

Eugene Concert Choir & Eugene Vocal Arts Choir Newsletter 2021–2022

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Dear Choir Members,

Welcome back to the start of a new and promising season. We coped well with the challenges of last season, and we produced excellent videos and even concluded the season with enormously enjoyable live events. As we start the 2021-2022 season, there are some challenges that remain, but situations have changed in ways that present different ways to adapt. I am determined to move forward with a rewarding and fulfilling concert season, and both singers and audience members have indicated that that is what they need. What I hope to do is make this season fun.

---Diane

Welcome New Members

Eugene Vocal Arts: Tori McCoy – S1; Christine Hinrichs – S1; Grace Vangel – S1; Miranda LaFond – A1; Ingrid Wendt – A2; Bruce Cooley – T2

Eugene Concert Choir: Tori McCoy – S1; Miranda LaFond – A1; Sue Palsbo – A1; Carlan Kephart – A1; Deborah Rissman – A2; Jan Madrone – A2; Megan Simpkins – A2; Amy Webster – A2; Alex Mauney – B1

Music

Sheet music for the season will be checked out to you at the first rehearsals. Our librarian Teresa Lin will check out music to members of Eugene Vocal Arts. ECC section leaders will check out music to each person in their section in Eugene Concert Choir.

Major works will need to be purchased – everyone in both choirs will need a Brahms Requiem score (Peters edition preferred). Because most singers already own a score, we are asking you to order your own score if you need one (examples – Sheet Music Plus, JW Pepper, Amazon, eBay).

For Eugene Vocal Arts, we will assess how many singers need the Vivaldi Gloria and the Mozart Vespers. We do have some Vivaldi scores in our library that we can sell. Hold off ordering for yourself until we get an accurate count.

First Rehearsals

One way in which we are adapting to the challenges presented to us this fall is an unusual start to rehearsals in September. Diane is calling them “Picnic Rehearsals.” For the first three rehearsals, we will rehearse at outdoor picnic shelters for shortened durations.

Eugene Vocal Arts – Mondays, September 13, 20, 27, from 7:00 – 9:00 pm at the picnic shelter at Wayne Morse Family Farm, 595 Crest Drive, Eugene. The shelter is west of the dog park fields and accessed from the parking lot.

Eugene Concert Choir – Tuesday, September 14, 21, 28, from 7:00 – 9:00 pm at picnic shelter no. 2 at Alton Baker Park. This is the west end of the park on Day Island Road, accessed from Club Road, and the larger of the two shelters. There is a parking lot off Day Island Road. Those who have attended Art & The Vineyard will know the location.

What to bring to the “Picnic Rehearsals”

We are not actually having a picnic or sharing food. These are just rehearsals at picnic shelters, and Diane thought the name sounded fun. Dress in layers to be prepared for cooling as the sun goes down. There are lights in the shelters, but the lighting is not guaranteed to be adequate for reading music. Cell phone flashlights and other personal lighting might be helpful. There are picnic tables with benches, but you are encouraged to bring a chair if the picnic benches are not suitable. You are welcome to bring a music stand, if you have one and would prefer that to holding your music. Water bottle. Pencil.

Eugene Concert Choir | 174 East 16th Avenue, Suite 135, Eugene, OR 97401
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Michelle Ferguson, Marketing & PR Director | Troy DeShazer, Office Administrator

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Thinking through the COVID Protocols

Regarding Masks: The guidance for outdoors at this time is that if you cannot maintain a 6 foot distance, you are required to wear a mask. Please arrive with a mask and adjust personally to your level of comfort after you get situated.

Nothing is 100% without risk, but we have already decreased the amount of risk by the protocols we have in place. Our rehearsals are private events, these rehearsals are outdoors, only fully-vaccinated singers are invited to sing with us at the start of this season, and everyone will have shown proof of their vaccination status. The outdoor state mask mandate went into effect right before the Oregon State Fair, a large public event in which vaccination status of the attendees could not be known, and there are other unregulated events going on.

Although we are taking pre-cautions and lessening the risk substantially, the Delta variant is highly contagious. Even fully-vaccinated individuals can carry the virus. Why? *The antibodies are in our blood stream. The virus is carried in the airway.* The virus may be in your airway, metaphorically knocking on the door, and on the other side of that door is a battalion armed to protect you. For the fully vaccinated, that may not be a serious concern for yourselves, but more for the people you encounter in your personal circle. Everyone has their own individual home, health or workplace concerns that affect themselves and others around them. You are always welcome to wear a mask, distance yourself further from others, or opt to work on your music from home online.

Returning to Indoor Rehearsals in October

The plan is to return to indoor rehearsals at our usual times and venues **starting in October:**

Eugene Vocal Arts: Mondays, 7:00 – 9:45 pm;
Grace Lutheran Church, 18th & Hilyard

Eugene Concert Choir: Tuesdays, 7:15 – 9:45 pm;
Emmaus Lutheran Church, 18th & Polk

We will be instituting numerous protocols to minimize risk for indoor rehearsals, including the use of four medical grade Hepa filter 13 air purifiers,

short duration rehearsals and frequently moving to different air spaces, some rotation to outdoor areas, distancing, and if called for at the time, use of masks. Whatever it takes, we intend to have safe, productive rehearsals.

But the goal is to perform onstage at the Hult Center, fully singing without masks. And the documentation from the Oregon Health Authority exempts performers from having to wear masks. The Hult Center has established proof of vaccination or negative PCR test within 48 hours for all audience attendees, and the audience will be masked.

CARNEGIE HALL!!!!

We are now collecting deposits for all new singer sign-ups and for all non-performer accompanying members who would like to take the full package.

We already have a great sign-up of 60 singers who put in an early deposit to secure our Brahms Requiem concert spot in Carnegie Hall on June 20, 2022. Now, we need to fill out the choir with more singers:

New singers to the Carnegie Hall trip – please submit your first deposit of \$300 by check payable to Eugene Concert Choir (or \$309 to cover fees, if paying by credit card). You can send in your deposit to the choir office, bring it in person to the office, or bring a check to any of the rehearsals in September.

Or you can contact Troy DeShazer in the choir office 541-687-6865 to call in your credit card information.

For those of you who paid an early deposit, thank you! You are set for now.

The second deposit of \$200 for everyone is due December 1.

Non-performer accompanying members who would like the full \$499 package –

- Pass to all rehearsals
- Concert ticket valued at \$150
- Post-concert dinner cruise party on New York Harbor

Please also pay your \$300 deposit at this time.

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For those non-performer accompanying members who just want to attend the concert, no rehearsals or post-concert dinner cruise, there will be a designated time closer to the performance to purchase concert tickets only.

The full itinerary and information about the Carnegie Hall trip is available on our website For Choir Members page:

EugeneConcertChoir.org/for-singers

Highlights & Harmony Gala Benefit

We are planning a full live Gala fundraiser event, complete with gourmet dinner catered by Market of Choice Catering, Silent and Live Auction, Raffle, Wall of Wine, Dessert Dash, "Gifts for the Soul" Appeal, Auctioneer Sid Voorhees, MC Bill Hulings, Music with the Gus Russell Trio, performances by the Eugene Concert Choir and Eugene Vocal Arts (yes we need you there), Bill Hulings and Siri Vik soloists, and dancing to Le Bop Hot!!!

How about that for a lineup!

**Friday, October 29 at 6:00 pm at Venue 252,
located at 252 Lawrence Street, Eugene**

We will have a late afternoon rehearsal in the Venue, just prior to the start of the event.

How can you help?

- Donate an item or special talent or service for the auction
- Donate a bottle of wine for the Wall of Wine or a dessert for the Dessert Dash
- Volunteer to help out at one of the many volunteer jobs
- Buy tickets and attend the Gala as a patron as well as performer
- Bid on items and donate to Gifts for the Soul

We will have donor forms and volunteer sign-up sheets at the September rehearsals. Let's start the season with a great party!

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