes rehearsal accompanists.

**Tenors:** John Blackhurst, Eric Chaffey, Ross Davis, Ken Deveney, John Gilsdorf, Ron Hollensted, Ed Houck, Phil Lind, William Matthews, Brian Nelson, Michael Quirk, Mark Simmons, Milton Snow.

**Basses and Baritones:** Keith Campbell, Jerry Darby, Carroll Graber, John Leavens, Gary Lovre, David McFadden, Jerry Miller, Gary Miller, Jim Post, Eric Smith, Richard Styles, Dick Swanson, Don Turner, Mark Ware, Chuck Watson, Doug Wisely, Peter Yeager.