

Subject:

[ECC] Thoughts & Plans

Sent by:

Diane Retallack

Sent to:

Eugene Concert Choir & Eugene Vocal Arts

Message:

Dear Choir Members,

I have been thinking of all of you a lot. We have been working hard behind the scenes to prepare for another season of choir activities. But no sooner did we launch our “hopes and dreams for a new season” than the virus ramped up and the gathering restrictions went from 250 down to 100, which means that live performance in the near future is not feasible. Things are too uncertain to plan for performance at this time. But whether or not we get to perform, we will get together, in some form or another, on Monday and Tuesday nights for choir rehearsals, to stay together and to prepare for another time. On a very important webinar about the difficulties posed by singing in this pandemic, one health professional said that to get an adequate distance between singers, a choir would have to sing in a stadium! So my thought was – ok, which stadium? Well . . . I wanted you to know that we are in negotiations with the beautiful new Kidsports Civic Park facility to rehearse on the soccer field and/or in the gigantic new fieldhouse (the size of 4 basketball courts). We are working out details, schedules and sound issues. But you can tentatively put Monday, September 14 as a start date for EVA and Tuesday, September 15 as a start date for ECC. We will not come together with full choirs all at once, but each choir would be split into smaller groups that will meet for shorter time slots, and all rehearsals would be streamed and recorded on Zoom for those who prefer to join us from home and revisit the rehearsals as a practice guide later in the week.

Also, I intend to hold auditions for new members on Tuesday, September 8. More details to come on that, but you can encourage potential choir members to contact us at choir@eugeneconcertchoir.org.

I recently ordered a “Singers Mask” from the Broadway Relief Project. It arrived yesterday and I got to try it out. The mask was created for Broadway singers and has a hard wire framework that holds it out away from your mouth for freedom to sing. Check it out here:

<https://www.broadwayreliefproject.com/singersmask>

I spoke to some singers and related that I had understood that singing with a mask lowers your oxygen level. I was mistaken. That information was about a fitted N95 mask. We can safely sing while wearing a mask, and this Singers Mask is more comfortable. If there is a large interest in them, we could do a bulk order for the choirs. Let me know if you would like to be included in a bulk order.

We are launching our first ever *Highlights & Harmony* Virtual Gala fundraiser on Friday, October 23 from 7:00 to 8:00 pm. Sid Voorhees will be our auctioneer and we have a great team to help us organize and stream the event. Plan to be with us from you home for an evening of fun. We have already gathered some terrific auction items, and I will let you in on an exclusive announcement – We will be raffling off a Magna Metro 500w E-Bike from Eugene Electric Bikes! More information to come soon. The raffle will start some weeks before, and the silent auction will start the Monday prior to the live auction gala event and continue online through the following Monday.

How can you help with the auction fundraiser? – 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 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>

On a personal note, I have recovered from COVID and I appreciate every day. My husband Greg just had hip replacement surgery last week and is recovering nicely. We are enjoying just being together.

I haven't sung for a long time and my pipes are pretty rusty. I signed on with Laura Wayte to do her Silver Lining Voice curriculum and it is really helping me to get back into singing again. Laura starts an online group course this August 1. Here is the info if you are interested:

The first group enrollment begins this coming weekend. www.silverliningvoice.thinkific.com.

Choir Singers:

Are you afraid to explore your voice and find something wonderful?

"If I never try to improve I can never fail to improve"

"I'm just not meant to sing higher than E"

"It doesn't matter since I don't plan on taking a solo"

And that is a shame, since you love your choir and singing with those dear people.

www.SilverLiningVoice.thinkific.com

Laura Wayte's new course begins Aug. 1

Join with friends and improve your singing this summer!

Great value!

Self-paced, video-guided 14-day course with live components.

Get to know your own voice!



I hope you can all enjoy the beauty around us. Our board president Joel Bradford sent me an article that included the message – “Music is delayed sometimes.” Yes, it is. Composers sometimes take longer to complete a work than planned, and some projects take longer to prepare. When the time is right, the audience will come. In the meantime, my focus and concern is on all of you – that we continue to find a way for our hearts to sing.

Diane