

## **ECC/EVAE Newsletter, January 25 & 26, 2010**

### **The Practice Corner**

**ECC:** Brahms, movement 7

**EVAE:** Know every pitch, rhythm, and text pronunciation of Leonardo. Work on memorizing Elegy.

### **Black folders and tote bags**

We still have a few black folders designed for choral singers. They have elastic bands and a ring binder insert, hand strap, pockets, etc. They're \$28. If you wish to purchase a black folder, bring the money next week; we'll have the remaining folders at rehearsals. If there are more requests than we have folders, we'll place another order.

We also have ECC tote bags for only \$10 each. We'll bring them to rehearsals next week as well. We have quite a few left, but, once they're gone, we won't be able to get more.

### **EVAE's honor**

The Eugene Vocal Arts Ensemble was chosen to perform at the American Choral Directors Association Northwest Conference in Seattle. The Northwest regional conference is a six-state region: Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Wyoming, Montana, and Alaska. It is a real honor to have been selected. The conference is Wednesday through Saturday, March 10 through 13. The Vocal Arts Ensemble's performance is on Saturday, March 13, 12:00 noon, at Town Hall, 1119 Eighth Avenue at Seneca in downtown Seattle.

Anyone wishing to attend the performance can purchase tickets at Town Hall for only \$5. The Friday evening before EVAE's performance, there is a concert called "Grammy Night" at 8:00 p.m., featuring the Phoenix Chorale, conducted by our dear friend Charles Bruffy, and the Soweto Gospel Choir.

### **ECCO—from Jennifer McConochie**

ECCO is on the move! Invitation letters have been sent first to those teachers who participated last season. We have already had four responses, and everyone is excited to have us return. ECCO now has its own music director, Kathryn Leonard (ECC and EVAE member), who has a Bachelor's degree in Vocal Performance-Pedagogy Concentration. She is on the staff of the Shedd Institute, where she gives private voice instruction and acts as the curriculum designer of an innovative music program for elementary school age children.

Kathryn and Jennifer have redesigned the lesson plan to move more quickly and involve both children and ensemble members more actively in learning musical concepts. Kathryn will be leading the musical part of the lesson, while Jennifer continues with teacher contact, scheduling, and evaluations. We have lots of fun planned and hope new members will sign up to participate in this worthy educational outreach to the local youth community. It is our goal to have at least eight singers for each session with the children. The ECCO general sign-up sheet will be on the information table in the foyer. Next week I will have a sign-up sheet for all the individual sessions. A first rehearsal will be scheduled later in the month.

Thanks!

### **Music—from ECC Librarian Teresa Lin**

ECC and EVAE members: If you haven't done so already, please return all Christmas concert music to me. We need to return music to Mason Williams.

ECC members: If you do not have "O Clap Your Hands," "The Gondoliers," and "Penny Lane" for the *British Invasion* concert in May, please contact me at rehearsal or call me at 541-232-6024. I am aware that our newest members do not have those pieces yet, but a few continuing members have returned theirs by mistake.

### **ECC social break—from Theresa Wymer**

- **What.** An extended break at rehearsal to allow us to get to know one another and eat some goodies. Please wear your name tags and talk to a few choir members you haven't met.
- **When.** The next social break will be Tuesday, February 2. (Scribe's note: Come even if you see your shadow.)
- **Thanks** to the combined tenor sections for providing goodies.

### **The heavenly choir**

Fran Ross, who said that Diane had told a variation of this story first, passed it along to me. Says Fran, "I keep waiting, but Diane hasn't told it again." I took some liberties (pun intended) in reconstructing the narrative.

One time some singers died. They went to heaven, because they knew their notes, sang with full, round tones, and didn't chat too much. Saint Peter showed them the way to the heavenly choir rehearsal. They were thrilled to see that the leader was a man of great presence and charisma. "Is that Robert Shaw?" they asked in hushed tones. "No, that's God," Saint Peter whispered. "He just thinks he's Robert Shaw."

### **25 years of newsletters—musings from your scribe**

I started writing the paper newsletter in 1985. Although I'm not a math whiz, my laborious calculations indicate that I've been at it for 25 years. What a long, strange, and wonderful trip it's been so far.

Some of you have been reading the newsletter (or not reading it) for as long as I've been putting it together. Some of you probably weren't even born when I started. The newsletter is my labor of love, my contribution to the choirs, and my gift, such as it is, to all of you.

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