

Summer Newsletter
Eugene Concert Choir and Eugene Vocal Arts Ensemble
2009-2010 Season

Welcome Back!

It is time once again to come together and raise our voices in song. We have a beautiful concert season ahead. The flow and balance of it has changed a bit from previous seasons, and the performance schedule is somewhat lighter without a fall concert production. ECC will start right in on the meat of the season – the Brahms *Requiem*! Enjoy! A summary of the season is enclosed, but for a brief overview, our highlights:

Oct. 16	Auction fundraiser <i>A Royal Affair</i>
Dec. 5 & 6	Mason Williams & Friends Holiday Show
Dec. 11 & 12	English Madrigal Dinner
Feb. 27	Brahms <i>Requiem</i>
Apr. 10	Romance & Fantasy—EVAE Spring Concert
May 1	The British Invasion—from Vaughan Williams to the Beatles Brits for Kids (morning show)

First ECC Rehearsal: Tuesday, September 8, Emmaus Lutheran Church, 7:15-9:45 pm

Brahms *Requiem* scores will be available for purchase at rehearsal - \$13.00

First EVAE Rehearsal: Monday, September 14, Grace Lutheran Church, 7:00-9:45 pm

Triumphant European Tour

The Touring Ensemble had a glorious concert tour to Europe. All of the performance venues were beautiful churches with stunning acoustics, packed with appreciative audiences, who clapped when the first choir member stepped on-stage until the last person was in place. They did the same following the performance until the last person was off-stage. We performed the Bernstein *Chichester Psalms* with the Prague Radio Symphony Orchestra in both Zlonice and Prague, in the Czech Republic, and in a chamber version featuring our own wonderful Barbara Baird at the organ in St. Stephen's Cathedral in Vienna and in Budapest. The choir sang with heart and soul in these marvelous acoustics, and our 12-year-old soloist Caleb Hartsfield was absolutely amazing! We had a charming exchange with a Moravian choir in Brno in the Czech Republic, with warm and endearing expressions of unified spirit and art. The personable guides, the interesting sights, and the special activities like the dinner cruise on the Moldau River in Prague and the Hungarian folk singers and dancers for the final celebratory dinner in Budapest all combined with great camaraderie for an unforgettable experience.

Eugene Concert Choir in the Black!

If you noticed the article in the *Register-Guard* on July 30, you will know that we pulled off an amazing feat this past season. Having started the 2008-09 season with a \$32,000 deficit, we managed to weather the economic downturn while simultaneously presenting a critically acclaimed performance series and completely eradicating the deficit to end the season in the black. Hats off to the staff, the board, the volunteers, and to everyone who contributed time, talent, energy and funds!

Eugene Vocal Arts Ensemble Honored

EVAE has been selected to perform at the American Choral Directors Association Northwest Conference in Seattle next March. ACDA is the industry standard, and it is quite an honor to be chosen from all of the applicants in the six-state region, which includes Oregon, Washington, Wyoming, Idaho, Montana and Alaska. The conference will take place March 10-13. We have not yet received our assigned performance date and time. More information will follow.

EVAE Rehearsal Retreat

EVAE members, please note on our calendar that the rehearsal retreat is Oct. 2-3 this season.

Auditions for New Members

Please pass along this audition information:

Tuesday, Sept. 1, at Grace Lutheran Church, 18th and Hilyard

Thursday, Sept. 3, at Emmaus Lutheran Church, 18th and Polk

Call the choir office at 687-6865 or email choir@eugeneconcertchoir.org to schedule an audition time.

Auction Fundraiser “A Royal Affair” – Friday, October 16

5:30 to approx. 9:30 p.m., Eugene Hilton Hotel

Once again, we're revving up for our annual auction dinner/fundraising event. We've sent out our initial appeal letter and already begun receiving responses. As usual, we will be asking choir members to help us with this important project, which is both fun and an integral component of our fundraising efforts. If you have any new (or old) ideas for great auction items, please let us know. Also, if you wish to start soliciting potential gift donors early, please give me a call to be sure we don't have more than one person contacting the same source. You can reach me just about any week day at the choir office: 687-6865 or choir@eugeneconcertchoir.org. Thanks! —Angela

ECC/EVAE-related E-mail Messages

Choir members can expect to get two kinds of ECC/EVAE-related emails. An e-mail group for internal messages is: eugenecc@yahoogroups.com. Messages sent are moderated by Fran Ross, Alto I. Some are passed on to be printed in the paper newsletter. This group is handy for emergencies, such as "rehearsal is changed to a different location." So don't opt out! If you don't do e-mail regularly, or at all, ask your section leader to notify you by phone (or pony express?). Let Fran know if you change your email address. franross@mac.com

Another kind of ECC/EVAE related e-mail promotes our concerts and events. This is created through www.ConstantContact.com, which provides templates and keeps a big list of subscribers. Sign-up for the list is on the main page of our web site: www.eugeneconcertchoir.org. This promotion saves a lot of money and paper. We add you automatically when you join choir. It's OK to opt out, but the e-mails are not very frequent or annoying (we hope).

ECC Web Site is a Great Source of On-line Information

Our web site is a useful source for all kinds of choir-related information:

1. Access to weekly choir newsletters, schedules, and other pertinent information. Go to a page called Members, linked at the bottom of the ECC home page.
2. A link to Amazon.com is a fundraiser for the choirs. We get a kickback of 4% on all purchases made through this link. Use it!
3. New: Facebook members can easily "share" our web pages by clicking at the bottom of the page. We do not, as yet, tweet on Twitter.