

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

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Dear Singers,

So many good things to come! One more week for Eugene Vocal Arts to prepare our exquisite *Asian Fusion* concert for our April 7 performance, fully into major work preparation for *Carmina Burana* and *Die erste Walpurgisnacht*, a Community Sing to share highlights of *Carmina Burana* in workshop rehearsal with interested community members, soliciting humorous and entertaining auditions for our *Bravissimo Cabaret Dinner* fundraiser, solidifying arrangements to travel to Berlin! . . . Life and the news can be seriously challenging and depressing, but we have good things to do that are important, not only to raise our spirits, but to lift the spirits of our community.

Enjoy these times we get to share together.

Diane

## Post-concert Receptions

You all work so hard to accomplish our art at the highest standards, giving of your time, talent, effort and commitment.

The next two concerts will include post-concert receptions to reward you all.

### *Asian Fusion*

Eugene Vocal Arts members and their significant others, and selected high-level donors, are invited to a post-concert reception at White Lotus Gallery, 767 Willamette St, immediately following the concert, generously hosted by Hue-Ping Lin, owner of White Lotus Gallery.

### *Carmina Burana & Walpurgis Night*

Eugene Concert Choir & Orchestra, and donors of all levels are invited to a post-concert reception at the Hult Center Studio immediately following the concert, generously sponsored by Diane and Greg Retallack.

## What Will You Hear at Asian Fusion?

From Diane:

This season, we have been presenting concerts that take us on a journey around the world. Our next stop is our concert entitled *Asian Fusion*, performed by our chamber choir Eugene Vocal Arts.

I am so excited to introduce to you the living composers of this gorgeous, fascinating, enchanting repertoire. We begin with charming Chinese folksongs arranged by Chen Yi. Philippine composer Saundra Choi mixes the traditional American folksong "I Am a Poor Wayfaring Stranger" with his haunting melodies on poetic text by Indian writer Tagore, and then we are

racing along with a riveting piece that imitates the sounds of a train – but it is a train in our commuter society that takes the one you love away from you. This program is filled with the expressions of our common feelings of love, longing, play and joy in the universal language of music. From Indonesian composer Cherly Susanti's heart-tugging lament for those we missed during the isolation of the pandemic, to Malaysian composer Vivian Chua's jaunty close-harmony vocal jazz, we find a world that unifies us all – a fusion of east and west. Don't miss this extraordinary, intimate, very personal experience, with *Asian Fusion*, Sunday, April 7, at 2:30 pm at the Hult Center, Soreng Theater.

## Bravissimo Auditions

We have already gotten some great acts to perform at our *Bravissimo Cabaret Dinner* Fundraiser, Friday, May 10, at 6:00 pm at the Eugene Country Club. Performers are given comp tickets for the banquet dinner. If you have a fun, entertaining act together, write your name or group and a title or description of the act in Diane's Note Pad, and she will be in touch with the main contact person to set up an audition. Solo songs, duets, combos or ensembles, song parodies or spoken acts are welcome.

## Community Sing!

Invite members of the community who would like to experience what it is like to rehearse parts of a major choral work to sign up for our *Carmina Burana Community Sing*.

The event is Saturday, April 13, from 1:00–4:00 pm at Emmaus Lutheran Church. Diane Retallack will rehearse highlights of *Carmina Burana*, including the famous "O Fortuna."

Continue on back. . .

Other selections will be: 2. Fortune Plango Vulnera; 5. Ecce Gratum; 7. Floret Silva; 10. Were, diu werlt alle min; and 24. Ave Formosissima.

There is no charge to the community for this event, but we request a suggested \$10 donation. There are fliers to distribute at rehearsal and an online registration form on our website.

***Eugene Concert Choir and Eugene Vocal Arts members are encouraged to come to support the community singers.*** ECC and EVA members don't need to sign up through the registration process, and there is no cost or donation requested for current members to attend.

## **Tango Mass on KWAX**

Eugene Vocal Arts' *Tango Mass* concert from last spring will air on Classical Oregon, KWAX 91.1 this Friday, March 29 at 10:00 am. Relive the dynamic *Misa a Buenos Aires*, featuring composer Martín Palmeri on the piano, the haunting sounds of the bandoneon played by Giovanni Parra of Bogota, Colombia, gorgeous soprano Camille Ortiz, and Eugene Vocal Arts and Eugene Concert Orchestra. You will hear all of the tango music from the concert, but visions of the dancing will just need to be in your mind.

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