



Choir Newsletter

2024-2025

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Dear Singers,

I am excited to get this wonderful concert season going! We have so many things going on at once, it is a whirlwind in and out of the office with staff, board and volunteers. I am thrilled to hear the choirs coalescing into beautiful ensembles, and looking forward to sharing what we have to offer to the community.

There are so many times I just want to say THANK YOU! to so many who make this organization work. Our board members spent a Sunday afternoon revising our 5-year long-range vision at a board retreat, and making plans for our Gala fundraiser. John Bredesen, Mike Bricker, and now also Chris Dobson and marketing director Alyssa Morar, are working on ways to make our rehearsal recordings of better quality – please bear with us as we try new things. Jill Switzer is juggling a million little new things as she navigates her new Office Administrator position while continuing to be our Music Education Director. Teresa Lin does her awesome job of organizing a library of music for both choirs. And the ECC section leaders, EVA representative, and Choir Ops Chair Theresa Wymer are all seeing to the needs of their section and attendance reports. Auction volunteers have been galvanized into action. And Nancy Hopps has written a terrific play to integrate into the Eugene Vocal Arts ensemble’s Renaissance concert music. Concert dress coordinator Susan Morrison will be outfitting ECC members, and Mary MacDiarmid will be costuming EVA in Elizabethan Dress. AND – everyone is learning their concert music! How wonderful all of you are!

Diane

Midtown Arts Performance

A BIG THANK YOU to all of the singers who made time in their weekend on September 22 to come perform for residents of the Midtown and some of the guests from the Tate building. It was a wonderfully successful event, and the choir singers represented you all well. The residents of the Midtown are holding events to meet the arts organizations that are housed in their building. Former mayor Kitty Piercy, organizer of the event, sent: “A big thanks to Diane and all our concert singers.” It was an enthusiastic group of about 25 residents who really appreciated our presentation, and several of them signed up on our mailing list, took brochures, bought *Black is Beautiful* CDs, and took Gala invitations. Diane got that same comment from one of the attendees that she often hears when we perform in a room, up close and personal, that it is such an amazing experience to be in the same room with the voices!

Midtown performers, please return your music to Teresa Lin.

Eugene Vocal Arts – Casting the Play

Our plan is for Nancy Hopps to take individuals or groups out to another room during the rehearsal to run callbacks, while Diane is rehearsing the music. After the rehearsal, Diane and Nancy will confer on casting the roles and you will be notified later this week when decisions have been made. Thank you to all those who have expressed interest, or willingness when prodded, to tackle a speaking role.

Merchandise for Sale

We have the following for sale:

Black folders \$30

Messiah scores \$12

Eugene Concert Choir T-shirts \$20

Please pay with exact cash or check made payable to Eugene Concert Choir.

Board Members Emeritus and Distinguished Philanthropy

It has been a while since our Board of Directors has invited past board members to become board members emeritus. We have three former board members who have been invited this year to join the Board Members Emeritus, and they will be recognized at this year's *Highlights and Harmony* Gala: John Bredesen, Jennifer McConochie, and Debra Dean. All three of these outstanding former board members meet this emeritus policy:

The Eugene Concert Choir would like to recognize selected former board members for their extraordinary contribution and service to the advancement and well-being of the Eugene Concert Choir organization. These individuals have:

- served on the Board of Directors with distinction
- held an important leadership role that has made a difference to the organization
- made or continued to make significant contributions to the organization
- engaged in major volunteer or advocacy activities in their service on the board

In addition to the Board Member Emeritus position, John Bredesen will also be honored with the Rosaria Haugland Distinguished Philanthropy Award for his decades-long generous monetary contributions to the Eugene Concert Choir organization. Thank you, John.

The Practice Corner

EVA – Every English Madrigal Ever – Cross out verse 2. We will just sing 4 verses: 1, 3, 4, 5. Continue with Make Our Garden Grow. Add Fair Phyllis, The Queen to Me a Royal Pain Doth Give, and My Bonny Lass She Smelleth (which will need to be memorized).

ECC – Continue with Make Our Garden Grow (Correction: p. 9 last measure of top system, final note should be an E natural for the Basses), the “Kyrie” from the Mozart *Requiem* and No. 25 “And With His Stripes” from *Messiah*. Add No. 26 “All We Like Sheep” and No. 28 “He Trusted in God.”

Highlights & Harmony Gala Updates

The Order of Events is available in the lobby. Everyone please take a copy.

Please continue to solicit donations of items and either bring them to choir rehearsal or drop them off at the office. Letters and forms are available in the lobby, and also on our website as a fillable form. Debra Dean is putting together a Holiday basket; if anyone would like to contribute, please sign up. The deadline to submit items for our live and silent auction is just around the corner,

Friday, October 4!

We are still in need of a few more volunteers & items to make the event a success:

- Raffle Ticket Sellers – at least 4 more people
- Decorations – at least 2 more people
- Closers - at least 2 more people
- Desserts for the Dessert Dash – at least 2 more
- Wine for the Wall of Wine – at least 20 more bottles!

Eugene Opera Auditions

Eugene Opera is excited to announce local auditions for future casting opportunities, including the roles of Count Ceprano, Countess Ceprano, and Giovanna as well as chorus members in our upcoming January 2025 production of *Rigoletto*. Interested performers are invited to submit their resume to info@eugeneopera.org for consideration. The company manager will reach out to schedule your audition, which will take place on September 28th between 12:00 PM and 4:00 PM. Auditionees should prepare **two arias in contrasting styles and languages**. Preference will be given to those who include at least one aria in Italian. We look forward to discovering talented voices to bring this classic opera to life!

Eugene Concert Choir

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