

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

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Dear Singers,

It is an exciting time of year – heading into the holidays with Thanksgiving leading into Christmas, Hanukkah, Solstice, or whatever you celebrate. In addition to the excitement, many people also feel stress, and it has been a particularly stressful year. That is where we come in. Let's give our community that joyous, carefree experience that will provide at least an afternoon of respite in our *Holiday Celebration* concert on December 12. For all of us, that means that we work hard, prepare, focus, and organize all that needs to be done to present the most wonderful production we can – studying and knowing your music, gathering whatever costume and outfit pieces and accessories will enhance your look, paying attention to calendar schedules and making whatever arrangements you need to in advance so we come together, free to express ourselves unanimously in song and spirit.

Joyfully,
Diane

Renaissance costuming for EVA

From Mary MacDiarmid, Renaissance Costume Coordinator: If you have questions or concerns regarding the fit of your costume, please text Mary at 541-606-2592. (No phone calls, please.) Mary will respond to your text regarding fitting and fixing.

We outfitted the EVA women last week and will be outfitting the men this week. If you miss out on being costumed, please be in contact with Diane through email at diane@eugeneconcertchoir.org regarding your rehearsal attendance so we may arrange for your costume fitting.

ECC Dickens and Concert Dress

ECC members will wear two different sets of attire in the *Holiday Celebration* concert and will change in the middle of the program. For those who are members of both EVA and ECC, your costuming is a little more complicated.

ECC First half of concert – We are going for a Dickens look. Dickens Costume Coordinator Robin Philips will bring accessories like hats, scarves, and aprons to rehearsal next week, November 30, and ECC members can check them out. EVA members will check out capes to cover their Renaissance dress.

The concert will start with the ECC Dickens look and there is very little time for EVA members to change into Renaissance attire, so we are planning for EVA to be in Renaissance dress, with a cape over it, and then remove the cape and re-enter the stage.

Men may be able to do a quick change of pants in booths backstage. There will be a 3-minute instrumental feature between the ECC Dickens set and the EVA Renaissance set.

ECC Second half of concert – After intermission, ECC will wear your concert dress – men in tuxedos with wing collar shirt and bow tie, women in their choice of the ECC dress or separates. Everyone accessorize with colorful bow ties, cummerbunds, pocket swatches, or scarves to give the dress a festive appearance.

Attendance: What do you do if you are sick?

For many years, choir members have attended rehearsals and sat on the sidelines when they were sick, with the dedication of not wanting to miss out on any rehearsals. Wonderful commitment, but those days are over. We have new technology to assist us, and different protocols regarding health concerns. If you have any symptoms of any illness, please stay home and catch us on Zoom. Then get yourself a COVID test. The Hult Center has its own lab doing COVID-19 PCR tests with results within two hours.

Some of you are aware that the Broadway show *An Officer and a Gentleman* canceled due to COVID issues within their production. We will not be canceling our show. All of our performers, staff and crew are vaccinated, and according to the CDC, even if there is a case of COVID, participants who are vaccinated do not need to quarantine.

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Carnegie Hall Payments and Recruiting

We have some new recruits for the Carnegie Hall Brahms *Requiem* performance on June 20, 2022, and thank you to those who have suggested other choir connections to make!

Our first deposit was \$300, second deposit due now is \$200, and a third deposit due before January 15 is also \$200. New recruits, catch up with us for the total due now, and anyone who wants to pay through the January deposit, your payments are welcome. The balance of the \$949 total participation fee will be due in April.

All non-performer accompanying members who want to join us, a \$300 deposit is due to sign up, and the balance of your \$499 payment will be due with the final payment in April.

Come one, come all. The more, the merrier! And if anyone else has suggestions of additional choirs to contact, please let Diane know. She has really stuck her neck out and personally guaranteed the balance of funds needed to reach the full 150 participant fee. (Yikes!)

The Eugene Recital Club

The Recital Club is an informal, monthly gathering of vocal music lovers who perform songs and duets (classical, folk, musical theater, and more) for each other in a supportive environment.

Camilla Carter is the pianist, and her fee is \$10 or less for singing at the event. You are encouraged to rehearse with her (or at least send her your music) ahead of time; please contact Camilla for details at ricammie@gmail.com. Attending the Recital Club just to listen is free. Attendees are requested to be vaccinated and wear a mask.

The next meeting of the Eugene Recital Club is on Friday, December 17, at 7:30 p.m. at the home of Anne and Mark Dean: 2937 Ingalls Way. For more information about the Recital Club, please contact Jenny Love (lovejm@lanecc.edu).

Help Spread the News!

Eugene Concert Choir and Eugene Vocal Arts, along with renowned soul singer Theresa Thomason and a combo led by guitarist Don Latarski, will joyfully bring in the spirit of the season with their concert *A Holiday Celebration* on December 12, 2021 at 2:30 pm.

Artistic Director and Conductor Diane Retallack will lead the celebration as Christmas carols and glorious expressoins of jubilation fill the Silva Concert Hall. The full-voiced Eugene Concert Choir will remind us all what a great big, luscious choir sounds like, and the "Lords and Ladies" of Eugene Vocal Arts will harken back to Times of Olde with Renaissance carols, motets and madrigals in elaborate Elizabethan dress.

You may purchase tickets in person at the Hult Center Box Office, by phone at (541) 682-5000, or online at the Eugene Concert Choir website, EugeneConcertChoir.org/A-Holiday-Celebration

For non-ticket related questions, please contact the Concert Choir office at (541) 687-6865, or you can email us at choir@eugeneconcertchoir.org

There are quarter sheets and other marketing materials available at the office. We encourage you to share this information with your friends and family in the area, and look forward to another exciting performance.

Michelle Ferguson, Marketing Director
Troy DeShazer, Office Administrator

HAPPY THANKSGIVING EVERYONE!

Don't forget to set your scales back 10 lbs this weekend.

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