



## MEMBER INFORMATION September 2009

### **Welcome to JUBILATE! The Women's Choir of Corvallis!**

We are glad that you're here. You have joined an amazing community of women who sing together, support each other, laugh often, and grow together in song and spirit. We look forward to being enlivened by your presence among us.

### **OUR MISSION**

Jubilate! The Women's Choir of Corvallis is a strong community chorus that welcomes any woman singer seeking a diverse and inclusive singing experience. We differ in age, lifestyle, sexual orientation, and skill level, but we are united in our commitment to musical excellence. Our repertoire extends planet-wide—including international songs, classical pieces, compositions by modern composers, sacred music from many traditions, popular favorites, silly selections, and music of social change. At every concert, our goal is to express through women's voices the wide range of human emotion and experience.

### **OUR HISTORY**

Jubilate! was founded in November 1994 to provide our community with a positive, joyful reason to come together in the wake of fighting a spate of anti-gay rights ballot initiatives. We have enjoyed weekly meetings since our inception and have grown from the original group of fifteen singers to a community choir of fifty strong. In 2007, a smaller group of singers, Breve, was formed to perform chamber pieces within the context of Jubilate!

During each season we typically perform several concerts. For the last seven years we have designed an original winter Solstice concert with songs, poetry and stories, which has become a popular community event. Other performances have included a recruiting concert in early October featuring songs from the previous year's repertoire, an annual spring concert at various local venues, and outreach concerts for audiences in Newport, Portland, Gleneden Beach, Bend, and other locations.

We have performed for many community events, including the Sister Cities Benefit Concerts, the ACLU Annual Awards Dinner, the "Opening Doors" conference on Gay/Lesbian/Bisexual Youth at OSU, and benefit concerts for the Kenya Makindu Youth Program. We sing for community events in Corvallis and throughout the Willamette Valley.

## **OUR CONDUCTOR**

Founder and conductor Betty Busch also serves as the music director at the First United Methodist Church in Corvallis, and teaches private French horn and vocal students.

## **OUR ACCOMPANIST**

Lucy Watts provides piano accompaniment to the choir for rehearsals and performances. She also teaches private piano students and accompanies the Heart of the Valley Children's Choir.

## **JOINING JUBILATE!**

We invite you to visit us at rehearsals and get to know us and decide if you would like to join Jubilate. You may use a guest folder of music each time you come, and are welcome to attend up to three rehearsals before deciding whether to become a member. Open membership periods are in October and January. New members are strongly encouraged to attend the new member classes offered each session by our conductor, Betty Busch. Becoming a member of Jubilate! involves several commitments. All choir members:

- Sing joyfully with others (the biggest!)
- Attend a minimum of three rehearsals a month.
- Prepare for and participate in performances.
- Pay a once-lifetime music deposit (refundable) of \$20.
- Honor their pledge on a schedule that works for them (see Jubilate Pledge Form).
- Contact the director if circumstances prevent them from attending a dress rehearsal or performance.

One month prior to the beginning of the Fall and Winter periods, all members will be asked to recommit to Jubilate, including checking their calendars to ensure that they will be able to participate in performances. Your prompt reply to the email inquiring about your plans will ensure your place and help us in important logistical preparations such as the ordering of sufficient copies of new music.

New members typically start attending practices in early October. However, all continuing members who have sung the Spring repertoire from the previous season, and wish to rejoin Jubilate in the fall, are expected to participate in the "reprise" concert in late September/early October and to begin practice in September.

Once you've decided to join us, we request that you support the choir through a monetary donation (pledge). Membership donations are tax deductible and range from \$7.50 to \$36 per month depending on income and ability to pay. (Please see Pledge Form). Donations are given to the Treasurer or paid through the PayPal site on our webpage.. There is a once-a-life-time \$20 music deposit. Once that is paid, you are assigned your own music folder, which you may take home between rehearsals. All music remains the property of Jubilate!, and must be returned in good condition at the end of the concert season. If you become unable to carry out the

responsibilities of membership during the singing season, please contact Betty Busch.

Members commit to memorizing our music whenever possible, so that we can give the gift of singing and sharing from our hearts and souls---where music lives. We accomplish this goal through regular attendance at weekly rehearsals, independently organized sectional practices, and by listening to and practicing with our individual parts. If memorization is not possible, members may carry small black folders.

Information about Jubilate! rehearsals and performances is given at rehearsal and via email between rehearsals. The Singers' Page of our website also contains our concert and rehearsal schedule for the year, member contact points and other pertinent information ([www.jubilatechoir.org](http://www.jubilatechoir.org))

### **OUR REHEARSALS**

Our goal is to sing joyfully and expressively with each other during rehearsals and performances. Rehearsals are Monday evenings from 7:15 to 9:00 at the First United Methodist Church in Corvallis unless otherwise specified. We begin and end on time.

Rehearsal begins with a Singing Circle to warm up our bodies and our voices. Printed sheet music and other visual materials are provided for most songs. Music reading skills are not expected of our singers. Please use the printed materials as you see fit. A quick and active ear will serve you and Jubilate! well. Listen to the choir and enjoy the music we make together. Remember, true music-making comes from your heart.

Information and announcements are made by the President during a mid-rehearsal break (aka Business Moment or BizMo). Members also may briefly share information and announcements at this time.

Rehearsal ends with a Singing Circle of a familiar song to ground us and send us away singing.

### **OUR PERFORMANCES**

All choir members are expected to participate in concerts produced by Jubilate!. At a minimum, this typically includes a Fall concert, several performances of our Solstice concert in December, and a Spring concert.

"Gig" is our term for a performance produced by another organization that invites Jubilate! to appear. Choir members are informed of gig invitations well in advance and have the option to vote yes or no. If enough people with the right vocal mix vote yes by the stated deadline, we will perform. Remember, if you vote yes, we are counting on you to appear in the performance.

We typically change positions on the risers several times during most concerts and gigs. During regular rehearsals we practice where to stand, but there are inevitably

some last-minute changes. One of the reasons for mandatory attendance at dress rehearsals is that everyone needs to learn the logistics.

For most performances, the required attire is "formal black." This means black slacks or a long black skirt that extends to at least mid-calf, a black blouse with 3/4 or full sleeves, black socks or stockings, and comfortable black shoes. No black jeans!

Some choir members have purchased matching colored blouses and wear those in lieu of black blouses. Understated earrings and necklaces are acceptable. The idea is not to distract the audience from our singing.

Jubilate! is happy to accommodate women with impaired mobility and those who are unable to stand for the duration of a performance.

In consideration of choir members with allergies or respiratory disease, please do not use scented products (including scented shampoo or scented deodorant) before a rehearsal or performance.

We provide a simple reception for our audience after most concerts. When your section is called on, you are expected to sign up to bring food or drink, or to clean up. No need to bake! Store-bought treats are just fine.

Many choir members like to go out together after performances. If you don't hear which bar or restaurant has been selected, ask around. These outings are for everyone.

## **BREVE**

Breve is a small ensemble of Jubilate! members who are able to attend additional rehearsals, learn music on their own, and carry their part independently. Membership is by audition.

## **ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE**

Jubilate! is a volunteer-run organization. Our organizational structure consists of a Core Team, a Rehearsal Team, a Music Librarian and Section leaders, in addition to a professional Director and Accompanist. Members are encouraged to participate by assisting in the voluntary positions. Core Team Positions are:

- President
- President Elect
- Treasurer
- Producer
- Publicity
- Membership Coordinators
- Website Manager
- Food/Social Coordinator

The Core Team meets from time to time to assist the Director in planning activities. The Rehearsal Team, consisting of the Director and Section Leaders, meets as

needed to ensure the smooth running of rehearsals. In addition to these teams, project-oriented ad hoc teams plan and organize specific events, such as the December and Spring concerts. Detailed job descriptions for volunteer positions, and contact information for the incumbents are available on the Singers section of the Jubilate website at [www.jubilatechoir.org](http://www.jubilatechoir.org). Contact the Membership Coordinator for the password.

Choir members should direct questions to the appropriate volunteer office holder. For example, questions about sheet music could be directed to your Section Leader or the Music Librarian. If you have a logistical question about rehearsal or performance, you should check the website first, and if in doubt, ask your Section Leader. Questions about dues should be directed to the Treasurer. Have questions but don't know whom to ask? Check with the President.