

Eugene Concert Choir / Eugene Vocal Arts 2019-2020

Newsletter • September 9 & 10, 2019

Dear Singers,

I welcome you back – or anew – for our 45th concert season. I love the excitement of the fall season and the promise of new beginnings. Regardless of how busy or stressful our lives become, having a time and a place to come together and join voices in harmony makes the world a better place. As Chorus America's *Chorus Impact Study* reports, over 54 million people in the U.S. alone sing in choruses, and "choruses are powerhouses of connection and tolerance."

In case you may have missed our e-mail announcement over the summer, I need to tell you that, in spite of our careful, measured and incremental approach over the last several years to hire a separate executive director and to allow me to just fully be the artistic director, that model did not work for us. I am back in the saddle as both artistic and executive director. We thank Sherry Parmater for some of the fresh ideas and approaches she brought to the organization last season as executive director. Sherry is still in the community and doing well.

I welcome your help, your spirit of volunteerism, and your dedication to the health and sustainability of our organization. Please put an extra effort into the success of our gala fundraiser, *Highlights & Harmony*. We have some financial ground to recoup. Ways to help – encourage friends and colleagues to attend, help with the donation of cash or auction items, volunteer to work the event, buy tickets yourself, and plan your biggest donation gift for our "Gifts for the Soul" appeal. In other words, fully participate!

Other recent staff changes: We thank Camilla Carter for years of being our spectacular Eugene Vocal Arts accompanist and wish her happiness and time to stop and smell the roses as she pulls back from too many responsibilities. Welcome to Nathalie Fortin, a superb pianist who is stepping into Camilla's spot and carrying on with Eugene Vocal Arts. We have also expanded the role of our marketing assistant, Lizz Wells, to Marketing and Public Relations Director.

We have a lot of wonderful and amazing music to sing. Enjoy! —Diane

Welcome New and Returning Members

Please welcome the new and returning members:

Eugene Vocal Arts

New: Anna Sergel (S-1), Angela Asato (S-2),
Jaclyn Beck (A-1), Evan Hathaway (T-2),
Ron Shaheen (T-2), Mike Snider (B-2)
Returning: Patrick Hosfield (T-2),

Eugene Concert Choir

New: Carolyn Bergquist (S-2), Jessica Girts (S-2),
Elizabeth Glenn (S-2), Janet White (A-1),
Theresa Tonnesen-O'Brien (A-2),
Alan McCullough (B-2)
Returning: Angela Egremont (S-1), Jill Switzer (S-1),
Patrick Hosfield (T-1), Martyn Lindley (T-2)

Choir Communications

Many of the handouts you receive at the beginning of rehearsals are also on the website. Please make it a habit to check there before calling the office to ask when the next rehearsal is, or what we're wearing at a specific event, etc.

The website is www.EugeneConcertChoir.org. For choir-related information, scroll down to the bottom of the Home page and click on "For Choir Members" under the Musicians heading. If you don't find what you're looking for there, then contact the office at 541-687-6865 or choir@eugeneconcertchoir.org.

(Note: This being the first week of rehearsals, some information may take a day or two to be posted, so please check back a bit later.)

The Practice Corner

Your outside preparation in between rehearsals is always expected. Carve out a time in your personal schedule to concentrate on your music for choir rehearsals. Each week, Diane will feature selections of music to focus on at home. You are always welcome to go beyond that and prepare more.

Please prepare the music Diane has chosen for performance at the *Highlights & Harmony* gala:

EVA: Drive My Car, by Lennon & McCartney (Swingle Singers book); tentatively – "Where the Mind is Without Fear" from *The Unarmed Child* by Michael Bussewitz-Quarm

ECC: Penny Lane, by Lennon & McCartney, arr. Bob Chilcott; "Hallelujah" from *Christ on the Mount of Olives*, Op. 85 by Ludwig van Beethoven

Your Section Leaders

ECC

S-1: Kim Wollter (kwollter@comcast.net) - here next week

S-2: Theresa Wymer (twymer212@comcast.net)

A-1: Jackie Kennedy (jl1119@comcast.net)

A-2: Tasha Proudfoot (tasha.proudfoot@gmail.com)

T-1 & T-2: Mike Whitty (mike@mowhitty.com) - note:

for the first two weeks contact the choir office

(choir@eugeneconcertchoir.org)

B-1: Open (contact choir@eugeneconcertchoir.org)

B-2: Jim Whipple (bmaeugene@msn.com)

EVA

All Sections: Jenny Love (lovejm@lanec.edu)

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Highlights & Harmony Gala Benefit Attendance

The first performance for all of us will be at our gala benefit *Highlights & Harmony*, Friday, October 25 at 6:00 pm at Valley River Inn, Willamette Ballroom. We encourage you to buy tickets and fully experience all aspects of the gala. Invitations will be available next week at choir rehearsals and at the choir office for you and for anyone else you want to contact.

If you don't intend to buy tickets for the event, you are still needed to perform. The performance part of the program will be from 7:20 to 7:40 pm.

We realize that some of you have work conflicts that preclude being present for the afternoon rehearsal, but everyone should try their best to make special arrangements to be present for the rehearsal from 3:45 to approximately 4:45. For the professionalism of the program to work, we need to rehearse in the venue.

Highlights & Harmony Gala Benefit Volunteers

Committees

As most of you know, this, our biggest fundraiser of the year, couldn't be done without the help of many volunteers. This year, we're happy to say that we have most of the volunteer committees filled. Currently, we're most in need of helpers for auction closers and selling raffle tickets (please see sheet of Volunteer Job Descriptions for responsibility details). If you are willing to do either of these, please let us know (contact info below).

Auction Donations

In addition to volunteers, we also need "stuff" for our silent and live auctions. We are gathering the usual combinations of restaurant/theatre packages plus several themed baskets: Garden, Gourmet, Coffee/Tea, Book Lovers, Christmas, Ducks, Kids (see sign-up sheet).

We hope everyone will contribute in some measure in one of the following categories: 1) item(s) for any of the baskets, 2) bottle(s) of wine valued at \$15 or more for the Wall of Wine, or 3) cash donation for purchase of whatever we don't have (e.g., items to complete the baskets, wine for the "wall," or other necessity for ensuring a successful event). For the wall of wine, there are slips to accompany each bottle with a brief description and value.

If you have a more significant item that would be suitable for the oral auction, we'd love to know about it. —Angela (choir@eugeneconcertchoir.org or 541-687-6865)

Voice Teachers

For choir members who are interested, Diane can recommend several voice teachers:

Soprano Marie Landreth (former Oregon resident) and **baritone Doremus Scudder** are professional singers who have just moved to Eugene after having taught at the Performing Academy in Vienna, Austria for many years. They both have extensive resumés (available for perusal at choir rehearsal) and are opening a voice studio in Eugene. Contact information – email for both of them: ScudderLandreth@gmail.com; Phone for Marie: 541-554-4074; Phone for Doremus: 541-554-1119.

Soprano Emma Rose Lynn is holding beginning group voice classes for adults. Her contact information is: emmaroselynn soprano@gmail.com The voice class series began last week, so it is best to contact Emma and see how you might work into her schedule going forward.

Soprano Laura Wayte, who has helped several ECC members in the past, gives lessons for individuals and small groups. She can be contacted at 541-913-5990 or decherwayte@gmail.com.

Archive Committee Meeting

We are going to hold the first Archive Committee meeting on Thursday, September 19 at 7:00 pm at the Midtown Arts Center, 1590 Willamette Street (our choir office building). This initial meeting will be to map out what processes and materials we will need to preserve and document our archives in preparation for displays, media and a book to celebrate our 50th anniversary in our 2024-2025 season.

Before we lose all the wonderful stories of the Eugene Concert Choir's past, we want to interview those who experienced the organization and changes from its founding to the present. This will be a multi-year project, and we want to divide it into manageable parts.

We also want to apply for grants to help us fund the project. There is a grant deadline coming up soon, and it is important that we get this initial planning stage under way. This is also a great year to launch into the project, as we are preparing to move our offices into the new Midtown Arts Center, which is currently under construction and scheduled to be completed in June of 2020.

Rather than move boxes of old materials from one office to the other, we want to take this year to go through all of our past materials in the choir office and catalogue and separate what we intend to keep and what we can jettison. We will be contacting everyone who signed up to be on the Archive Committee to ascertain your attendance at the introductory meeting, but if there is anyone else who would like to be added to the committee, please let Diane or Angela know and we will be happy to welcome you.

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Farewell, But Not Goodbye!

Dear singers of Eugene Vocal Arts,

I want to thank you for the warm appreciation I have felt from you throughout the years that I have worked with you to prepare and perform concerts. I especially was reminded of the power of music to touch the deepest parts of ourselves when we performed *Shadow and Light* and also in the spring concert this year, with all the beautiful music and sentiments celebrating nature and our precious environment. It was a super-fun and rewarding collection of piano parts for me, and it felt like the perfect way to say thank you and farewell to EVA.

With the combination of the stress of slightly unreliable focusing in my eyesight and a desire to pursue other interests in my life, I have decided to slide off the piano bench with most professional engagements, including EVA. I'll continue with Recital Club, because I love that so much, and it is far less stress. (Please consider joining us there monthly to sing solos and duets for each other in a friendly home setting - ask Jenny Love about it!)

I admire the dedication of each of you to your art and to this organization. I wish you all the best and look forward to having our paths cross frequently! Nathalie Fortin will be playing piano for you, and she is a wonderful musician and person. I trust you will love and appreciate her, like I do!

Fondly,
Camilla Carter

P.S. If you have ideas for my next career or interest in what I'm thinking these days, please let me know, and I'll forward you the letter I have written with my interests / skills / strengths for your input and suggestions. I will miss the rich array of humanity and brilliance and kindness I was surrounded with each Monday night. ricammie@gmail.com, 541-844-8324 (to set up a rehearsal before Recital Club, if you want to).

Shadow and Light Performance in Portland

The Oregon Repertory Singers, Ethan Sperry, director, will perform our commissioned major work *Shadow and Light; an Alzheimer's Journey* by Joan Szymko. It is exciting that the work we commissioned and premiered is going on to have a continued life in choral repertoire. There are two performances: Saturday and Sunday, September 28 and 29, both at 3:00 pm; at First United Methodist Church, 1838 SW Jefferson Street in Portland. Tickets range from \$20 to \$40. You can buy tickets through the Oregon Repertory Singers website: orsingers.org.

Concert Choir Dress Coordinator Needed

We are looking for a volunteer willing to handle outfitting the Concert Choir women. If interested, please see Diane or contact her at (diane@eugeneconcertchoir.org).

Our Two Accompanists

While we are sad to see Camilla Carter leave as EVA's accompanist, we are delighted to have found a wonderful replacement in **Nathalie Fortin** (short bio below).

Nathalie was born in Montreal, Canada. She holds degrees from the Conservatoire de Musique de Montréal, Eastman School of Music, and University of Southern California. Locally, she has performed with the Oregon Bach Festival, Eugene Opera, Eugene Symphony, Chamber Music Amici, Ballet Fantastique, the Oregon Mozart Players, and for a number of productions at the Shedd Institute for the Arts. She currently does some collaborative work with Cascadia Chamber Opera, the Eugene Gleemen, Thurston High School, and University of Oregon's School of Music and Dance.

Also, since Julia Brown moved from her spot as ECC's accompanist to pursue her career in the eastern U.S., we have been thrilled to have such an accomplished replacement in **Brad Schultz**, who is now starting his second season with ECC (short bio below).

Brad serves on the music staff at First United Methodist Church as organist/pianist, choir director, and Artistic Director for the Concerts at First music series. Prior to arriving in Eugene, Brad served on the music faculty at Luther College in Decorah, Iowa, teaching music history, church music, keyboard and aural skills, and applied organ lessons. He was also organist to the Student Congregation and served as a collaborative keyboardist. While in Decorah, Brad also served as artistic director of the Madison (Wisconsin) Area Concert Handbells, on the music staff at First Lutheran Church in Decorah, and as organist/pianist for the Minnesota All-State Lutheran Choir, and auditioned choir of 45 high school students. Brad holds the Master of Sacred Music degree from Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia, and a Bachelor's degree from Luther College encompassing organ and tuba performance, and vocal and instrumental music education.

Handy Dandy Zip Pockets for Folders

If you are fed up with trying to stash your "necessaries" in the pocket of your black choir folder during rehearsal or performance, I have found a solution: a zip pocket that can be attached inside the folder for holding tissues, keys, cough drops, etc. Cost is \$10 each plus shipping. If you would like to see a sample, I just happen to have one for your review!

—Angela E. (S-1,
usually ensconced in the front row)

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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.)

For Sale:

Wurlitzer Spinnet Piano and matching bench. Recently tuned and in excellent condition. Will sell for the price of moving by reputable mover of my choice (\$250-350 likely). Contact Vicki Wilson at vlwilson@comcast.net or 541-954-6446

Diane's Personal Dancing Triumph:

As many of you know, Diane has a passion for competitive ballroom dance. In January of this year, she got so serious about it, she began flying to L.A. to take dance lessons with an extraordinary professional dancer named Yegor Novikov. Last week, Diane won the World Championship in her division – Pro-Am Senior Silver Latin dance (cha cha, samba, rumba and jive). She also placed 4th in Smooth ballroom (waltz, tango, foxtrot, Viennese waltz).

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