

ECC/EVAE Newsletter, September 8, 2009

Welcome to new and returning members

The Eugene Concert Choir welcomes the following members this fall:

Returning members: Second alto Lucy O'Neal returned after several years to join the Concert Choir on our tour this summer, and we are happy to welcome her back to the choir for the season as well. We welcome back another returning member who joins us again after several years, first tenor Ralph Wilson. Also rejoining after a year's hiatus are first sopranos Nancy Toth and Theresa Wymer.

New members who have just auditioned and will join us tonight: First sopranos Kathryn Leonard, Tara Puyat, and Alison Slade; second sopranos Angie Neustel, Carol Snider, and Sarah Thorpe; first alto Bev Slonecker; and first bass Gary Millhollen.

Welcome back after a triumphant tour

Congratulations to the Touring Ensemble, who did us proud and represented our country beautifully with stellar performances of great American music. The European audiences were wonderfully appreciative and amazingly respectful. They would begin applauding the moment the first choir member started to walk onto the risers and continued applauding for every singer to get into place. They loved the program, especially the spirituals. At the conclusion of each concert, the audience gave us enthusiastic ovations that continued until the very last choir member walked off the risers. I think we will all be spoiled! Another aspect in which we are totally spoiled was performing in gorgeous Baroque and Gothic cathedrals with glorious acoustics!

The Touring Ensemble worked hard all summer, rehearsing and preparing their program. Diane thanks them for their commitment and dedication. It is wonderful that the performance tour was so rewarding. A hearty thanks to Barbara Baird for all her help over the summer and her fine work as our organist. It was a thrill to hear her play the gigantic organ in St. Stephen's Cathedral in Vienna.

We will post a blurb about the tour on our website soon. We are looking for just three or four of our very best performance photos to post with it. If you took photos, please sort through them and forward your best pick to the Concert Choir office. Also, a couple of photos showing audience or publicity posters would be a nice touch to add.

Weekly newsletter

This newsletter is your communication for announcements from staff to choir and to and among one another. We want to minimize the rehearsal time taken up by announcements. Please use this avenue to make your announcements. You may send newsletter announcements to Jill Liberty by e-mail: jliberty@efn.org. The deadline for announcements to be printed in the weekly newsletter is the Saturday evening before each week's rehearsals. (A note from your scribe, Jill Liberty: Please try to get your notices to me by Saturday evening if at all possible. I have to get each week's newsletter ready for Angela to print in time for EVAE's Monday rehearsal. I can occasionally take notices after the deadline in case of emergencies, but I have a standing meeting [well, actually, we sit down] at noon on Mondays, so I need your cooperation. Thanks!)

We are going to make an effort this year to put general information, such as Auction information, staff and volunteer contact information, concert information, updated calendars, etc., on themed information sheets and have the information sheets available in a file cabinet at the rehearsal venues, so that the weekly newsletters will be primarily for current announcements and so that we won't have to duplicate information from newsletter to newsletter. You can check with your section leaders if there are information sheets you need.

All information sheets, calendars, and newsletters are also posted and accessible online in three easy steps:

1. Go to our website: www.eugeneconcertchoir.org.
2. Scroll down to the very bottom of the homepage and find the unobtrusive word Members.
3. Click on the word Members.

Calendar change

Please note a change to the calendar (sent to most of you earlier) – the SHOcase concert is on April 15, not April 29 (see revised version at rehearsal and on the website).

Chapala Mexican Restaurant fundraiser for us!

This is the easiest fundraiser ever for the Concert Choir and Vocal Arts Ensemble. All you have to do is eat or drink or both! Chapala Mexican Restaurant has generously agreed to offer a benefit day for the choirs. On Thursday, September 17, Chapala Mexican Restaurant on 29th and Willamette will donate 10% of *ALL* sales to the Eugene Concert Choir organization for the entire day. The restaurant will be open from 11:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. Whether you have lunch, dinner, a snack, or just stop in for a margarita or two, you will be helping the Choir. You don't need to identify yourself as a choir member. The sales apply to everyone who patronizes the restaurant. Bring your friends and family, too! To reiterate the particulars:

- What: Benefit day for the Eugene Concert Choir
- When: Thursday, September 17, all day from 11:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.
- Where: Chapala Mexican Restaurant, 29th & Willamette
- How does it help us? Chapala will donate 10% of all sales all day to the Choir.

Greetings from your scribe

Hi, new members, I'm Jill Liberty, the editor of the paper newsletter that appears at each week's rehearsals. Please send me your notices for the weekly paper newsletter (see the info. above).

To all of you: Isn't it wonderful that the singing goes on? I'm grateful to be rejoining my ECC family. I've recently returned from Alaska, so I can't resist sharing this with you:

“There are strange things done in the midnight sun

By the men who moil for gold;

The arctic trails have their secret tales

That would make your blood run cold;

The Northern Lights have seen queer sights,

But the queerest they ever did see

Was that night on the marge of Lake Lebarge

I cremated Sam McGee.” Prelude and postlude to *The Cremation of Sam McGee* by Robert Service

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