

# Eugene Concert Choir / Eugene Vocal Arts 2018-2019

## Newsletter • September 24 & 25, 2018

Dear Singers,

My topic today is about Community Outreach. As a choir, we are uniquely poised to engage and involve the community in our artistic expression. We carry our instruments around with us in our bodies, and many people grow up hearing music all around them and joining in, learning to sing with no formal training. But as accomplished choral singers, we offer something extraordinary for community members to experience, both as spectators, and sometimes even as participants. I hear from patrons that it is an absolutely magical experience for them to be up close and personal with the power of our voices at the Gala benefit or surrounded in a room at another event or rehearsal. It is my hope to reach out to the community in various ways this season. But the success of that venture is up to you – whether or not you join in.

The first venture is the formation of a Caroling Choir. For those of you who were with us last season, do you remember that I took a survey after we sang for the Eugene “Light Up Downtown” celebration, asking who would like to sing for this and other events? There was a strong volunteer response. So I said we would form a Caroling Choir for this season. And that is what we intend to do. I have asked tenor Ryan Dixon to form a Caroling Choir to prepare for and perform at various functions this season. Here is how it will work:

The Caroling Choir will meet prior to ECC rehearsals on Tuesday nights from 6:40 pm to 7:10 pm starting next Tuesday. They will rehearse every-other-week, and then there is already a list of requests for performances. The music will be drawn from ECC repertoire, supplemented if needed by carols from a caroling book. So if you are interested in being involved – SIGN UP! We hope to get a good, balanced choir of participants, but we will adjust the voicing and the repertoire to make sure that any group of performers is successful. EVA members, you are welcome to come join us as well. Here is the rehearsal schedule:

Tuesdays, 6:40 – 7:10 pm at Emmaus Lutheran Church

October 2, 16, 30 and November 13 and 27

Caroling Choir members would sign up regarding their availability for performances and we would decide which performances are feasible with the number of participants. This is a voluntary venture to serve the community, and you would be encouraged to participate in however many events you would like to and are able to do. Potential performances:

Light Up Downtown, Friday, November 16

Crèche Exhibit, Saturday, December 1 (see description in newsletter from Ron Raynes)

Numerous requests and interest from retirement centers and PeaceHealth

Suggestions from you

Another Community Outreach project we intend to do this year is a Singing a Masterwork Project for the Fauré *Requiem*. This beloved masterwork is well known and particularly accessible for community participation. I am planning to conduct a workshop/rehearsal/social time and mini-private performance of selected movements of the Fauré *Requiem* on Saturday, February 9, from 11:00 am to 3:00 pm at Emmaus Lutheran Church. Everyone from the community who would like to participate is invited to join us, and we are only asking for a suggested \$10 donation to help defray expenses.

Can you imagine an orchestra or band trying to do something like this? Everyone show up and we will – what? – hand out flutes and trombones? Just give it a shot? For instrumentalists, a project like this would have to be directed to people with at least some training in musical instruction. I am encouraging anyone in the community who has a voice inside them to join in this venture. But I will need YOUR participation to sing with us in order to make the event successful.

Remember what I said at the beginning of this letter? We want participants to have that magical experience of being surrounded by the power of your voices. So put Saturday, February 9 on your calendar, and invite your friends, family and colleagues.

Warmly,  
Diane

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

Continued from other side

## The Practice Corner

### EVA:

Schubert *Mass in A-flat* –“Gloria” movement, in its entirety

Mendelssohn “Witches Chorus” from *Die erste Walpurgisnacht*

Continue preparation on your Gala music, and memorize Also Sprach Zarathustra

### ECC:

Carols of Splendour. Continue your preparation on your Gala music and memorize One Day More

## Caroling Choir Sign-Up

Please see Diane’s description of the Caroling Choir in her Dear Singers comments. A sign-up sheet to be a part of the choir will circulate at rehearsal.

## Caroling Choir - Crèche Program

From Diane: Please see my Dear Singers comments about the formation of a Caroling Choir this season. One of the potential performances for the Caroling Choir would be this Community Crèche Exhibit, as described by Ron Raynes, below:

Eugene Community Crèche Exhibit celebrates its 17th year, in gathering the community around ideals of faith, peace and unity of many cultures from around the world, displayed in over 1,000 artful nativity scenes of the Holy Family at Christmastime. The exhibit sprang into being as a response to the 9/11 tragedy in 2001.

In addition to the display, choirs and musicians from the community share their talents in playing and singing Christmas music for guests as they view the exhibit. A program of performers is scheduled mostly in half-hour segments, and adds greatly to the spirit of the occasion and the beginning of celebrations for the upcoming Christmas season.

Eugene Community Crèche Exhibit invites guests of all ages to the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, located at 1155 President Street in Eugene, on:

Friday, Nov 30th, 5 pm - 8 pm

Saturday, Dec 1st, 11 am - 8 pm

Sunday, Dec 2nd, 3 pm - 8 pm

The schedule is still pretty open for Saturday, so if the ECC Caroling Choir wants to perform, I would love to schedule them into the program. There is a warm-up room to assemble the group before going into the performance, and to hold people’s stuff.

—Ron Raynes, (ECC T-2)

## Highlights & Harmony Gala Volunteer Sign-Up

We invite your volunteer help to ensure the success of our major fundraiser for the year. There is a Sign-Up sheet and Job Descriptions for the Gala.

## Additional EVA Performance

Eugene Vocal Arts members, please reserve the date and time Sunday, April 7, 2019 at 2:30 pm, for an additional performance of *The Peace of Wild Things* at the Wildish Theater in Springfield.

Diane is looking into tentatively doing this additional performance in order to have an option for a Sunday matinee and wider reach beyond our usual venue in Eugene for this concert.

The Wildish Theater in Springfield has a beautiful acoustic and the potential to attract a different audience. We would rehearse at 1:00 pm at the Wildish, prior to our performance.

## 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.*

## Music to Die For!

Ensemble Primo Seicento will perform in the “Music to Die For” series at Hope Abbey Mausoleum at the Eugene Masonic Cemetery, 26th Ave. and University St., Eugene on Sunday, Sept. 30, at 2 p.m.

For eight years, Ensemble Primo Seicento has been exploring early 17th century Baroque music and taking advantage of the wealth of compositions that have recently become available online. Both vocal and instrumental music of that period are heard to best advantage in highly resonant spaces, of which the Hope Abbey Mausoleum may be the best example in this area.

We will present several pieces each by Monteverdi and Sigismondo D’India for two sopranos and harpsichord. While D’India is far less known than the great Monteverdi, he may be nearly his equal in vocal inventiveness. In addition, we have pieces by Legrenzi, Sances, Riccio, Benedetti, Barbarino, Corradini, Merula, Hume, and Cima, in varied combinations of voices, cornetto, and viola da gamba, with harpsichord and archlute.

The ensemble is Jane Beaumont Snyder, soprano; Anson Brown, archlute and tenor; Ryan Dixon, soprano; Margret Gries, harpsichord; John Loughran, tenor; Ryan Ponto, viola da gamba and bass voice, and Doug Sears, cornetto and bass.

Admission is free. Early arrival is suggested, as seats fill up fast.

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