

ECC/EVAE Newsletter, January 7 & 8, 2008

Happy New Year!

From Diane: Congratulations once more to the Concert Choir for your glorious *Messiah* performance. We are still receiving praise and compliments from audience members. It is wonderful to open envelopes containing donations with "Thank you for your wonderful *Messiah*" scribbled in the margin of the donor card.

Our season: part deux

We look forward to an extraordinary second half of our season.

- March 8 & 9 ECC: *Broadway for Kids* and *Best of Broadway* concerts
- April 4 & 5 EVAE: *Renaissance and Awakenings*
- April 26 ECC (EVAE also invited): *Voices of Eastern Europe*

Every concert is more than just a performance; it is an event. We will need your help in many ways to enhance the experience for everyone. We are planning fun pre-concert activities for the *Broadway for Kids* concert, a pre-concert Renaissance dinner with costumed servers before the *Renaissance and Awakenings* concert, and an educational presentation on the American premiere of the *Croatian Mass* for the *Voices of Eastern Europe* concert. Details on how you can help will follow.

Congratulations to EVAE

From Diane: Did you all see the article in the *Register-Guard* on the best concerts of 2007? Marilyn Farwell picked the Vocal Arts Ensemble's last season *Renaissance* concert as one of her top three concerts for the year! Congrats to EVAE. Let's do it again this year. In fact, let's aim for making the next three concerts the top three concerts of 2008!

Auditions for new members

Just a reminder that we will hold auditions for new members of the Concert Choir and Vocal Arts Ensemble on Thursday, January 10. Pass the word. Interested singers should contact the choir office at 687-6865 or choir@eugeneconcertchoir.org.

Office volunteers needed

Our Administrative Assistant, Deborah Rogers, is on vacation this week and will return January 14. Diane is trying to line up volunteers to assist Deb with some ongoing office tasks.

Can you help with some administrative tasks such as filing, organizing, running errands, or database entry? Diane would like to assemble a small crew of office volunteers to come in at regular weekly times to perform some tasks consistently. Please talk to Diane at rehearsal or send her an email: d.retallack@comcast.net if you would like to help.

The Practice Corner

Diane is bringing back this newsletter item. Every week she will indicate some passages to concentrate on in your preparation. You are always encouraged to work on other parts of our music as well. It is expected that everyone in both choirs will spend some time outside rehearsal in preparation. For next week, please be prepared on the following:

EVAE: "Prologue" from *L'Amfiparnaso* by Vecchi and "Leonardo Dreams of His Flying Machine" by Whitacre

ECC: Movement. I, "Gospodi pomiluj," from *Hrvatska Misa (Croatian Mass)* by Kuljerić
"Circle of Life" from the *Lion King*

Materials to assist in preparation for the *Croatian Mass*

Richard Guy has duplicated a recording of the *Croatian Mass*. He'll be selling recordings for \$1 each. The recording is of a public reading prior to the premiere performance in Croatia. We also have written pronunciation guides for the text, which will be available at rehearsal and online at our website, www.eugeneconcertchoir.org. Click on "Members" to get to "choir member materials."

From Randall Moore, Director of the Oregon Children's Choir

Hosts are needed for Chinese choirs from Beijing at the end of January.

There are 24 people in the Young Women's Choir (ages 22-35) who need housing January 24-30 and 48 children (ages 10-16) and six adults from the National Chinese Children's Choir who need housing January 27-28 and January 31. Hosting responsibilities will include providing sleeping accommodations, some meals, and rides to and from Emerald Baptist Church at 19th & Patterson in Eugene. If you can help, please phone Randall Moore at 345-3958 or e-mail rsmoore37@msn.com.

The Children's and Young Women's Choir will present a joint performance in Beall Hall on Monday, January 28 at 8:00 p.m. Tickets are \$5 to \$7 and are available only at the door. I'm arranging this concert through the School of Music, and Scott Barkhurst is helping to promote it.

Both choirs will perform for the Oregon Children's Choral Festival (OCCF) on Tuesday, January 29 from 1:00-2:30 p.m. in Silva Hall. Tickets at the OCCF registration desk in the Hult Center lobby are \$4. Those tickets will be on sale from 12:30-1:30 on the day of the performance. This concert is primarily for school choirs, but there may be seats available for other people who are interested.

The Young Women's Choir will also perform at the OMEA conference on Friday, January 25 from 1:00-2:50 p.m. at the Hilton Conference Center. I'm trying to arrange another concert for the Young Women's Choir on Saturday or Sunday, January 26 or 27. Any ideas? Contact Randall Moore.

From your scribe

Happy New Year! What is a "New Year," anyway? It depends on what calendar you follow and how you reckon the change from one year to another. It varies historically, nationally, ethnically, and culturally. I doubt that many Greeks or Romans dated their years with the designation "B.C." or "B.C.E."

In Rome and, subsequently, in Britain and other countries, the New Year began on March 1st. The Roman designation makes sense of the names of the last months in our calendar: September, October, November, and December (representing seven, eight, nine, and ten respectively).

It's probably a good thing that we use a solar calendar and just have to insert a Leap Year once in awhile (this year, for example) to keep the seasons straight. I think that the addition of that extra day was the most profound emendation that Pope Gregory made to the estimable solar calendar devised by Julius Caesar.

The ancient Athenians used a lunar calendar, and one time the dates and seasons were so out of sync that they had to insert 13 intercalary months to straighten things out (I'm not making this up).

We humans are a peculiar lot, but we know how to throw a party. *Laissez les bons temps rouler!*

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