

Eugene Concert Choir / Eugene Vocal Arts 2018-2019

Newsletter • September 17 & 18, 2018

Dear Singers,

I would like to talk to you about vocal health. I find it wonderfully inspiring that so many singers can continue to sing into advanced age with ease and beauty. The assumption that the aging voice will become wobbly and cracked does not appear to be true, if voices are cared for and kept active. Keeping active is a crucial part. Just like any other muscles and tissues, the muscles responsible for the singing voice – from large abdominal support muscles to tiny little muscles around the larynx – will atrophy if they are not used.

I am going to give you all an assignment. Vocalize for a few minutes every day. You wouldn't decide, well, I am not going to walk today. But we may go days without singing, and then sing for two-and-a-half hours at choir rehearsal. One excellent place to vocalize is literally in the shower. It is a warm, moist environment, kind to the vocal cords. You can really watch your body breathe, and of course, you can make the resonant acoustic really ring.

As a part of a choir, you are ultimately responsible for your own vocal health. I will ask for expression, with dynamics, range, accent, or whatever serves the music. But it is up to you to monitor what you personally can contribute to that. I am not standing close to each and every one of you listening intimately to your voice, and I can't, of course, feel what you are experiencing physically. So, if you are over-taxed, if you are fatigued, if you feel tight or strained, you need to do what will serve your vocal health.

Whether you sing lightly, leave out a note or two that is beyond your reach, or stop singing altogether to gather yourself and recover, take responsibility for your own vocal health. When I do let you open up and give it your all, that should feel freeing, not pressured. If you find yourself hoarse or hurting after rehearsal, that is a red flag that you need to take better care of yourself.

There is a wonderful group called Recital Club that gathers to sing solos for each other in a supportive, non-threatening atmosphere. Please read the announcement from Jenny Love about it. I have always encouraged choral singers to explore and train your solo voice, and this is an excellent opportunity to share that experience with others. I have enjoyed going to Recital Club myself, and the last time I attended, we were treated to a performance by a lovely young soprano by the name of Emma Rose Lynn. Emma teaches private voice lessons, and she gave me a stack of her business cards, which I will have at rehearsal and at the choir office if anyone is interested in contacting her.

We talk about "life-long" learning, and I am delighted to experience the continuing journey of so many life-long singers.

Warmly,
Diane

The Practice Corner

EVA:

Schubert Mass "Gloria" movement – Cum Sancto Spiritu fugue, m. 333 to the end.

Schumann *Zigeunerleben*.

Plus music to be performed at the Gala: Also Sprach Zarathustra and The Peace of Wild Things.

ECC:

Vouchsafe O Lord, plus music to be performed at the Gala: Seventy-Six Trombones, One Day More, and "Celebration" from Paul McCartney's *Standing Stone*.

Rehearsal CDs

Tenor Richard Guy has prepared rehearsal recordings of the Fauré *Requiem*. Many members of the choir have used these recordings and found them very helpful. Every note in the vocal score is reproduced by a computer synthesizer in correct pitch and at Diane's performance tempi. What is unique about these recordings is that each individual vocal part is highlighted (in level) against the context of the other voices and accompaniment.

If you are interested in obtaining one of these recordings, you can order one and let Richard know which part you are singing. Cost is \$5.00 each.

Eugene Concert Choir, 1590 Willamette St., Ste. 400, Eugene, OR 97401
541-687-6865 • choir@EugeneConcertChoir.org • www.EugeneConcertChoir.org
Diane Retallack, Artistic & Executive Director • Joel Bradford, Development Director
Angela Egremont, General Manager

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Gala Tickets Now Available!

At long last, we've emerged from the Dark Ages, and our Marketing Team has set up online ticket purchasing for our annual *Highlights & Harmony* fundraising gala. **Now you can make your reservations online** through our website (www.EugeneConcertChoir.org) or—if you prefer the old-fashioned, but perfectly respectable, manual method—through the choir office (541-687-6865).

This is our biggest fundraising event of the year, which will take place at Valley River Inn on Friday, October 12, at 6 p.m.

Available tickets are \$125 for premium reserved seating (limited number available) and \$100 for general seating—see invitations for details.

This is a fun event and, while you are expected to be present for a short time to sing, why not buy a ticket and enjoy the whole evening, while supporting the choir at the same time?

—Angela, Choir Office

A Few Gala-related Volunteers Needed

Last year we had no silent auction whatsoever, which was lovely for me, but apparently a deprivation to others. Therefore, this year we will have a very small array of items, mostly paired theatre/restaurant vouchers. In this regard, we need helpers to approach just a few restaurants to make these pairings complete. Please sign up for a specific restaurant on the list at rehearsal if you are willing to undertake such an approach and take a gala solicitation letter to leave with the manager and donation form to be returned to ECC with the actual donation.

The restaurants on the list have already received a solicitation from us and probably will respond to a friendly face in front of theirs to seal the deal!

—Angela, Choir Office
541-687-6865

Wall of Wine Donations

As we have done occasionally at past fundraisers, we will again have a Wall of Wine at this year's Gala on October 12. In order to make that possible, of course, we need wine!

It would be greatly appreciated if choir members could help out by donating bottles of wine, white or red, with a retail value of at least \$25. A sign-up sheet is available to give us an idea of who is able to help out so we know how much we may need to supplement through choir funds.

Wine donations can be brought to rehearsal, but preferably to the choir office.

Thank you!

—Angela, Choir Office
541-687-6865

Choir Member Liaison

Hello Choir Members,

I serve on the Eugene Concert Choir board as your Choir Member Liaison. Each month I will bring you up to date on the actions the board is taking to promote ECC's presence and garner community support for our music programs and education outreach.

I will, in turn, relay any concerns or questions you might have for the board at our scheduled monthly meetings. Please feel free to contact me at my home: 541-344-9237 or via email: sjmconochie@gmail.com. I look forward to your input and to singing with all of you!

—Jennifer McConochie

Community News

If you would like to post personal information, such as a piano for sale, your need for a house sitter, kittens needing a new home, your role in a play, etc., please e-mail your notice to choir@EugeneConcertChoir.org by 10 a.m. Monday of the week the announcement will run.

The Eugene Recital Club: Please Join Us!

Have you ever wanted to perform a solo song or duet for a small group of interested listeners, but felt too shy to try, or are still looking for the right opportunity? Please consider sharing your solo singing energies with the Eugene Recital Club!

The Recital Club is an informal, monthly gathering of aspiring singers who perform songs and duets (classical, folk, musical theater, and more) for each other in a friendly, supportive environment. Camilla Carter is our pianist, and her fee is \$10 or less for singing at the event. You can rehearse with her ahead of time, if you like. (Please contact Camilla for details; her email address is below.) Attending the Recital Club just to listen is free.

The next meeting of the Recital Club is on **Friday, September 28 at 7:30 p.m. at the home of Anne and Mark Dean: 2937 Ingalls Way.**

For more information about the Recital Club, please contact Jenny Love (lovejm@lanecc.edu) or Camilla Carter (ricammie@gmail.com).

We hope to see you on the 28th!

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