

Eugene Concert Choir & Eugene Vocal Arts Choir Newsletter 2023–2024

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Dear Singers,

Thank you, Eugene Concert Choir members, for stepping up to perform the *Music of the Americas* and *All Americas for Kids* concerts so well. It is difficult to perform a concert of a cappella and piano-accompanied repertoire in which you are almost continuously singing—rather than in a major work with orchestral passages and soloist arias—and each piece is only a few minutes long, so it takes a lot of different songs to fill a concert. Most large masterworks choruses don't even have the capability to sing so well in tune throughout an a cappella piece, and what you all did was quite impressive. It was challenging repertoire, many languages, many styles, and not enough time. Any yet you all made it happen. I promise, we will not be so close to the edge for the next concert.

Thank you to all our excellent soloists and to our fine accompanist, Caleb Saunders. And the concerts we so much enhanced by our terrific Americas Ensemble and by the wonderful music and beautiful spirit of our Native American guests Fish Martinez and Brent Florendo.

Our "For Kids" concerts are becoming increasingly successful, and I want to extend a huge thank you and congratulations to our Music Education Director Jill Switzer and assistants Kami Hendrix and Angela Asato. The Kids were fantastic!

Diane

ECC Website Resources

Be sure to visit the For Choir Members page on our website for practice resources for the repertoire for both the Asian Fusion concert and the Mendelssohn/Orff spring concert. Troy just posted pronunciation for the Chinese Folksongs for EVA.

Music Theory Lessons

For ECC, Diane has resumed setting out the Music Theory handouts. Starting next week, Diane will hold short Music Theory sessions in the Youth classroom from 6:45–7:05 pm. Anyone who is interested, bring along your Music Theory lesson sheets. She will further explain and take questions.

Bravissimo Cabaret Dinner Auditions

Our *Bravissimo* Cabaret Dinner Fundraiser to celebrate the conclusion of our season is scheduled for Friday, May 10, at the Eugene Country Club. Rather than having the choirs perform at this event, we are looking for fun and funny "cabaret" performances, parodies and comedy skits from soloists or groups.

Start thinking about what you might come up with that would be entertaining. Auditions for performance at the *Bravissimo* event are tentatively scheduled for Monday, March 15, but Diane may hear auditions at other times as well. Use your imagination and get together with fellow singers for a fun song or skit.

Looking Ahead to Next Season

The Hult Center asked us to move our Midseason concert to a later date to accommodate a scheduling conflict, so please note especially the March concert date for 2024–2025.

Some of you plan your vacations and other travel well in advance, and we appreciate it when you consider the Eugene Concert Choir season concerts and events when you make your plans. Here are our dates, and which choirs will be participating in which concerts.

Eugene Concert Choir and Eugene Vocal Arts
Highlights & Harmony Gala Fundraiser
Friday, October 18, 2024 at the Graduate

Eugene Vocal Arts Fall Concert
Sunday, November 17, 2024, at 2:30 pm,
Soren Theater, Hult Center

Eugene Concert Choir Holiday Concert
Sunday, December 15, 2024, at 2:30 pm,
Silva Concert Hall, Hult Center

Eugene Concert Choir and Eugene Vocal Arts
Midseason Concert
Sunday, March 9, 2025, 2:30 pm,
Silva Concert Hall, Hult Center

For Kids concert Saturday, March 8 at 2:30 pm

Continues on back. . .

Eugene Vocal Arts Spring Concert
Sunday, April 13, 2025, 2:30 pm,
Soreng Theater, Hult Center

Eugene Concert Choir Spring Concert
Sunday, May 4, 2025, 2:30 pm,
Silva Concert Hall, Hult Center

Members of Eugene Concert Choir and
Eugene Vocal Arts
Bravissimo Cabaret Dinner 5:00 pm, immediately
following the final concert

Etiquette at the Hult Center

As we look forward to our April concerts at the Hult Center for the Performing Arts, I want to remind you all of some backstage etiquette.

Remember that you are sharing the backstage with Hult staff and other performing arts organizations, and just because you are not in performance, does not mean someone else is not.

On Saturday evening, this past weekend, there was a performance in Soreng Theater—the same time ECC was rehearsing their Americas concert. It was reported that we were so loud that they could hear us up in the neighboring hall. Please try to keep the chatter to a minimum while backstage.

If you wish to converse with one another, use the dressing rooms or the Studio.

Fire and security doors need not be propped open. The Hult Center takes its security protocols quite seriously, and for every concert we present, we must produce a security list so that the security staff know who to admit backstage.

Propping doors and leaving them open increases the chances of someone getting backstage that is not supposed to be there.

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