

## ECC/EVAE Newsletter, October 1 & 2, 2007

### **Great Hult 25 performance!**

Note from Diane: The Eugene Concert Choir performance at the Hult 25 Resident Companies showcase concert was terrific! I was so proud to be associated with this fine choir. People who spoke to me absolutely raved about your performance. "I went to heaven with the choir," was one comment I heard. I wish I could have heard it from the house, but I was assured that the choir came through strong, beautiful, and inspiring. What a great night it was to celebrate the tremendous talent of local performers we have in this community! I even found myself thinking, "I should go to more performances of these companies." Maybe this will translate into increased ticket sales for all of us.

### **Ticket sales**

On the subject of ticket sales, we have an upcoming concert that needs the attention of all of us. The Eugene Vocal Arts Ensemble and Eugene Concert Choir are both choirs within the Eugene Concert Choir organization. We share the same budget, administration, board, and artistic direction, and the success of both choirs is interwoven and interdependent. Let's take this buzz from the Hult 25 performance and try to turn it into ticket sales for the Eugene Vocal Arts Ensemble's *Mostly Mozart* concert. The concert dates are Saturday and Sunday, October 20 and 21, which is not very far away.

#### **Ways that you can help us promote the concert:**

- Word of mouth, the proven and documented number one way to impact ticket sales: tell people about the concert.
- Buy tickets yourself and invite friends and family to go with you.
- Put up posters and hand out fliers.
- Take a publicity notice to be put in your church bulletin.
- Organize a group for group ticket sales (contact the ECC office about group discount rates).

#### **The importance of ticket sales to our very existence:**

There is a new issue that is essential to our existence as an organization. Requirements to remain a Resident Company of the Hult Center have just changed, and now it will be a requirement that we meet a certain threshold of ticket sales. The threshold has been set higher than our last season's ticket sales. If we do not increase our ticket sales over last season, we will lose our Hult Residency status. Just as the Hult Center has provided a professional venue to the community for 25 years, the resident companies have grown because of the venue.

The Eugene Concert Choir as an organization has grown and developed along with the Hult Center, and we would not survive as this organization if we lost our Hult Residency status. The new ticket sales requirement is the greatest threat to our existence that we have ever faced. It is truly ironic to have this threat facing us after just having demonstrated our quality and value as a resident company in the concert this past weekend. But it is up to us to prove that we bring economic as well as artistic value to the Hult Center and the community. We can do it if everyone pitches in and gives ticket sales some effort.

Ticket sales are measured in Patron User Fee (PUF), the \$2 per ticket fee collected by the City of Eugene. At whatever price a ticket sells, the PUF is charged, unless the ticket is complimentary. Therefore, we will not be issuing Buy-One-Get-One-Free tickets to the choir, but 50% off coupons, so that both tickets will generate a PUF. We need to fill our seats with paying customers throughout our season.

### **Volunteers needed to distribute posters**

From Deb Rogers: We need volunteers to distribute posters for the *Mostly Mozart* concert. Once again, Poppie Designs has done an outstanding job of creating beautiful art work for this season! The posters are usually made up in rolls of 50. In exchange for hanging them throughout town, you can earn a voucher for two free tickets to the concert. The posters will be printed on Wednesday, October 3. They should be delivered to the Choir office either Thursday or Friday of this week. If you are willing to help distribute posters, please contact Deb at the office, 687-6865, and she'll give you a call when they are ready. Thank you.

### ***Mostly Mozart* concert**

On Saturday, October 20 at 8:00 p.m. and Sunday, October 21 at 2:30 p.m. in the Soreng Theater at the Hult Center, the Eugene Vocal Arts Ensemble, with members of the Oregon Mozart Players and four stellar soloists, will perform a beautiful concert of some of the finest gems of chamber music ever written. The program is as follows:

- Opening movement of C.P.E. Bach's *Magnificat*
- Mozart's lovely *Ave Verum*
- Mozart's brilliant *Esxultate Jubilate*, featuring soprano Laura Decher Wayte
- Gorgeous anthems by Mendelssohn and Brahms
- Mozart's *Coronation Mass*

### Return borrowed scores

From Librarian Teresa Lin: Please return your borrowed *Carmina Burana* scores to Teresa, your section leader, or the Choir office, 1590 Willamette Street, Suite 400, 687-6865. Thank you.

### Eugene Vocal Arts Ensemble retreat

From Diane: To prepare for this upcoming concert and intensify the focus of our sound and blend, EVAE will hold its annual rehearsal retreat this weekend, Friday and Saturday, at the Girl Scout Camp, Stafford House, in Jasper, Oregon. Maps and directions are available at rehearsal. Carpooling is encouraged. There is very little parking space available. There is no alcohol allowed. Please sign up on the Potluck sheet if you have not already done so. There is a fully outfitted kitchen in Stafford House. Bring a sleeping bag or other bedding and a substantial mattress; we will be sleeping on the floor. If you prefer to drive back and forth to town for the overnight, please return in time for the morning activities. The schedule for the retreat is as follows:

#### Friday, October 5

- 5:00 p.m. Diane arrives at Stafford House and opens the facility for people to arrive
- 6:00 p.m. Potluck dinner
- 7:00 p.m. Rehearsal begins
- 8:30 p.m. Dessert break
- 8:50 p.m. Rehearsal resumes
- 10:00 p.m. Rehearsal concludes and social time and overnight begin

#### Saturday, October 6

- 8:00 a.m. Breakfast
- 9:00 a.m. Rehearsal begins
- 12:00 noon Lunch break and social time
- 1:30 p.m. Rehearsal resumes
- 4:00 p.m. Cleanup of facility: everyone, please pitch in and help. Everyone is released when the venue has been cleaned up.

### Auction baskets

Thanks to all sections for deciding on their basket themes. The themes and coordinators are:

- EVAE *Wicked* Organizer Jill Gillett
- ECC Sopranos *Sunday in the Park with George* Organizers Kat Muller and Zarifah Spain
- ECC Altos *The Secret Garden* Organizers Jackie Kennedy, Judith Knight, and Jennifer McConochie
- ECC Tenors *Pillow Talk* Organizer Mark Warner
- ECC Basses *Brigadoon* Organizer Josh Gitelson

### Wine Cellar raffle

A great fundraising project is our Wine Cellar raffle. We would like to put together a wine cellar worth over \$1,000 in premium wines. It was a great success last year, and we are going to do more to promote it this year and make it easier to sell tickets. We will make up ticket packets you can take with you and sell wherever you are, so we won't be limited to selling raffle tickets only at our events. Tickets will be \$25 each or a packet of five for \$100.

The plan is to start selling Wine Cellar raffle tickets at the *Mostly Mozart* Concert on October 20 and continue through the Auction, the *Messiah* concert, and through individual contacts. The winning ticket will be drawn during intermission at the *Best of Broadway* concert, Sunday, March 9, 2008. How can you help? Get us started by donating or contacting wine merchants to donate the finest premium wines you can gather.

Debbie and Dunny Sorensen have once again agreed to house the wine in their private wine cellar, and Debbie will catalogue the bottles of wine and their values.

### Question for the week

Answer to last week's question for the week: Why do flamingos stand on one leg? Because if they lifted it, they'd fall down.

Question for this week: How many animals of each type did Moses take on the Ark?

Jill Liberty