

## ECC/EVAE Newsletter, September 21 & 22, 2009

### Chapala Choir benefit

From Diane: What a fun time! Greg and I went to Chapala Mexican Restaurant on 29<sup>th</sup> and Willamette for dinner and expected good food, but we got more than that. What a kick to eat at a restaurant that was packed with people we know and love! Thank you all for doing your part to support the choir last Thursday at the Choir Benefit Day. I know it was hard work, but hey, it was worth it. It was a great success. Chapala donated more than 10%, and the Choir received a \$1000 donation!

### The Practice Corner

**ECC:** “The Gondoliers,” “Penny Lane,” “My Soul's Been Anchored in the Lord,” Brahms movement. 2, mm. 206 to the end.

**EVAE:** “The Fool on the Hill,” *J'entends le Moulin*, “Fyer! Fyer!”, Philips *O Beatum*, Viadana *Exultate Justi*

### Auction

From Angela Egremont, Auction chair: The auction is just a few weeks away (October 16), and we're really excited by the variety and quality of donations we've already received. This is our one opportunity to increase significantly the organization's funds and at the same time have a jolly good time eating, drinking, singing, and bidding. This year we have abandoned the idea of section baskets; it's difficult to get the full value of all the wonderful things that are concentrated into just a few auction items. Instead, we are asking you to contribute whatever items you can, but as individuals or small groups, so we have a wider variety of items on which to bid and thus the opportunity to maximize the value of each. A couple of members are outdoing themselves in soliciting donations. Please, everyone, do your best to approach one local business and make this our best auction ever. Because of reduced funding and our commitment to keep providing the high quality of performances for which we are well known, we really need a successful Auction this year. Thanks so much for all your efforts!

### ECCO

From Jennifer McConochie: The Eugene Concert Choir Outreach program (ECCO) is beginning to offer its presentations to children in grades three through five.. Last year the demand was greater than we had time for, so classrooms were put on a waiting list for us to finish our American Folk Music presentations this fall.

Each presentation requires a small Ensemble of mixed voices( 8 to 10 singers fit well in most rooms) and a guitarist. The music is from last year's repertoire: “How Can I Keep From Singing?,” “Down By the Riverside,” and “A Gift of Song.” For our new members: We will provide the music (very basic arrangements) and have practice time before our regular rehearsals to ensure familiarity with the tunes.

Our goal is to teach at least one song to the class during our time there and include musical ideas such as rhythm, harmony, and musical independence. We follow a lesson plan. Each class receives a CD of the songs and a Teacher Packet with lyrics, background on the songs, and ideas for curriculum enhancement after we leave. Most teachers who have requested this have no music teachers in their schools and were delighted with our offerings. Each presentation lasts about 35-40 minutes depending on the teachers' time frames. We ask the Ensemble to meet 15 minutes ahead of time to warm up.

I am in the process of contacting the schools on the waiting list.. Next spring we will create a new repertoire based on our current season and send out invitations to all 4J schools. I hope those who are available during school hours will join us. Not everyone is expected to sing for every presentation ,but it really is a lot of fun and the children and staff seemed to enjoy our presentations last season. The sign up sheet will be on the front table at rehearsals. Please indicate if you are willing to accompany on guitar as well as sing. For those who are or have been music teachers, I would love to contact you as advisors.: There is always room for improvement through new ideas!

### Paul Biondi has been reunited with his saxophones

From Nancy Evergreen: You may have read in the papers the story of Paul Biondi's saxophones. Paul is one of Eugene's most generous and talented musicians. He is a well-loved saxophone player (sometimes playing more than one at a time!) and an activist for medical needs for musicians, a giver in our community over the years, offering his musical gifts to benefit others. About a month ago his saxophones were stolen. Through loving efforts of a community who treasures Paul, the instruments were returned for a ransom. (More on the flip side)

### **Paul Biondi (continued)**

Every Wednesday night, the Michael Tracey Hi Tones conduct a jam session, and this Wednesday night at Diablo's (next to the bus station on Pearl Street in Eugene), friends and fans of Paul will come to celebrate the return of the saxophones. No doubt Paul will play his big heart out and entertain us with clips of his bawdy humor throughout the evening. Good food and drinks are available at Diablo's; musicians will be jamming, and it will be electric. The action will begin around 9:00 p.m. If it works in your life to make it, you'll be pleased you did.

Since I've been getting to know the blues community over the past several months, Paul has emerged as a shining star for me, for his brilliance as a jazz and blues musician as well as for his irresistible personality. I'm going to sing a tribute (one song) to Paul and the Saxophones who have come home to Papa, not sure at what time.

### **ECC social break**

ECC has several extended breaks during the season to allow us to get acquainted with one another. The first sopranos will host the next one on Tuesday, September 29. Thanks, first sops! Wear your names tags and talk to people you haven't met before.

Birthday greetings to Ken Kesey, born September 17, 1935. He had wonderfully great notions and was known for sometimes flying over the cuckoo's nest. I miss him.

*Jill Liberty*  
jliberty@efn.org