

ECC/EVAE Newsletter, March 17 & 18, 2008

Thank you for helping me with rehearsals

From Diane: Thanks so much to Ellen Walton and Vicki Brabham for handling the EVAE rehearsal last Monday and to Barbara Baird, Kat Muller, Mary Walker, Jane Wright, Richard Guy, and Josh Gitelson for agreeing to cover the ECC rehearsal in my absence. Obviously, I was pretty sick; I rarely miss a rehearsal. I wanted to be there with all of you, but I couldn't crawl out of bed. It's great to know we have such terrific people involved with the choirs who can lend a hand when it is needed.

Congratulations!

From Diane: Thank you all for bringing my vision of the Broadway concerts to a terrific reality. They were everything I hoped they would be. You all sang beautifully, and the energy and excitement for every song were magical. We couldn't have asked for better soloists. Laura, Dave, Shirley, and Bill were amazing, and they were also marvelous people to work with. Vicki and John set a mesmerizing mood with their setup of every musical. Vicki was indispensable in all those rehearsals, with and without orchestra. The Mozart Players played brilliantly on a shoestring of preparation. The ECC soloists and participants were great as well.

Marilyn Farwell's glowing review was richly deserved. We have received enthusiastic praise from people who called or sent e-mails and written notes. People were raving about the *Best of Broadway* concert. One patron said it was the best show he has seen in 20+ years of everything at the Hult Center! The *Broadway for Kids* show was also a huge success. The kids and families loved it.

Thanks to Darrel Kau for making so much of this happen and for having the "for Kids" concert idea in the first place. His community outreach sponsorship idea was also a winner. Thanks to Deborah Rogers for handling the myriad of tasks and support services for both concerts, the pre-concert activities, and the post-concert reception. A big thank you to Jennifer McConochie and her crew of volunteers for the delightful pre-concert kids' activities with the large crowd of happy, active children.

Renaissance Feast

From one event quickly into another! We had so much to do for the Broadway concerts, we've gotten a little behind in the promotion of our Renaissance Feast, which will precede the *Renaissance and Awakenings* concert on Friday, April 4 at The Shedd. The feast will start at 6:00 p.m. in the Great Hall, and will lead directly into the concert in the Jaqua Concert Hall at 8:00 p.m. We are planning a sumptuous feast, with roasted stuffed game hen or a vegetarian option of stuffed baked squash. Full information and order forms are available at rehearsal and on our website and have been direct-mailed to our database. We have only a short time to fill the hall for this event. Help us promote it and come join in the fun yourselves! Byrdsong Early Music Consort will provide incidental music, and the "Lords and Ladies" of the Eugene Vocal Arts Ensemble will make a special appearance to sing some songs, give a Wassail toast, and dance a lively step or two.

The Shedd staff will serve at the dinner this year, so we do not need volunteer servers. We WILL need volunteer ushers for the concert, both April 4 at the Shedd and April 5 at the Wildish Theater. A sign-up sheet for usher help will circulate at rehearsal.

The City Madrigal Singers

From Ellwood Cushman: The City Madrigal Singers will present a free hour-long concert at the Atrium on Saturday, March 22 at 2:00 p.m.. The Madrigal Singers is a sub-group of the Eugene City Singers. Each group comprises City of Eugene employees who rehearse twice a month on their own time during the lunch hour. This will be the first public performance of the Madrigal Singers, who will sing a variety of music, from 16th Century madrigals to 20th Century popular music.

Spring What Break?

Reminder: Diane will continue to rehearse EVAE and ECC through spring break as if nothing out of the ordinary is happening. Hope you can be there, too.

Scribe's note—I'm baaack! Jill liberty, jliberty.efn.org (More choir news on the flip side)

Croatian Mass educational presentation

Information and applications to attend our educational presentation of the *Croatian Mass* have gone out to the schools, and we have already received a wonderful response from two middle schools, Kelly and Kennedy. We hope to have more participants as well. Everyone in ECC and EVAE who teaches in high school or middle school, please take note of our presentation, bring your classes, and encourage others to come as well. Applications will be available at rehearsals. See the information directly below.

The Eugene Concert Choir announces an educational presentation: The American Premiere of the *Croatian Mass* by Igor Kuljerić, inspiring music from the haunting sounds of Slavic chant to the grand, resounding shouts of "Slava!" (Glory!)

- **What.** Educational presentation of the American premiere of the *Croatian Mass* by Croatia's most eminent composer, Igor Kuljerić (pronounced "COOL-yer-itch")
- **When.** Friday, April 25 from 12:30 to 1:15 p.m.
- **Where:** Hult Center, Silva Concert Hall
- **Performers.** The Eugene Concert Choir with full symphonic orchestra and professional Eastern European soloists, led by Croatian-American guest conductor Zvonimir Hačko. (pronounced "HOTCH-ko")
- **Who may attend.** Middle School, High School, and International High School students from Eugene 4J, Bethel, & Springfield school districts with an interest in music, world culture, social studies, language, or geography,
- **Cost:** Zero. Because of gracious sponsorships from the Chambers Family Foundation, Symantec Corporation, and the City of Eugene/Hult Center, bus transportation will be provided, and admission fees will be waived.
- **Study Guides.** Study Guides to prepare students for the musical presentation will be distributed immediately following spring break. (What spring break?)

ECC: We need your participation

After this enormous weekend of Broadway, it seems a difficult time to ask you to take off time from work and other activities, but performing at this educational presentation is a big performance commitment that Diane is entreating you to make. We need to have a full choir to make this successful. The full rehearsal is 10:45 a.m. (10:30 warm-up), and the performance presentation is 12:30 - 1:15 p.m. If you can't make warm-up and rehearsal, please at least make every effort to arrive for the performance presentation part.

History of Eugene Concert Choir

From Lisa Young (if I am not, at least my name is young!): Does anyone remember that we were formed in 1975 by Philip Bayles and originally known as the Eugene Community Chorus? Are you able to admit how *long* you have been singing with the Eugene Concert Choir? I have sung with ECC since 1980—I admit this only reluctantly, because it makes me feel so *ancient*—and I imagine this might be the reason that Diane asked me to put together a history of the choir. She convinced me that some of our newer, younger (more physically flexible) members (do-mi-mi, mi-sol-sol, re-fa-fa, la-ti-ti: *you know who you are*) might appreciate a record of the choir's checkered past.

I am not only planning to do a "factual history" (e.g., what we sang, when we sang it, etc.) but would also like to include stories from individual members, reviews, broken bones, pregnant directors, intra-choir romances, and the like. Who can forget performing the *B Minor Mass* after rehearsing it for two (yes two) years, or Diane directing *African Sanctus* in head phones, or the April Fool's Day rehearsal of the *in taberna* movement of *Carmina Burana* with onstage singers decked out in Tom Bascom's animal hat collection, or Diane hamming it up in a blonde wig at our first pops concert in Beall Hall, or having to start the Gabrielli over during Peter Jermihov's Christmas concert (the cello player turned two pages), or Philip directing the Mozart *Requiem* with terrible pneumonia, or singing for Scott McFadden's memorial service or.....

My one-sided views, not to mention my fading memory, mean that I will need your help. Do you have any anecdotes or poignant, outrageous, funny, or not-so-funny stories to share? No matter when you joined the choir, I would enjoy hearing your stories and incorporating them into a unique and memorable version of ECC history. If you would like to help, take a couple of minutes during break to indulge in some "do you remembers" with your neighbor and either record them on the form in the lobby or send your ideas to me via e-mail (lyoung@molbio.uoregon.edu), snail mail (250 West 37th Avenue, Eugene, 97405), or even telephone (344-2157). Please let me know your name, when you joined the choir, and your story! Thank you, thank you, thank you.