

Eugene Concert Choir & Eugene Vocal Arts

Choir Newsletter 2023–2024

Published on November 6, 2023

Dear Singers,

Always my favorite time of year—concert week! We open our season with *La Fête Française*.

I love putting all of our hard work together and making the music come alive for our audience. I often think through what an audience has gone through to get to a concert—planning, purchase, transportation, baby-sitting? elder care? deciding to spend their time with us rather than anything else in their lives—and I rejoice in the once-in-a-lifetime shared experience we will all have together. And in this world of devastating atrocities, how fortunate we are that we get to do this.

Diane

Opening our Season with *La Fête Française*

Pass the word, everyone! The best way to sell tickets is by word of mouth. Eugene Vocal Arts is singing luscious and impressionistic French music by Lili Boulanger, Saint-Saëns and Debussy. Our soprano soloist Brooklyn Snow will knock everyone's socks off with the humorous "Doll Aria" from *The Tales of Hoffman*, her husband tenor Matt Greenblatt sings a pleading aria by composer Lalo, and baritone Zachary Lenox thrillingly boasts his exploits as the bullfighter in the Toreador Song from *Carmen*. All that, and we get to experience the big sound of the Gounod *St. Cecilia Mass*, with EVA plus members of the Berlin Chorus and our orchestra, in the small Soreng Theater! Don't miss this opportunity!

The Practice Corner

Eugene Vocal Arts and ECC Berlin Choir – *You know what you need to do!*

Eugene Concert Choir – Be thoroughly prepared on ALL of your Christmas music.

What to expect next week?

Eugene Vocal Arts will shift gears and launch into our Christmas concert music, Renaissance dancing, Elizabethan costume fitting, and acting and pageantry for our Boar's Head Feast re-enactment.

Eugene Concert Choir will begin adding action to our Christmas music, which will all be sung in moving mixed formations, and Robin Philips and Kim Wollter will help everyone put together their Victorian (Dickens) and Mummer costume ideas.

Concert Week – *La Fête Française*

Please see the Concert Information Sheet for *La Fête Française*.

Costuming – Eugene Concert Choir

Robin Philips and Kim Wollter will bring the Dickens costume materials to rehearsal on Tuesday, November 14. Tables will be set up in the foyer to check out items from 6:30 to 7:15 pm. Please be sure Kim or Robin records all your costume items.

For Mummer attire, individuals traditionally wore some sort of disguise—hood, face scarf, mask, etc. Animal masks were also worn. (Hirons on 18th is the place to go for masks.) Cross-dressing was also a common Mummer practice. For adventuresome male choir members, we have white servant caps and aprons of all sizes—that get-up would add authenticity and humor to the tableau. Women can wear fake mustaches and bears. (Hirons has them too, or did before Halloween.)

The 12 foot-length black velvet capes will be most effective with an ornate mask (especially with feathers) and a black bowler or top hat (we have many of these).

Please be aware that it may be difficult to wear an ornate mask while wearing eyeglasses.

Costuming – Eugene Vocal Arts

Mary MacDiarmid is our Elizabethan costume coordinator. We will bring costumes to EVA rehearsal next week and start assigning them to singers, and assess who needs special arrangements.

Solo Auditions for ECC

Diane will hold solo auditions during rehearsal, next Tuesday, November 14. If you are interested in an audition, please sign up this week.

More on back. . .

Upstart Crow Youth Theatre Performance

Upstart Crow Youth Theatre presents Roald Dahl's Matilda the Musical, Jr. this weekend at Lane Community College's Ragazzino Performance Hall. Vocal Director Jill Switzer (also ECC Soprano and Staff) invites you to attend.

Fun for the whole family!

Performances:

Fri. Nov. 10th at 7pm

Sat. Nov 11 at 2pm & 7pm

Sun. Nov 12 at 2pm (consider sharing this time with friends and family who may not be attending Eugene Vocal Arts' concert on Sun.)

Use code 006F20P for 20% off tickets.

Eugene Concert Choir | 174 East 16th Avenue, Suite 135, Eugene, OR 97401
(541) 687-6865 | Choir@EugeneConcertChoir.org | EugeneConcertChoir.org
Diane Retallack, Artistic & Executive Director
Alyssa Morar, Marketing & PR Director | Troy DeShazer, Operations Director