



**Handbook
2011-2012**

Introduction

Welcome to the Rogue Valley Youth Choruses organization. The Discovery, Children's, Cantare Choruses and Youth Ensemble consist of singers representing diverse backgrounds, schools, and music experiences from around the Rogue Valley. This handbook is designed to acquaint families with our program and policy. Please read it carefully so that we may work together to ensure high standards for quality musical experiences and performances for young people of our community.

The leaders of RVYC are dedicated to making a difference in young musicians' lives by working together to create musical excellence. Our steering committee, conductors, accompanists, and rehearsal assistants are committed to creating a nurturing environment for all races, religions, ethnic and economic backgrounds. We hope to enhance the lives of young singers through positive experiences with quality literature, singing technique, and exciting performances. We are committed to the pursuit of excellence within a caring and inspirational environment, and are dedicated to the achievement of the highest level of artistry with all of our groups. We look forward to a worthwhile and joyous experience together!

RVYC Structure

RVYC refers to the four choruses collectively. Singers may participate in one or all four of the progressively graded divisions of the Youth Choruses organization, all under the auspices of the Rogue Valley Chorale, a not-for-profit organization.

Our Mission

The mission of the Rogue Valley Chorale Association is to present choral music of the highest quality while striving for artistic integrity and technical excellence. Its goals are the following:

- Fostering musical growth
- Encouraging vocal improvement
- Supporting educational outreach
- Providing access for all, including singers and community members, to a wide variety of music
- Supporting and encouraging young singers
- Preserving and performing choral music of enduring value
- Providing performance opportunities for young composers and new music

Discovery Chorus -- Sandy Roney, Director

The newest chorus to the Youth Choruses organization is designed as a training choir for beginning singers in 3rd-4th grades. They will utilize unison songs, rounds, and partner songs - culminating to 2-part music. Singers will be introduced to basic choral techniques and musicianship through active group participation.

Sandy Roney is a music educator with experience teaching kindergarten through high school in Washington. She has served as a guest clinician and adjudicator in the Northwest and has conducted chancel and handbell choirs. Sandy currently teaches private music lessons specializing in voice, guitar, violin and cello to all ages.

Children's Chorus -- Gerry Flock, Director

Formerly the Discovery Chorus, founded in 1985, the Children's Chorus is comprised of auditioned members in 5th-6th grades. Through the use of diverse, quality literature, the singers will learn beginning choral techniques including breath control, unified natural tone, choral music reading, and ensemble singing. Singers must demonstrate responsible behavior and individual commitment to learning.

Gerry Flock is an experienced educator in the Rogue Valley. After teaching music in local schools for 22 years, he is now serving as Principal at Wilson Elementary School. Mr. Flock has sung with the Rogue Valley Chorale and has served as Director of the Rogue Valley Discovery/Children's Chorus for ten years. He also serves as worship leader and Elder of the West Main Church of Christ.

Cantare Chorus -- Pam Nordquist, Director

Formerly the Children's Chorus, founded in 1982, Cantare is comprised of auditioned singers in 7th-9th grades. Cantare provides training in vocal technique, musicianship, ear training and music reading ability. Singers are expected to make a serious commitment to quality in order to master individual singing technique, musicianship, and ensemble singing. Cantare performs music in 3-4 part mixed voicings from many cultures, languages and style periods.

The Youth Ensemble -- Pam Nordquist, Director

The Youth Ensemble, founded in 2002, was created as an extension of the treble choruses. It is designed for high school men and women grades 10 through 12 dedicated to the highest level of performance artistry. In order to achieve the high expectations for vocal contribution, music reading, musicality, and ensemble integrity, singers must be strongly committed and responsible individuals.

Pam Nordquist is the founding director of the Rogue Valley Youth Ensemble and also conducts the Cantare Chorus. She enjoyed teaching elementary and middle school music for 21 years in Kansas and Oregon public schools. Now Mrs. Nordquist is employed by Medford Schools as half-time choir director at South High School. Mrs. Nordquist serves as membership chair for the Oregon American Choral Directors Association.

Rehearsals

Discovery Chorus

Tuesdays

4:15 - 5:45 pm

Ascension Lutheran Church

2617 East Barnett Road - Medford

Children's Chorus

Tuesdays

4:30 - 6:00 pm

Westminster Presbyterian Church

2000 Oakwood Drive - Medford

Cantare Chorus

Tuesdays

6:30 - 8:00 pm

South Medford High School Choir Room

1551 Cunningham Avenue - Medford

Youth Ensemble

Thursdays

7:00 - 9:00 pm

South Medford High School Choir Room

1551 Cunningham Avenue - Medford

- Singers should plan to arrive 10 minutes early each week with their music to assure on-time start of rehearsals.
- Rides home should be available promptly at the end of rehearsal.
- Drivers should use extra precaution when navigating the pick-up area. Carpooling is encouraged.

Rehearsal Cancellations

During winter months, the choir will follow the policy of Medford Schools regarding rehearsal cancellation and inclement weather. If schools close, there will be no rehearsal that afternoon or evening.

Attendance Policy

Membership in RVYC is a commitment to faithful, consistent, and punctual attendance. The quality of rehearsals, performances and other RVYC activities depends upon each chorister being present and on time. Attentive, courteous behavior toward the director, accompanist, rehearsal assistants, parent volunteers, and fellow choir members is required.

Attendance is required at ALL rehearsals and concerts. Singers are expected to be in place, with folders and other materials ready at the designated start time. Most rehearsals are 90 minutes, so singers should plan to take a restroom break before the practice begins. Singers are strongly encouraged to bring a water bottle---no soft drinks, juices or food items are allowed in any of the rehearsal facilities.

Parents must contact the chorus director or chorus manager if their child will be absent from a rehearsal/concert for any reason. Excused absences include: severe illness, family emergencies, or required school events. Roll call is taken at every rehearsal, with follow-up calls for unexcused absences.

Discovery Chorus

Director – Sandy Roney
734-0838 (h) 326-1941 (c)
msroney@prodialup.us

Chorus Mgr. – Margie Grether
858-9620 (h) 890-8047 (c)
margiegrether@gmail.com

Children's Chorus

Director – Gerry Flock
245-0203 (h)
flock@ccountry.net

Chorus Mgr. – September Flock
245-0203 (h) 890-6945 (c)
september.flock@medford.k12.or.us

Cantare Chorus

Director – Pam Nordquist
535-1504 (h) 301-1551 (c)
pamarella@charter.net

Chorus Mgr. – Kelly Anderson
773-1490 (h) 944-9081 (c)
doodlebear4@msn.com

Youth Ensemble

Director – Pam Nordquist
535-1504 (h) 301-1551 (c)
SMHS Choir office 842-1493
pam.nordquist@medford.k12.or.us

Chorus Mgr. – Carmen Adams
779-6036 (h) 941-3547 (c)
adamscd@earthlink.net

Chorus Mgr. - DeeDee Morgan
779-1968 (h)
eznidd@msn.com

Materials

Singers will be issued a folder and 8-10 pieces of music. All folders and music are the property of RV Youth Choruses, or are borrowed from other school or church organizations in good faith. The folder and music must be returned each season. Music is very costly and difficult to replace. A fee of \$25.00 will be charged to anyone failing to return the chorus folder and music at the end of each season. Pencils will be available for singers to mark their scores during rehearsals. Please, no ink or drawings on the music.

Tuition and Contributions

Tuition for the year is \$180, payable by October 1st. Tuitions must be paid in full on or before October 1st or payment arrangements must be coordinated with the Chorus Manager. Separate season tuition will be \$90, due October 1st and February 1st. Sibling discounts are available. After the first paid tuition (\$180), a second sibling tuition is reduced to \$120, and a third sibling tuition is offered at \$100 for the year. Families with more than one singer may arrange for a tuition payment plan through the Chorus Manager. **Tuition is non-refundable.**

RVYC tuition is applied to facility fees, printing costs, music, folders, pencils, adult leader stipends, performance polos, an administrative assistant and chorus event expenses. Checks should be made payable to the **Rogue Valley Youth Choruses**. In order to provide an equal opportunity for every child who loves to sing, financial aid is available. Request an application form from your chorus manager immediately and return by October 1. A financial aid officer will review applications, and families will be notified of their status.

RVYC is affiliated with the Rogue Valley Chorale, a tax exempt, non-profit organization. Contributions to the Youth Choruses organization in excess of tuition requirements are fully tax deductible.

Concert Tickets

It is important to note that tuition does NOT include free admission to concerts. Ticket proceeds are necessary to cover the costs of the facilities used to stage RVYC concerts. Your understanding and patronage at these events is greatly appreciated. Tickets are \$10.00 for adults and \$5.00 for students. Tickets for the Fall Concert at North Medford High School will be available for pre-sale two weeks before the concert. To avoid long lines on the night of the event, please contact your chorus managers to purchase tickets in advance. Tickets for the Spring Concert at the Craterian Ginger Rogers Theater can be purchased online or at the box office.

Communication

The most efficient and least costly method for us to contact our 180+ families is via e-mail and the RVC website. Newsletters and important information from Mrs. Roney, Mr. Flock and Mrs. Nordquist will be posted in a timely manner on the site: rvyouthchoruses.org We also ask that you keep us informed of your current e-mail address throughout the year. In the event that you do not have e-mail, we ask that you: 1) engage a “buddy” from your chorus who will agree to contact you by phone when they receive an RVC e-mail at home, and 2) check at rehearsal for one of the limited number of printed updates and newsletters there.

Parents, please talk with your chorister following each rehearsal to learn about the music in rehearsal, progress being made, your singer’s perspective, news items and updates, plans for the future, etc. Check the folder weekly for any newsletters, forms, or other communications from the director.

Home Practice

With only one rehearsal a week, singers must take time to practice their music at home in a consistent manner. In order to learn and memorize all the music, home practice is essential and expected.

Grooming and Concert Outfits

Just as the ensemble’s sound is important, so is its appearance. A well-groomed, neatly outfitted ensemble is essential for a truly professional and artistic experience. Good personal hygiene is a must. Clean teeth and clean, groomed hair away from the face are expected of each chorister. Jewelry must not be distracting to the audience. No perfumes or scented hairsprays.

Uniform outfits emphasize teamwork, help present a professional image at performances, and aid in quickly identifying choristers when traveling. Each performing group of the Youth Choruses has a unique outfit requirement. Singers must purchase the required outfit pieces and wear them whenever required. Choristers are allowed to perform only if wearing the appropriate outfit, complete in all aspects. Prior to each performance, parent volunteers will be available to help choristers with attire.

Chorus Rosters

Each season choir rosters are generated which include each chorister’s name, address, phone, e-mail address, grade level and school. Parent/Guardians should carefully fill out the required data and return with your singer to the next rehearsal. Phone trees for each chorus will be developed and put into motion in the case of an emergency or a timely, important announcement.

Discovery Chorus and Children's Chorus

- Solid black dress pants will be provided. The pants come unhemmed. They should be hemmed (NOT CUT) by parents or they can be hemmed for a \$5.00 fee. Pants must be returned at the end of the season or pay a \$25.00 replacement charge.
- Black socks and black dress shoes are the responsibility of each family. Shoes must be closed-toe without high heels.
- Polo shirts with Youth Choruses logo are provided. Shirts must be returned at the end of the season or pay a \$15.00 replacement charge.

Cantare Chorus

- Boys - Solid black pants, black socks and black dress shoes are the responsibility of each family. Pants may not be jeans.
- Black shirt, cummerbund and tie will be provided.
- Girls - Black flat shoes, black tights. Black skirt and burgundy blouse will be provided.
- Outfits must be returned at the end of the season or pay a \$50 replacement charge.
- Optional travel T-shirts may be purchased for \$10.

Youth Ensemble

- Men will wear black tuxes, black socks and black dress shoes. White tux shirts and blue ties complete the men's outfits.
- Girls will wear floor-length black skirts and blue blouses. Black hosiery and dress shoes.
- Optional travel T-shirts may be purchased for \$10.

T-shirts (dark blue) with RVYC Logo may be purchased by parents (\$10).

Concerts/Performances

During each regular season, there will be three performance opportunities for each chorus. The Discovery, Children's and Cantare Choruses will present concerts to area elementary schools in the valley during the spring season. In addition, each group performs in an evening concert at the Rogue Valley Manor, with a culminating concert presented each season in Medford. Other performance opportunities may arise during the season, and you will be notified in a timely manner about details and requirements.

In the spring session of alternating years (2010), the Cantare Chorus embarks on a 2-day singing tour within the state of Oregon. The Youth Ensemble takes a 2-5 day tour to a destination in the Northwest each year and regularly participates in the Chamber Ensemble Festival sponsored by the American Choral Directors Association of Oregon.

Rogue Valley Youth Chorus Steering Committee

President – Donna Barrett
ndbarrett@embarqmail.com
541-878-2214

Past President – Cathy Morrison

Treasurer – Margie Grether

Recording Secretary – Pete Nordquist

Corresponding Secretary –

Music Librarian – Marilyn Reppert

Outfit Coordinator – Jean Libante

Rogue Valley Chorale Liaison – Carmen Adams

Historian – Sherry Straus

Web Master – Pete Nordquist

Members-at-large:

Shawna Gann

Mary Ann Case

Dianna Smith

September Flock

Gay Pollard

RV Youth Chorus Administrative Assistant
Margie Grether
Youth Chorus Office
margiegrether@gmail.com

YOUTH CHORUSES SCHEDULE 2011-2012

Tuesday	September 13	4:15 - 5:45 pm 4:30 - 6:00 pm 6:30 - 8:00 pm	First Rehearsal RVDC - Ascension Lutheran Church RVCC - Westminster Presbyterian Church Cantare - SMHS Choir Room
Wednesday	September 14	4:00 - 6:00 pm	Auditions for DC, CC & Cantare SMHS Choir Room
Tuesdays	Sept/May	4:15 - 5:45 pm 4:30 - 6:00 pm 6:30 - 8:00 pm	RVDC - Ascension Lutheran Church RVCC - Westminster Presbyterian Church Cantare - SMHS Choir Room
Thursdays	September 8 Sept/May	7:00 - 9:00 pm	Youth Ensemble Rehearsals SMHS Choir Room
Saturday	October 15	2:00 - 5:00 pm	Rogue Valley Youth Choruses Retreat @ Westminster Presbyterian Church
Thursday	November 17	7:00 pm	Youth Ensemble/Cantare Concert Rogue Valley Manor
Thursday	December 1	7:00 pm	Discovery/Childrens Chorus Concert Rogue Valley Manor
Saturday	December 3	9:00 - 11:30 am 7:00 pm	All RV Choruses Rehearsal North Medford High School Auditorium RV Youth Choruses Concert North Medford High School Auditorium
Wednesday	January 10	4:00 - 6:00 pm	Auditions for DC, CC & Cantare - TBA
Tuesday	January 17	4:15 - 5:45 pm 4:30 - 6:00 pm	Rehearsals Resume RVDC - Ascension Lutheran Church RVCC - Westminster Presbyterian Church
Tuesday Thursday	March 27 March 29		No Rehearsals for DC, CC & Cantare No Rehearsals for YE
Thursday	April 26	7:00 pm	Youth Ensemble/Cantare Rogue Valley Manor
Friday	May 4	9:00 - 11:00 am	Discovery/Childrens Chorus Spring Sing Central Medford High School
Wednesday	May 9	4:00 - 6:00 pm	Auditions for DC, CC & Cantare - TBA
Thursday	May 10	7:00 pm	Discovery Chorus/Children's Chorus Rogue Valley Manor
Saturday	May 19	9:00 - 11:30 am 7:00 pm	All RV Choruses Rehearsal Craterian Ginger Rogers Theater All Choruses Concert