

Subject:

[ECC] A Very Different Season

Sent by:

Diane Retallack

Sent to:

Eugene Concert Choir & Eugene Vocal Arts

Message:

Dear Choir Members,

This will be a very different season. I have always encouraged you to be responsible to each other and carry the same weight contributing to your section and to the whole of the choir, to plan your activities to give choir performances a priority in your life, to consider the effort and expense the audience went to in order to attend our performances and how important it is for us to prepare for them and for each other. This will be a very different season.

This season is for you. Everything I am doing this season is for you. In time, I believe there will be full, live performances again, and the audience will come, with a hunger to be nourished by our voices. But right at this moment, the choirs are here to nourish you. Participate at the level you can handle in your life right now. No need to apologize for your decision, whatever it is.

Thank you for responding to your section leader's survey. If you are going to participate live at rehearsals, be aware that our Office Administrator Troy DeShazer will be sending out Doodle Polls to have you indicate your preferred and available times and dates to rehearse, and he will then send out schedules of your assigned times. Watch for these emails. Only choir members on the schedule will be admitted to their designated rehearsal times and dates. We don't want you to be disappointed if you just show up for rehearsal and find that you are not allowed in.

My first goal for both ECC and EVA in the first two weeks is to bring us all together again. With extreme social distancing, masks, and safety protocols in place, the choirs will be divided into smaller groups and short rehearsal segments, and everyone who wishes to sing in person will have the designated space to join us. The rehearsals will be live-streamed on Zoom for those who wish to participate remotely, and recorded as videos to be posted on our website for those who don't do Zoom or who want to revisit the rehearsals later.

After the first two weeks, the live rehearsals will be limited to much smaller numbers of singers who will create rehearsal resources on live-stream Zoom and posted videos.

What will be easy: Joining in with the choir:

Troy and I and other volunteers will be organizing things behind the scenes so that you will be able to come to choir at your assigned time slot, be checked in, stand in a designated spot, sing, and leave, or gather as friends in the parking lot in your own socially-distanced circles. Those attending remotely by Zoom will be sent a link, and Troy can help you through the technical setup, if needed. Rehearsal videos will be posted on our website each week.

What may be hard:

Singing independently, although you are in a choir. In the past I have indicated in “The Practice Corner” music for you to spend time working on yourself before choir rehearsal. This will be the guide for rehearsals this fall. I will send out a “Practice Corner” schedule, and for those of you who are eager for the challenge, your preparation will determine your experience.

What we intend to accomplish:

For ECC, we will prepare repertoire to do a recording of our *Holidays Around the World* program. I will explain later in detail the process to participate in these socially-distanced recording sessions. For EVA, we will prepare the repertoire to perform the *In Celebration of Women* concert at a later time when it can actually occur live, or with a mix of live and recorded content.

I look forward to seeing you at our Zoom meeting this Tuesday, September 1 at 7:00 pm. Troy will send a reminder email with the Zoom link and a call-in phone number for those needing to access the meeting by phone. The meeting will also be recorded and posted on our website for you to view later. Send any questions you have to the choir office and I will address them: choir@eugeneconcertchoir.org.

In the meantime, if have haven't already done so, look over our ECC and EVA Rehearsal Schedule (Fall) posted on our website: <https://eugeneconcertchoir.org/for-singers/>

I hope you are enjoying our beautiful Oregon summer weather, and I look forward to seeing you soon.

Diane