

Eugene Concert Choir & Eugene Vocal Arts

Choir Newsletter 2023–2024

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Dear Singers,

Last week we were all faced with challenges and a test as to what is really important in our lives. Greg and I were trapped on our hill of ice, about 5 days of it without power. But our son Nick had been visiting and tried to drive home to San Francisco a week ago Saturday to beat the settling in of the storm. In the bad conditions, he crashed his car on Siskiyou Pass. The car was totaled, but he walked away unscathed. And in light of that overwhelming relief, nothing we experienced rose to a level of concern. Greg and I sat in the dark, candles around the room, feet on the hearth warmed by a wood fire in the fireplace, flashlights trained on books to read, and felt enormously fortunate. I hope all of you have coped, and I am happy to hear you all bring the sound of voices joined together harmoniously back into my life.

Diane

Accompanists This Week

Both of our accompanists are involved in other musical ventures this week. Please welcome our substitute accompanists:

Eugene Vocal Arts – Michelle Suleiman
Eugene Concert Choir – Barbara Baird

New Choir Member

We were remiss in not introducing new Eugene Concert Choir soprano II Cecilia Ramirez at the start of this half of the season!

Our apologies to Cecilia. She was planning to move to Eugene and actually auditioned for ECC last fall and was accepted. You may remember that she came to part of a rehearsal and was introduced at that time. Troy and Diane both got so used to consider Cecilia a member of the Choir, they missed putting her on the “new choir member” list when she actually joined us. Welcome, Cecilia.

The Practice Corner

Eugene Vocal Arts – We have an addition to our repertoire: Always with Me, by Youmi Kimura, from the animated film *Spirited Away*, directed by Hayao Miyazaki.

At our last EVA rehearsal, Diane expressed that she hadn't really found a piece by a Japanese composer and asked the group if they had any suggestions. Sage Harms spoke up about a beautiful piece arranged for choir that was performed at a wedding he had attended. So thank you to Sage for this lovely addition to the Asian Fusion concert.

Over the deep freeze, Nathalie got busy and recorded all of the individual choral parts for Rasa Sayang, and Troy posted them on our For Choir Members page of the ECC website. Peruse the

excellent rehearsal resources on that page!

With the interruption in our rehearsal plan last week, we will practice whatever comes up next.

Eugene Concert Choir – Jill Switzer recorded the pronunciation of all of the Spanish language repertoire of *Music of the Americas*, and Troy has posted them on the For Choir Members page of the ECC website. Please visit those rehearsal resources. We will rehearse the Spanish language pieces next week.

Volunteers Needed for Kids Concert

All Americas for Kids on Saturday, February 24 is fast approaching! We are in need of 5 volunteers to assist with crafts in the lobby and 15 volunteers to assist as a school liaisons (hold sign where designated school will be seated). We would need you to meet in the Hult lobby at 12:30 that day.

This year we will be making Chilean arpilleras (landscapes) out of foam shapes and/or Zampoñas (panpipes) out of straws. We have 15 schools participating this year, reaching 1,040 students. Last year we had approximately 250 students participate in the concert the day of, so we are anticipating a similar number this concert as well. If you and/or a family member or friend are willing to help, please sign up here:

<https://forms.gle/vtWNSTjpgQ2aLoM56>

or on the sign up sheet at rehearsal. Please direct any questions/concerns to our music education director at jill@eugeneconcertchoir.org

Thank you for your support of this fun event!

Continue on the back. . .

Emerald Chamber Orchestra

Presenting a chamber music concert featuring piano soloist Richard Guy and oboeist Jaclyn LaRue, performing Elfrida Andrée's *Piano Quartet in A Minor for Piano and Strings* and Antonio Marcello's *Oboe Concerto in D Minor*. And compositions by CPE Bach and Antonio Vivaldi.

Join Emerald Chamber Orchestra for a cup of selected hot teas and cookies during the intermission. The concert is on Sunday, January 28, 2:00 pm, at the Auditorium of Christian Science Church, 14th and Pearl St in Eugene.

Suggested donation of \$10.

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