

Rogue Valley Chorale Opens Second Season

The Rogue Valley Chorale, now in its second season, is rehearsing for two fall concerts, on November 21 in First Christian Church, 1900 Crater Lake Avenue, Medford, and November 25 at First Baptist Church in Grants Pass.

The idea for a Rogue Valley choral group is not a new one, and has been tried unsuccessfully in the past. But in the spring of 1973, several people with a strong interest in fine choral singing combined their efforts and ideas to form what is now the Rogue Valley Chorale, directed by Lynn E. Sjolund.

The originators of the Chorale desired a group of the highest quality for both singers and music patrons, and after careful consideration of their goals and purposes, asked Mr.

Sjolund, director of choral activities at Medford Senior High School, if he would direct the chorale. He and the others met for several lengthy discussions of objectives, qualifications for membership and potential problems. There was general agreement about the need for such a group, and that it would be received with enthusiasm.

After combining the ideas to meet a common goal, Mr. Sjolund agreed, and an audition board was formed to hear prospective members.

From more than 100 people who auditioned in the fall of that year, 45 were selected to become Rogue Valley Chorale members, including singers from several Valley communities, from Ashland, north to Sunny Valley. The group presented two concerts last season, both of which were well received.

During the spring of this year the Chorale formed a non-profit corporation and elected a board of directors. This enables the association to apply for financial aid, since the Chorale depends on dues and contributions to cover expenses incurred obtaining music and presenting concerts.

Officers of the 20-member board were Mrs. Otto Frohn-mayer, president; Sam Harbison, vice president; Mrs. William Ratz, Grants Pass, secretary; Mrs. Richard Gordon, treasurer. Four new board members this year are Mrs. Betty Schweinfurth, Grants Pass; Mrs. Robert Collier and Mrs. James Reed, Medford; Mrs. Ronald Toombs, Eagle Point.

Due to an overwhelming response to this year's auditions, the Chorale membership now numbers 75 and includes musicians from Ashland, Applegate, Phoenix, Medford, Central Point, Eagle Point, Rogue River, Grants Pass and Glendale.