

Eugene Concert Choir & Eugene Vocal Arts

Choir Newsletter 2023–2024

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Dear Singers

We had such a landmark year 2023, I found myself reluctant to let it go. From the *Missa Gaia* with the Paul Winter Consort, to the *Tango Mass* with Martín Palmeri, Giovanni Parra, Camille Ortiz and the dancers, to our spectacular *Black is Beautiful* project with our dear friends Eugene Rogers, Joel Thompson, and EXIGENCE, and then launching into a very successful *Highlights & Harmony* Gala, a delightful *La Fête Française* concert and quite an entertaining *Merry Olde English Christmas*, and for some of us, a trip to Berlin in the summer for a massive and gorgeous Brahms Requiem, the year 2023 was full to overflowing.

I am only able to move on because we have so many wonderful events and opportunities to come in the New Year 2024. Welcome back, and let's keep singing.

Diane

Welcome New and Returning Members

Eugene Vocal Arts:

Sierra Kaup – Soprano 2
Alec Murphy – Bass 2 (returning)

Eugene Concert Choir:

Karen Stingle – Soprano 1 (returning)
Leah Dodrill – Soprano 1 (returning)
Emma Jones – Soprano 2
Melissa Nixon – Soprano 2
Elizabeth Tomasino – Alto 1
Marian Brod – Alto 1 (returning)
Tina Mickelson – Alto 1 (returning)
Pauline Rughani – Alto 2 (returning)
Nancy Evergreen – Alto 2 (returning)
Joey Valko – Tenor 1
Martyn Lindley – Tenor 2 (returning)
Maverick Kalvig – Bass 1
John Bredesen – Bass 2 (returning)
Matt Laubach – Bass 2 (returning)

Black is Beautiful CDs

Our *Black is Beautiful* CDs have arrived! They are \$20 to purchase, payable to Eugene Concert Choir. This enormous project was a labor of love on the part of so many participants. PARMA Records, Navona Label, will officially release the recording on February 9 on all streaming and download platforms for digital distribution. The record label no longer distributes physical product. These CDs are the property of Eugene Concert Choir, to sell and retain the revenue. Diane is immensely proud of our performance!

Tango Mass Video

The video of the *Tango Mass* concert has been released in its entirety for everyone's enjoyment for free on our YouTube channel. If you have not already viewed it through our E-news and social media posts, you can find the *Tango Mass* video on our EugeneConcertChoir.org website.

Music Theory Handouts

From Diane: Years ago, I put together some Music Theory Handouts to elevate the musicianship of the Choir. I recently found these handouts and intend to distribute them a couple at a time at each rehearsal. Please read my introduction. Although it was written in 1997(!), much of it still applies. If the handouts are too elementary for your level of training, please just glance through them and return them so we may retain them to distribute to others. If you find the handouts useful, I would suggest you get a notebook and collect each handout each week to build yourself a Music Theory notebook.

Resources for Music Practice

Check out the EugeneConcertChoir.org "For Choir Members" page (link at the very bottom of the homepage). There are lots of resources posted there. A music colleague by the name of John Hodgson has created practice recordings for every voice part for *Carmina Burana*. The site is abracadenz.ca, and there is a link posted on our For Choir Members page. We also have a pronunciation recording for the text, which is in German Latin and Middle High German. Texts and translations are posted, and links to musical performances of some of the repertoire. And of course we will post our Zoom rehearsal recordings. Peruse and make use of this resource!

Trip to Berlin and Music

It is not too late to join us for the performance of the Gounod *St. Cecilia Mass* and Mendelssohn's *Die erste Walpurgisnacht* at the Berlin Philharmonie Kammermuziksaal on June 26, 2024. Information and registration link are posted on our For Choir Members page of our website.

For those traveling to Berlin, in addition to singing the two major works at the Philharmonie, we have been invited to perform for the main church service on Sunday evening, June 23, at the Berlin Cathedral. We will perform several selections that will be prepared for our *Music of the Americas* concert. If you are going to Berlin, ECC members please do not return these pieces after the concert, and EVA members who are not singing in the *Music of the Americas* concert will be able to check out the musical scores to these pieces after the *Music of the Americas* concert, when those who are not traveling to Berlin return their scores. This is the repertoire you will need:

Simple Gifts
Hope, Faith, Life, Love
My Heart Be Brave
Lift Every Voice and Sing

The Practice Corner

Next week, Eugene Vocal Arts will work on –

Chinese folksongs 1 and 2
Ang Tren, m. 1 - 66
I Came to Your Shore as a Wayfaring Stranger
Rasa Sayang, m. 1 - 38
Unending Love

Next week, Eugene Concert Choir will work on –

Simple Gifts
hope, faith, life, love
My Heart Be Brave
Lift Every Voice and Sing
Te Quiero
Carmina Burana, mvt. 5 Ecce Gratum
Walpurgisnacht, mvt. 4 Verteilt euch Wackre
Manner Hier

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