

**Subject:**

[EVA] Rehearsal Schedule & Updates

**Sent by:**

Diane Retallack

**Sent to:**

Eugene Concert Choir & Eugene Vocal Arts

**Message:**

Hello Choir Members,

It is a beautiful day in our glorious state and I wanted you to know what our plans are as we approach the start of a new choir season this fall. In my last email to you, I expressed my excitement that we were negotiating with Kidsports Civic Park to hold our rehearsals. We were able to secure some rehearsal dates, but not as fully as I had hoped, so attendance at in-person rehearsals will have to be more limited than my original plan. One thing is certain – scenarios are ever changing!

My goal at the start is to involve all singers who choose to attend the in-person rehearsals the opportunity to sing as a community again. I was able to secure the large gymnasium (Fieldhouse) on Monday evenings but unfortunately not on Tuesdays. I have reserved the soccer field (Turf Field) on the first two Tuesdays. So the plan for the first two weeks (Sept. 14-15/21-22) is that Eugene Vocal Arts singers will meet in the Fieldhouse on Monday evenings and Eugene Concert Choir singers will meet outside on the Turf Field on Tuesday evenings. But weather will not be conducive to continuing that arrangement for long. After the first two weeks, I will split the Monday evening rehearsals in the Fieldhouse between the two choirs. In spite of how large this venue is, I only plan to involve 12 singers at a time in the Fieldhouse. In all rehearsals, singers will be divided into small groups in short segments of time. The purpose of the rehearsals involving small groups is to create live-streamed and recorded Zoom rehearsals of a full choir source for everyone to participate remotely and use as rehearsal resources for your own practice on your regular Monday night and Tuesday night rehearsal times and throughout the week. Our Office Administrator Troy DeShazer, our section leaders and I will be in touch with you to work out a schedule of in-person singers for these rehearsals. There will also be directions and state-required safety protocols to follow, which we will send to you as we get closer to the rehearsal dates.

I have made up a rehearsal schedule which is posted on our Eugene Concert Choir website. You can scroll to the bottom of the homepage and click on For Choir Members to find it, or you can click on this link:

<https://eugeneconcertchoir.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/ECC-and-EVA-Schedule-2020-2021.pdf>

And what repertoire will we be doing this Fall?

**Eugene Vocal Arts** will take the time to thoroughly prepare the rich, luscious music by women composers in preparation for the *In Celebration of Women* concert. The performance date of November 15 is no longer viable for this concert, which will be pushed off to a later date as the scenario continues to change.

**Eugene Concert Choir** will prepare holiday music to record a video (in a socially-distanced manner) for our *Holidays Around the World* concert, which we will either project at a live in-person concert on December 13 and then release on YouTube, or just release on YouTube if there is no live concert production. A small select group of singers will record the initial basic track on November 1 and then all of the rest of the singers will be scheduled in small groups to layer on their voices throughout the weekend of November 13 – 15.

To feed our souls, at the first two rehearsals in September we will also sing the 4<sup>th</sup> movement of the Brahms *Requiem*. Of course there are many things to organize and tend to – getting music, scheduling in small groups of singers, directions and protocols. We will get to all of those things. For now, I am giving you the overall plan.

We still need help with our first ever Virtual Gala Fundraiser. Thank you to Kami Hendrix and Lisa Marxer for volunteering. Anyone else who could help out? Please let us know. Here is what we need: First, we are looking to procure items and experiences that are unique and attractive. Our usual items such as tickets to concerts and events are not certain at this time. But restaurant gift cards, especially for restaurants that deliver, are still good. Experiences that are day trips or drive-able vacation getaways are also encouraged. Donations of wine are always welcome. Think about what you would want to bid on at an auction. We won't be putting together big theme baskets this year, but if you are interested in organizing a small group theme basket, let us know. If you want to help but don't have a particular task in mind, let us know and we will match your interests with what we have to do along the way. If you can help procure items for the auction fundraiser, contact our Office Administrator Troy DeShazer at [troy@eugeneconcertchoir.org](mailto:troy@eugeneconcertchoir.org) to let him know what you are pursuing so we can coordinate requests and not duplicate. Our donor letter and form are on our website (You can scroll to the bottom of the homepage and click on For Choir Members to take you to the page that has a link to the Donor Letter and Form). Here is the link:

<https://eugeneconcertchoir.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/Donor-Letter-Form-fillable-2020.pdf>

In my last email, I mentioned a particular type of Singer's Mask, available through the Broadway Relief Project: <https://www.broadwayreliefproject.com/singersmask>

I am putting in a bulk order this week. The price in bulk will be \$23.32 plus shipping costs. The following people have asked to be a part of the bulk order. If I missed you, or you would like your name added to the list, please let me know by Wednesday.

- Jennifer McConochie
- Marilyn Nelson
- 2 – Chris Lamb
- Angela Egremont
- Kim Wollter
- Jessica Schabtach
- Jackie Kennedy
- Bonnie Forrester
- 2 – Theresa Tonnesen-O'Brien
- Tasha Proudfoot
- Janet White
- Jan Whitty
- Mike Whitty
- Alec Murphy
- Kami Hendrix
- 2 – Michael Anderson
- Julie DiBiase
- Patri McKinley

Reaching across the distance to you all with love and virtual hug.

Diane