

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

Published on October 11, 2021

Dear Singers,

What a wonderful thing! People are responding to our Gala invitation with joy and enthusiasm. Tickets are indeed selling, and patrons signing up to attend are grateful and excited that we are providing a live event that they can be a part of. We will live-stream the event for those still needing to stay home to be safe, and from home they can bid on the Silent Auction and send in their "Gifts for the Soul" donation. Other than that, they will enjoy the celebration vicariously through you and the other attendees. Let's spread a little joy while we bring in the support we need.

Diane

ECC Schedule Next 2 Weeks

We will continue to have the rehearsal schedules divided by voice part, but we are planning some overlapping time:

Tuesday, October 19:

Sopranos and Basses 7:15 – 8:45

Altos and Tenors 8:15 – 9:45

Tuesday, October 26 reverse order:

Altos and Tenors 7:15 – 8:45

Sopranos and Basses 8:15 – 9:45

Gala COVID Protocols

We are frequently being asked what we will be doing at the Gala to keep it safe. Here is a short rundown of the procedures we have in place.

First of all, Venue 252 is very large and airy with a high ceiling and plenty of space to distance all of the tables. All performers and staff will have been verified to have had COVID vaccinations.

Patrons attending will be asked to show their vaccination card or a negative COVID PCR test within 48 hours upon entry to the event.

Everyone will be required to wear masks unless they are eating or drinking except for the following persons, who will remove their masks only to perform or make announcements: Bill Hulings, Emcee; Siri Vik, soloist; Diane Retallack; Sid Voorhees, auctioneer.

Our four Hepa Filter 13 Medify air purifiers will be placed around the room and running continuously throughout the event.

The salad course will be placed on the tables.

For the main dinner course, patrons will pick up their plate from their place setting and take their plate to the one-sided buffet bar, and masked servers on the other side will serve each item of the food onto the patron's plate. There will be no shifting or sharing of serving utensils.

We will all good-naturedly cope with the situation we have been presented because it is important to all of us.

Choir Masking

This is not where we wanted to be regarding masks at this time, nearly two years after the start of the pandemic. But the reality is, this is where we are. The choirs will need to wear masks in rehearsals and performing at the Gala. Please find yourself a good mask that allows you to sing as best you can. Last year we ordered a bunch of "singer's masks" from the Broadway Relief Project – with a wire framework that holds the mask in place and an extra-large area around the mouth. They now come in white and black. Since then, lots of other organizations have created singer's masks as well, and sometimes in a variety of colors. You can Google "singer's mask" and see lots of options. A local violinist, Yvonne Hsueh, makes singer's masks at MasksByYvonne.com. The Portland Symphonic Choir performed Mahler's 2nd Symphony wearing singer's masks, so we can sure sing a few songs for the Gala wearing a mask. When we perform at the Hult Center, performers are allowed to remove their masks. But at an indoor banquet facility, the mask mandate is most likely the wisest path to follow.

Highlights & Harmony Gala Deadlines

Thank you to everyone who is so generously helping out on the Gala! We would like to get all of the auction items in by Thursday, October 14, if at all possible. Please bring your items in to the Concert Choir office, 174 E. 16th Avenue, Suite 135 in Eugene (corner of 16th & Pearl). Absolute last moment would be Tuesday, October 19.

The deadline for purchasing tickets, \$100 per person, is Wednesday, October 20. Get your orders in and be fully part of the fun!

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Dessert Dash

If you signed up to donate a dessert for the Dessert Dash, please **DO NOT** bring it to the office. You will deliver your dessert to Venue 252, Lawrence St, in Eugene on the day of the event, October 29, sometime between 3:00 and 4:00 pm. The choir will rehearse at 4:00 so you can simply bring your donation to rehearsal.

Black Folders

A couple of times a year we do a choir order of black folders, sturdy, with pockets, elastic bands and detachable ringbinder. The cost is approximately \$30 each. If you would like to be included in the black folder order, please sign up on the list.

Concert Dress

Any ECC women who have not signed up for a concert dress consultation, please sign up on the list at rehearsal or contact the choir office.

Practicing with YouTube

Greg Williams sent this helpful tip: There's a control in YouTube that adjusts the playback speed without altering the pitches. Under the Settings icon (the gear), there's a Playback Speed control. You can choose 0.25, 0.5 or 0.75 the "normal" speed, and there's even a slider control that lets you pick your own playback speed. Working on Gamelan, of course, the slower speed is very helpful.

Posting in the Newsletter

This newsletter is put together every week for our special choir communication. If you have something you would like to have posted that would be interesting or helpful for your fellow choir members, you can send your message to Troy at the choir email:

Choir@EugeneConcertChoir.org.

Please send by Friday at 10:00 am of the week prior to the next rehearsal.

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