



Ring Out the Old Year, Sing in the New...

By Peter Robb, Artistic Director

The end of the year provides a natural vantage point for reflection and imagination. Have we done the things we set out to do at the beginning of the year? What are the priorities and dreams that will set our course for the year ahead?

We engaged this process recently at our first ever staff retreat. During a session in which each of us shared our personal list of priorities for this season, one thing became crystal clear: We are poised for exciting growth as an organization.

Throughout the session I was amazed at the depth of creativity and commitment to a common vision that rose up at every point in our discussions.

Why Support OFC?

By Texas Bob

Why would anyone support Oregon Festival Choirs? It's a good question. There are so many other groups pleading for our help. Everyone has their priorities. Homelessness is an issue I care about, but I'm a bleeding heart--Others feel just as strongly about immigration control. Regardless of those differences, we can all come to the same table around the importance of the arts and music in our children's lives.

I grew up in Texas, where, "music," meant the fight song or Conway Twitty's latest record, but I had the good fortune of moving with my

Some of the questions we asked:

- How do we balance the need to raise the bar artistically and remain accessible to the general student population?
- How can we ensure that those with advanced skills remain challenged?
- How can we encourage more boys to sing?
- How do we bring the life changing benefits of participating in choral music to more young people?

As exhilarating as it was to strategize ways to strengthen and grow the Choirs, it was also exciting to sense our oneness of purpose.

This is an important milestone in itself. It's a difficult task to build a team of highly-skilled and energetic personalities that work well together, but it's clear we are achieving it! Of course, creating this administrative and artistic team is only one part of the formula for an outstanding choir organization. Equally important is the team of community supporters who provide the human and fiscal capital to carry out the vision.

As you learn more about the work of OFC, and how it is changing the lives of children and their families, I hope you will find even more ways to participate in this worthy enterprise.

Whether you are an audience member, a contributor or a volunteer, please know that all of us at OFC profoundly appreciate your support.

family to Oregon in the 1960s. I attended a high school at a time when music classes were fully funded. I learned to play the violin, then started singing in choirs.

I still played football and talked like a redneck (take note, boys...singing doesn't mean you can't still kick... footballs). Those experiences have stayed with me, but not like music. It is music that made those years in many ways the most enriching period of my life.

Why would anyone choose to support Oregon Festival Choirs? I can speak only about my own experience. I'm 53 and haven't sung anyplace but the shower for 30



Texas Bob and future Chorister

years. Nonetheless I remember, and cherish, the experience, and when OFC's choristers sing, I remember how profoundly it has influenced my life.

You're getting this newsletter because you too understand that music education is crucial to each generation's spirit.

Please join me in supporting OFC in every way you can. Financial contributions are especially important, to guarantee OFCs continued success.

A NOTE FROM THE BOARD PRESIDENT

By Rebecca Robb-Hicks

Did you know that fifty percent of all charitable giving by individuals is done between Thanksgiving and New Years? So when December rolls around, non-profit groups across the country make their appeal for end-of-the-year donations. You can contribute to libraries, churches or schools; to gardens, museums or historical societies; to research on just about every disease imaginable. You can even help save tigers, whales or family farms.



Rebecca Robb-Hicks
Board President

There's a website to visit for advice on "intelligent giving" that offers

reminders such as: *A contribution to a qualified organization is deductible in the year in which it is paid; and, putting a check in the mail to the non-profit constitutes payment.* Here's a good one: *A contribution made on a credit card is deductible in the year it is charged, even if payment to the credit card company is made in the following year.*

The Number One Tip

This is of particular interest: *"Don't forget arts and cultural charities. These organizations were the only type of non-profits to experience a substantial decline in donations during 2005. If you are passionate about the arts, consider adding a well-run cultural charity to your giving list this year."*

I agree. In fact it makes particularly good sense as an investment in the future of our local community. That's why a gift to Oregon Festival Choirs is a great idea on so many levels. Think about it: Programs serving

serving young people from throughout central Lane County; partnerships with local schools in the southern Willamette Valley; collaborations with professional performing arts ensembles; musical ambassadorship to many communities through domestic and international tours; and the remarkable array of benefits resulting from the Pacific International Children's Choir Festival each June.

As you consider your options for year-end giving, remember that a gift to Oregon Festival Choirs is like a whole gift-basket of support to our community. Your gift supports children's programs, music education, cultural literacy, scholarships for needy families, school partnerships, community building, cross-cultural exchange, and the health of our local performing arts. Happy Holidays. Happy New Year. And, especially, Happy Giving!

Discover A Cultural Treasure

A one-hour event for guests unacquainted with OFC is happening at Central Presbyterian Church on the third Thursday of each month from 5:30-6:30 p.m.

The hour consists of visiting a rehearsal, meeting staff, a spread of coffee, teas and cookies, and an inspiring presentation of the OFC vision by founder and artistic director Peter Robb.

If you know people who might be interested in this event and

in seeing our work first hand, please plan to bring them.

Seating is limited, so you must reserve space for your guests by calling the OFC office, 465-9600, to leave your name and the number of people you plan to bring.

Our first event, Nov. 16, was met with excitement about what guests both heard and observed. Dates of upcoming events are:

Jan. 18, Feb. 15, Mar. 15, April 19 and May 17.

OFC Board of Directors

Dr. Richard Litchfield
Orthodontist

Ben Mondragon
Re/Max Real Estate Broker

Peter Robb
OFC Founder & Artistic Director

Dr. Rebecca Robb-Hicks
Clinical Psychologist

Lynn Smith
Springfield Public Schools Music
Teacher

Get A 100% Tax Credit!

DID YOU KNOW...A quick note from OFC Development Coordinator, Connie Burden

Give a gift to a cultural nonprofit organization like Oregon Festival Choirs and a matching gift to Oregon Cultural Trust and you'll receive a 100% tax credit for the matching gift on your annual Oregon State Income Tax. Each year annual grants to Oregon arts organizations are made from this fund. A good idea!

Chorister Spotlight

Interviews by Chorister Peyton Brazell



Mickayla Brown is a nine year old in elementary school. Her absolute favorite movie is *Parent Trap* with Lindsey Lohan. Her favorite color is purple. She has no favorite books because she likes all books. She said that her favorite food is spaghetti. Mickayla was born on March 29, 1997. She has three siblings and is in in her second year in Cantilina. Keep up the good work Mickayla!



Quincy Summerlin is a ten year old member of Fiero. *Run Forest, Run...* Quincy likes the movie *Forest Gump*. Bob FM is his music station of choice. Cool green grass is his favorite color. And food? ITALIAN! He has his special day on February 24, 1996. No siblings, so instead of babysitting he has been singing in the choir for three years. Great Job Quincy!!

Sarah Sprague is a high school freshman. Her hobby is playing the piano. Her favorite movie is *Billy Elliot*. Who listens to 102.3? Why, Sarah does of course. Her favorite colors are purple and yellow. During her free time she likes reading the book *Someone Like You* by Sarah Besen. Sarah loves going to Lake Tahoe. Peaches are her favorite fruit. Sarah was born on January 10, 1992. She has been in the choir for 6 years. She is in Lyrica and Aria and is the youngest of two kids in her family.



Justin Weir is a 10 year old member of Allegro. He's been in the choir for 2 years, including going to the summer camp. He loves the movie *Over the Hedge*. He has a favorite color. It's red. His favorite book is *Deltoura Quest*. And Justin really likes cheesy macaroni. His birthday is March 13, 1996 and he's the oldest of 4 kids. Great work Justin!!

Thank You For Supporting
OFC Choristers!

Where Else but the Northwest!

On December 10, at the reception following OFC's annual Winter Concert, we will be treated to coffee donated local coffee roaster Caffè Pacori.

The featured brew will be Perfect Harmony, our own *Choristers Blend*, perfected by the connoisseurs at Caffè Pacori.

Bags of this Fair Trade coffee will be on sale in the lobby with 50% of the price going to OFC's scholarship fund. Imagine that: Support a local coffee company, guarantee a good profit for the coffee farmers, and provide choir scholarships for area children. It's A Eugene/Springfield Trifecta!



Choristers Birthdays!

December

Taylor Tester
Silas Boyd-Mitcheltree
Casey Carrell
Lacey Whitwer

January

Sarah Sprague
Sophia James
Brittany Curtis
Taryn Woodman
Sarah Joyce
Annesha Milosevich
Tristan Bredeweg

February

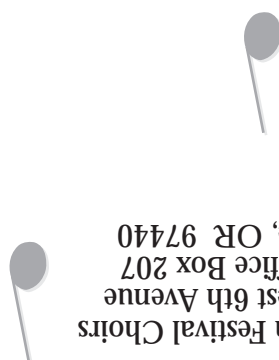
Caleb White
Cherish Monet Mask-Lassiter
Quincy Summerlin
Alexander Davis
Anna Polishchuk

OFC Staff

Peter Robb	Founder/Artistic Director
Mathew Svoboda	Operations Director/Choir Director
Sheryl Ohlsen	Enrollment & Financial Coordinator
Hung-Yun Chu	Principal Accompanist
Jeanie Neven	Choir Director
LauraMcGough	Choir Director
Connie Burden	Development Coordinator
Camilla Carter	Accompanist
Peter Hollens	Choir Director



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Eugene, OR 97401
www.oregonfestivalchoirs.org

Two pushpins are shown on the page. One is located to the left of the address text, and the other is to the right. Both are gray with a circular head and a thin stem.

Oregon Festival Choirs
110 West 6th Avenue
Post Office Box 207
Eugene, OR 97440

OREGON *festival* CHOIRS

8th Season 2006—2007

All Choirs: *Celebrate the Holidays*
OFC's annual holiday concert, Dec. 10 at
3:00 PM, Central Presbyterian Church,
555 East 15th Avenue

Fiero and Lyrica: *Nutcracker*, with Eugene
Ballet and orchestra. Dec. 22-24, Silva
Concert Hall

Fiero and Lyrica: *Tour Philadelphia, 2007*,
May 3-7.

Allegro and Cantilena: *Tour Bend, 2007*,
May 10-11.

All Choirs: *Celebrate Life and Liberty*, OFC's
annual Spring concert, May 20, 3:00 PM,
Central Presbyterian Church

*Celebrate 10 Years of Pacific International
Children's Choir Festival, PICCFEST 2007*,
with guest conductor Sandra Snow and
10 choirs from across the U.S. and Canada.
June 27-July 2. Gala Concert, July 2, 8:00
PM, Silva Concert Hall.