

CELEBRATING 30 YEARS

Rogue Valley Chorale

CRATERIAN GINGER ROGERS
Theater, Medford

Lynn Sjolund, Artistic Director/Conductor

2003-2004 SEASON

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My Lord, What a Mornin'

FEBRUARY 28TH, 8PM & 29TH, 3PM, 2004

*Somagwaza** (Traditional South African song, sung for coming of age)
Siyahamba/We Are Marching in the Light of God

Kaptein and Lyon
Nyberg/Barnicle

I

My Lord, What a Mornin'

H. T. Burleigh, 1924

Jesus Is a Rock in a Weary Lan' (Ensemble: Mary Kay Harmon & Leslie Hall;
Rex White, soloist)

John W. Work, 1937

Look What Dey Doin' to Jesus (Jennifer Jacobs, soloist)

Richard Jackson, 1995

II

Art Songs by Black American Composers

Absalom (Douglas Wisely, soloist; Doris Sjolund, pianist)

Eugene Hancock, 1977

The Negro Speaks of Rivers (Diane Newland, soloist; Andrea Brock, pianist)

Howard Swanson, 1932

III

Listen to the Lambs (Kathy Gordon, soloist)

R. Nathaniel Dett, 1914

Swing Low, Sweet Chariot

Diton and Schenck, 1920

Daniel, Daniel, Servant of the Lord (Ross Davis and Eric Smith, soloists)

Undine S. Moore, 1953

If I Got My Ticket, Can I Ride? (Terry Faulkner, soloist)

Robert Shaw, 1949

The Battle of Jericho

Moses Hogan, 1984

INTERMISSION

IV

Piano Duets

Scott Joplin's New Rag

(Andrea Brock and Hilary Hall)

Scott Joplin, 1868-1917

The Cascades

Scott Joplin, 1868-1917

V

Art Songs by Black American Composers

A Child's Grace (Carol Snider, soloist)

Coleridge-Taylor and Perkinson, 1977

Death of an Old Seaman (Gerry Flock, soloist)

Cecil Cohen, 1932

VI

By an' By (Gina McDonald, soloist)

Alice Parker 1991

Lord, How Come Me Here? (Ruthie Tippin, soloist; Joan Heneghan, flute)

Evelyn Simpson-Curenton, 2001

My Good Lord's Done Been Here

Lee Cloud, 1987

Fix Me, Jesus (Anita Caster and Peter Nordquist, soloists)

Hall Johnson, 1955

VII

Here's One (Lisa McEnders, soloist)

William Grant Still, 1941

The Lily of the Valley

Wendell Whalum, 1981

Great Day (Jon Tippin and Carol Snider, soloists)

Warren Martin, 1950

*Opening chant sung by Eric Smith, Ben Works, David Roby, Phil Koenig, Gary Miller, Travis Corbin, and Shayne Flock.
Pamela Nordquist percussionist.



Chorale Members

SOPRANO

Sylvia Bardes
Donna Barrett
Dee-Marie Broyles
Gay Cawthorne
Janet Dolan
Connie Fisher
September Flock
Karen Foster
Kathy Gordon
Leslie Hall
Mary Kay Harmon
Jana Hogan
Jan Jacobs
Jennifer Jacobs
Julia Lester
Gina McDonald
Lisa McEnderfer
Debra McFadden
Sarah Mould
Alice Nykreim
Jacque Schmidt
Phyllis Skinner
Carol Snider
Ruthie Tippin
Darlene VanDenBerg
Virginia VanNortwick

ALTO

Barbara Beers
Mary Jo Bergstrom
Joani Bristol
Andrea Brock
Anita Caster
Jean Conwell
Donna Daniels
Kathleen Davis
Kristy Denman
Ann Doelman
Janeen Hilbrink
Carol Jacobs
Barbara Johnson
Nancy Mason
Vivian McAleavey
Bonnie Miller
Lucy Milojevich
Cathy Morrison
Pam Nordquist
Diane Newland
Marjorie Overland
Myrna Pedersen
Jessica Pulido
Nancy Purdy
Doris Sjolund
Myrna Wulff

TENOR

John Blackhurst
Ross Davis
Ken Deveney
Terry Faulkner
Ed Houck
Phillip Koenig
Bill Matthews
Gary Miller
Brian Nelson
Eric Overland
Michael Quirk
David Roby
Jon Tippin
Rex White
Ben Works
Jeff Works

BASS-BARITONE

Bud Bergstrom
Travis Corbin
Fred DeArmond
Don Dolan
Gerry Flock
Shayne Flock
Paul Hagedorn
Steve Haskell
John Hunter
Gary Lovre
David McFadden
Jerry Miller
Peter Nordquist
Jim Post
Eric Smith
Chuck Watson
Michael Wing
Doug Wisely
Peter Yeager



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Notes from the Director

Lynn Sjolund, Artistic Director/Conductor



For a week each summer in the late 1950s, I had the privilege of working with Jester Hairston at a music camp. Jess was an actor, composer, arranger, conductor and the grandson of a slave. He dedicated himself to the preservation of the spiritual through choral directing, arranging and giving workshops. He arranged more than 300 spirituals. His acting and musical directing career in Hollywood included such films as *Green Pastures*, *Lost Horizon*, *To Kill a Mockingbird*, *Lady Sings the Blues* and many others. He was widely known for his television series "Amen" in the early 1980s.

He received many honors for his work but always approached his first love, spirituals, with complete humility and involvement. A wonderful storyteller, he would paint the scene for his choruses from tales he had heard from his grandfather.

He would talk about the hidden language in the spirituals and how they often were meant as communication among slaves so the master would not understand. Examples would be songs like *Steal Away*. The familiar text talks about stealing away to Jesus but every slave knew it was stealing away from the dismal life of bondage.

Two of our most experienced singers hosted Dr. Hairston when he came to their schools for festivals. Both Jean Conwell and Ginni VanNortwick have wonderful memories of his visits.

He came to Medford once and directed a group of choirs at the Holly Theater. All those who came under his spell remembered his enthusiasm for spirituals and genuine love for all people. The Chorale has sung a few of his arrangements; the most recent was *Wonderful Counselor*, which is a Christmas spiritual. Perhaps his best-known arrangement is "Amen," a Call and Response in which a soloist sings all the verses and the community responds with "Amen." At his concerts and festivals thousands of singers of every race, young and old, would leave the auditorium or arena singing this chant, moved by Jester and the music.

African-American spiritual
Arr. Nelsie T. Johnson, 1988

Congregation

A - men, A - men, A - men, A - men, A -

Congregation

men! A - men, A

Last time

men, A - men, A - men, A - men!

Featured Artists

Andrea Brock, organist and pianist, has been the Chorale's accompanist for five years. A University of Oregon graduate with a master's degree in Music Education, she also studied Piano Accompaniment in Lyon, France in 1995. She was recently awarded the "Teacher of the Year" designation at South Medford High School and accompanied for vocalists at the Aspen Summer Music Institute this summer. Mrs. Brock is married to Andrew Brock, local tenor, who often appears in local productions and is a member of the Chorale. They have a young son, Keenan.

Hilary Hall teaches piano in Medford and is a graduate of the School of Music at the University of Oregon. She is presently the accompanist for the Siskiyou Singers, the Peace Choir, and the Oregon Conservatory of Performing Arts. Andrea Brock and Hilary Hall have played together on many occasions, both in the playpen and at the piano, as they are sisters who grew up in Roseburg.

Gerry Flock has been a music educator in the Rogue Valley for over 20 years. He currently teaches elementary children the joy of music at Roosevelt and Ruch Elementary schools. He also directs the Rogue Valley Discovery Chorus - a select children's chorus for children who are in the 4th and 5th grades. Mr. Flock has enjoyed being a member of the Rogue Valley Chorale for 7 years. He is privileged to sing with his wife and oldest son who are also members of the Chorale.

Diane Newland received her B.S. in Education and Music from the University of North Dakota. She has sung with the Chorale for twenty-seven years and currently serves as alto section leader. She is a frequent soloist and has sung with all of the touring ensembles.

Carol Snider was trained at Montana State University in Bozeman, MT and graduated with a Bachelor's degree in Music Education in 1992. Carol was choir director at Eastwood Baptist Church until Dec 31, 2003. She has sung in the Rogue Valley Chorale since Fall 2002.

Doug Wisely - After receiving a Bachelor's of Music Education degree from the University of Oregon in 1988, Doug began teaching high school choirs. Beginning in Brookings-Harbor School district, moving to Tillamook and then on to Battle Ground, WA. In 1994 he finished his Masters Degree in Music Education. Since leaving education in 1995, he has performed locally with the Chorale for 11 years.



Contributors

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2003-2004

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ARTISTIC STAFF

Artistic Director / Conductor: Lynn E. Sjolund

Assistant Director: Peter Nordquist

Accompanists:

Andrea Brock, *Pianist* • Doris Sjolund, *Assistant*

Section Leaders:

Kathy Gordon • Alice Nykreim • Doris Sjolund • Diane Newland
Rex White • Michael Wing • Eric Smith

ABOUT THE ROGUE VALLEY CHORALE

In 1973, a small group of singers joined together to form the Rogue Valley Chorale. Since that time the group has grown in number and musical stature. The Chorale has performed many of the great choral master works, including Bach's *St. John Passion*, *St. Matthew Passion* & *Mass in B Minor*, Mendelssohn's *Elijah*, and *Requiems* by Brahms, Mozart and Fauré. The group has traveled to Europe on three concert tours and appeared in concert and a special mass in Medford's sister city, Alba, Italy, in the summer of 1998. In March 2000, the Chorale performed as a featured group in a concert in New York's Carnegie Hall.

ABOUT THE DIRECTOR

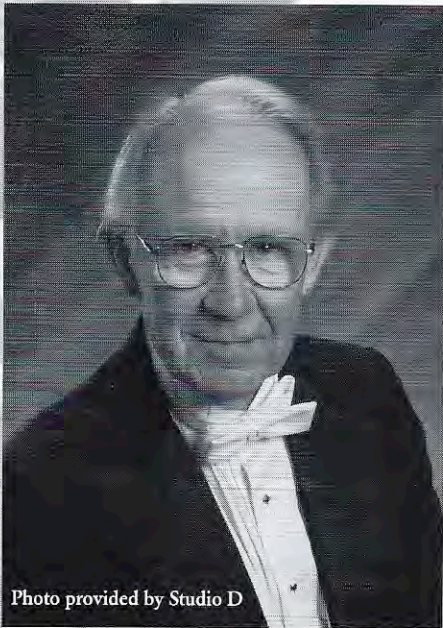


Photo provided by Studio D

Lynn Sjolund is well-known as a conductor and choral clinician. He has directed festival groups and adjudicated choruses around the country. His tenure with the Chorale began with its founding and has been continuous, with the exception of three years when he was Director of Choral Studies at Loyola University in New Orleans. He has been a regular conductor for Rogue Opera and has served as president of the Oregon Music Educators Association and the Northwest Music Educators Association. Locally he worked on the renovation of the Craterian Ginger Rogers Theater and he currently serves on a committee for the Oregon Community Foundation. He has conducted the Chorale at New York's Carnegie Hall, and on March of 2002 he received the "Award of Merit for a lifetime of excellence in choral music" from the Northwest American Choral Directors Assoc. In October of 2002 the Arts Council of Southern Oregon presented him with its "Lifetime Achievement Award."

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