

Eugene Concert Choir / Eugene Vocal Arts 2018-2019

Newsletter • December 10 & 11, 2018

Dear Singers,

I look forward with great anticipation to our wacky, fun, delightful, heart-warming *Dickens of a Christmas* production. I know so many of you have worked very hard to prepare for this event – learning music, learning lines, memorizing, costuming yourselves and helping others with costuming, hanging posters, and everything else you do. Thank you for that! The community is responding by purchasing tickets and we will have a good-sized audience. With an added push this last week, we could have a very good-sized audience. The energy in the hall when that happens is electric. I think we all need a wonderfully enjoyable escape of entertainment for this holiday season, and everything you are doing to make this performance a success will be a welcome gift to the community.

Sincerely,
Diane

Costume Return Reminder

After the Dickens show, NOBODY goes home with any kind of costume unless you own it – whether it be Renaissance, Dickens, or whatever.

For Renaissance costumes: Eugene Vocal Arts members, please bag and label your Renaissance costumes and leave them in the Silva dressing rooms.

For Dickens costumes: We will have bins set up in the long hallway outside the dressing rooms after the concert. Please return ALL costume pieces immediately after show. There is no need to bag them. Please just fold them and put into the labeled bins. We will have tables set up to lay the overcoats and capes on. We will be there to help you. Be sure to replace tags if you have removed them. Thank you for all your cooperation and have a great concert experience! A crew will collect everything for cleaning, sorting, returning or storage. Thank you!

LOOKING AHEAD

Auditions for new members

Tell the singers you know or encounter that the next audition for new members of the Eugene Concert Choir and Eugene Vocal Arts is Thursday, January 3, in the evening. Contact the Eugene Concert Choir office at 541-687-6865 or choir@eugeneconcertchoir.org to schedule an audition.

Fauré Requiem Community Sing

You can encourage friends and colleagues who have ever wanted to experience singing a masterwork to attend our Fauré *Requiem* project on Saturday, February 16, from 11:00 am to 3:00 pm at Emmaus Lutheran Church.

Diane will do a rehearsal workshop of the Fauré with all who wish to attend. We will have a brown-bag lunch and social break in the middle. As the culmination of the workshop, we will move from the fellowship hall to the sanctuary for a full run-through in the beautifully rich acoustic. There is no cost, but a suggested donation of \$10 to help us defray expenses.

All ECC and EVA members are greatly encouraged to attend to support the experience of community members who join us.

Choir Appreciation Potluck – New Date!

We are going to have our Choir Potluck on Tuesday, February 26 from 6:00 to 7:30 pm at Emmaus Lutheran Church. Members of ECC and EVA are all encouraged to come celebrate together. In past years we have had an end of season potluck after ECC's last concert. EVA members have been finished for weeks, and some ECC members have taken off on trips they delayed to accommodate the concert season.

This year, we are going to have the Choir Potluck on the Tuesday following our Fauré *Requiem* concert. We can celebrate that glorious masterwork performance, look forward to EVA's spring concert, and launch our rehearsal preparation for ECC's pops concert in a hearty mood.

2019-2020 Season Dates

Looking ahead to next year and talking over possible vacations or other plans? Here are the dates for our 2019-2020 season. Committed choir members are expected to plan around our performance dates.

EVA Fall Chamber Concert – Fri., Nov. 8, 2019 at 7:30 pm; Beall Concert Hall

Rehearsals: Wed and Thurs., Nov. 6 & 7; 7–10 pm

Holiday Concert – Sun., Dec. 15, 2019 at 2:30 pm; Silva Concert Hall, Hult Center

Rehearsals: Fri., Dec. 13, 7–10 pm; and Sat., Dec. 14, 2–5 pm

Midseason Classical Masterwork – Sun., Feb. 23, 2020; Silva Hall, Hult Center

Rehearsals: Fri., Feb. 21, 7–10 pm; and Sat., Feb. 22, 2–5 pm

EVA Spring Concert – Fri., Apr. 3, 2020 at 7:30 pm; Beall Concert Hall

Rehearsal: Thurs., Apr. 2, 7–10 pm

ECC Spring Concert – Sat., May 2, 2010 at 7:30 pm; Silva Concert Hall, Hult Center

Kids Concert – Sat., May 2, morning rehearsal 9:30–10:30 am and concert 11 am – noon

Rehearsals: Thurs., Apr. 30. and Fri., May 1, 7–10 pm

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Eugene Concert Choir, 1590 Willamette St., Ste. 400, Eugene, OR 97401
541-687-6865 • choir@EugeneConcertChoir.org • www.EugeneConcertChoir.org
Diane Retallack, Artistic Director • Sherry Parmater, Executive Director
Lizz Wells, Marketing & Event Coordinator • Angela Egremont, General Manager

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Table Needed for Dickens Performance

We need an approximately 3' x 3' wooden table, well-used in appearance, to use as Bob Cratchit's desk in the *Dickens of a Christmas* show. Please let Diane know if you have such an item that can be used as a prop.

Thank you!

Photos of EVA Members in Costume

Before discarding your Renaissance costumes following the performance for cleaning and storage, we need to know whose costume "belongs" to whom in case you wish to have the same one the next time we have a Renaissance-type performance.

To facilitate matching up outfits with their former occupants, we will be taking photos of each EVA member in their costume for later identification purposes. This will not be necessary if you own your Renaissance attire.

Prior to the show, please look for Lizz Wells who will be lurking in the hallway, camera in hand, to take a photo of you in your outfit. Each of you will be provided with a sign with your name clearly printed for you to hold when photographed, which will ensure proper matching up of costumes and wearers at a later date.

Please don't wait until the last minute to find Lizz as she will have to take about 35 "portraits," which, while quick individually, will take time in the aggregate!

ECC/EVA Ticket Sales Stats

Program Tickets Sold to Date:

EVA - Schubert *Mass in A-flat*: 206
ECC/EVA - A Dickens of a Christmas: 1113
ECC - Faure *Requiem*: 317
EVA - The Peace of Wild Things: 44
ECC - American Style for Kids: 7
ECC - American Style: 132

Re-evaluations

From Diane: It has been several years since I have done re-evaluations. To explain to members who haven't experienced re-evaluations, it is a time for me to hear individual voices and assess how well you are learning your parts and keeping up vocally. I choose a passage of music from the repertoire of the season for members to prepare and for me to hear you sing in a private session.

I am giving you a very advance notice of how I will be re-instating re-evaluations in the coming years. You have some time. I will not do re-evaluations this season or next season. Rather, I will start them up again in the 2020-2021 season.

There is an easy way to avoid ever having to do re-evaluations. Simply – sing in the full concert season.

As I have encouraged at the start of this season, your membership in the Eugene Concert Choir or Eugene Vocal Arts is a full season membership. This is not an organization in which you drop in for a concert that interests you and then step out when the repertoire is not your cup of tea. We support each other, rely on each other, and are responsible to each other as singers and to our audience as professional-quality ensembles they can trust.

I am giving you all this advance notice of the dates of our 2019-2020 season so you can make them a priority. If you perform in each of the concerts of the full season in ECC or EVA, then you get a pass on re-evaluations. I will do re-evaluations in the 2020-2021 season with only the singers who have missed a performance of the previous season.

Symphony Job Opening

The Eugene Symphony Association is seeking a part-time (30 hrs/wk) Marketing & Communications Coordinator (see handout at rehearsal for more details). Application deadline is Sunday, December 30.

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