



Notes and Measures

February 6, 2017

The Box Office Is Now Open!

It must be getting pretty close to concert time, because we keep hearing one question repeatedly lately – “When will concert tickets be going on sale?” Well, if you've been asking, tonight is the night you've been waiting for! Rita and her ticket team will be available just prior to rehearsal and at break for ticket purchases. Purchases can be paid by cash or check as usual, but we'll also have our (fairly) new swiping device available for you folks who prefer credit card and debit card transactions.

We were really encouraged by how many singers took advantage of the opportunity to buy discounted season and individual tickets for the December concert – so much so that we'll be offering an opportunity to purchase special pre-sale tickets for this concert. Tonight and next week, we will be offering March concert tickets to GCCC singers for \$11 each – that's four dollars off the regular ticket price! If you have friends or family members who have never experienced a GCCC concert, this is a great opportunity to have them to join us while still allowing you or them to save a little money. There's no better gift for your family and friends than the gift of music! If you have any questions about tickets, please see Rita or any other member of the Board.

Next Two Weeks: Hey, We Can See VACE From Here!

Ah, home sweet home again! It's good to be back at VACE and in our semi-comfortable seats. Alas, we can't get too comfortable, because next Monday and the following Monday, VACE will be closed, so we'll have to make two more trips to Church of the Foothills. Here are the details.

For our rehearsals on **February 13th, and February 20th**, we'll be meeting at Church of the Foothills, located at 6279 Foothill Road in Ventura; the zip code is 93003, for those of you who get everywhere using Google Maps or a similar website or app. For those of you who prefer written directions, here are directions to Church of the Foothills:

DOWNTOWN AND WEST VENTURA, OJAI & POINTS NORTH: Take U.S. 101 South to the Victoria Avenue exit. At the end of the ramp, make a left on to Valentine Road, then turn left at Victoria Avenue. Stay on Victoria (heading over Highway 126 and into the hills). After about 2 ½ miles, turn right at Foothill Road. The driveway for Church of the Foothills will be about a third of a mile up the road on your left (slow at Cobblestone Drive).

CONEJO VALLEY, CAMARILLO, OXNARD, AND POINTS SOUTH: Take U.S. 101 North to the Victoria Avenue exit. At the end of the ramp, turn right at Victoria Avenue. Stay on Victoria (heading over the 126 and into the hills). After about 2 ½ miles, turn right at Foothill Road. The driveway for Church of the Foothills will be about a third of a mile up the road on your left (slow at Cobblestone Drive).

EAST VENTURA, SANTA PAULA, FILLMORE, AND POINTS EAST: Take Highway 126 West to the Kimball Road exit. At the end of the ramp, turn left at Kimball Road. Stay on Kimball Road (heading past Telegraph and into the hills). After about 1 mile, turn left at Foothill Road. The driveway for Church of the Foothills will be about a mile up the road on your right (slow at Via Plaza).

As always, be sure to allow extra time for your trip if you need it on the days we're rehearsing at the church. Once again, thanks to all of you for making the extra effort to join us for rehearsals in the next few weeks! If you have any questions, please talk to your section leader or a member of the Board.

Shopping with a Smile Means Support for Our Singing

For the last few months, we've encouraged you to support our activities while you shop on Amazon.com by being a part of the Amazon Smile program. As we've mentioned before, the contribution we receive when you Shop With a Smile – one-half of one percent of every purchase - may not seem like a lot, but everyone's participation can literally pay dividends for our Chorus. Don't believe me? Let's review some numbers.

We recently received a report of our activities on Amazon Smile. Since becoming a part of Amazon Smile last year, the Chorus has received \$182.16 in contributions. Not too long ago, we received a contribution of \$38.68 from Amazon.com for the quarter ending November 2016. It's not going to be enough to allow us to build ourselves a concert hall or anything, but every donation we receive helps us to continue to put on high-quality musical performances for our singers and our community to enjoy – and you help make it possible by making purchases on Amazon that you would have made anyway.

Here's how Shop with a Smile works. Register and shop on Amazon.com by using a special hyperlink - <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/77-0214637> - instead of the regular Amazon home page. Every time you do, half a percent of your total purchase cost will be donated to GCCC. That's it – no special codes or coupons are required, and you'll get the same great deals you always get on Amazon, but your purchase will also benefit our Chorus!

Please share the Amazon Smile link with your friends and family members, and remember to go to smile.amazon.com every time you shop on Amazon! If you have any questions about Amazon Smile or need a little help getting started, please see a member of the Board.

Project Risers – What's the Well Dressed Singer Wearing?

Not all of the questions we've been getting in the last couple of weeks have been about tickets; we've been getting questions from our singers about what is and what isn't proper concert attire. Well, nobody's going to mistake me for Tim Gunn, but I'd be happy to tell you how you can make your concert attire work, so that you look as great as you sing!

For ladies: Long sleeved or ¾ length sleeved black blouse, with a V neck, scoop neck, or boat neck. The blouse should not have short sleeves, collars, beading, or adornment. Ladies will also wear a long black skirt with black panty hose or long black dress slacks, with black socks and black, closed toe shoes. No heels, please, as these affect sight lines and are very hard on your feet while on the risers! Jewelry should be minimal and understated—no long dangling earrings, no flashy necklaces or anything that would distract from us having a uniform appearance as a chorus. Colored scarves may be provided for all the ladies to wear, to add a splash of color.

For gentlemen: Concert dress is a black tuxedo, a white tuxedo shirt with a standard collar (no French collars, please), a *black* bowtie and *black* cummerbund (not red like in December), black shoes, and black socks.

As always, please remember to refrain from using perfumes, colognes, scented lotions or any fragrance that might cause other singers to have allergic reactions.

We understand that some of our members may have difficulty purchasing concert attire due to financial concerns. If you have any concerns of this nature, please talk to your section leader or to a member of the Board – we may be able to provide you with loaner items.

If you have any questions about concert attire, please see your section leader, our concert support coordinator Michelle Smith, or any member of the Board.

Please Help Us Clear the Air

I'd like to start this item by stating the obvious – breathing is important. It's true for everyone, but especially for singers; it's hard to sing very well if you're having trouble breathing, and many singers are very sensitive to strong scents and smells. As a courtesy to your fellow singers and for everyone's comfort and safety, here are a couple of important reminders:

- Our rehearsal and concert venues (VACE, Church of the Foothills, and St John's Lutheran Church Oxnard) have been designated non-smoking facilities. Please refrain from smoking in the buildings or in their immediate vicinity when we're together, including during breaks.
- Please refrain from wearing any items with strong scents, including perfumes, colognes, and body lotions at rehearsals and at performances. Even a lightly-scented lotion or hand sanitizer may be strong enough to affect your fellow singers.

Please don't be offended if we ask you to refrain from smoking or not to wear your favorite scent – it's just that we want all our singers to be able to have a happy and healthy concert experience. Thanks for your cooperation! If you have any questions, please see your section leader or a member of the Board.

Sit and Be Counted

When people think of choruses and choirs in concert, they picture rows of well-dressed singers standing on risers. But the truth is that not every singer in a chorus can stand for an entire performance, for a variety of reasons. In those cases, our concertmaster, Scott Groeneveld, makes arrangements to have seats available for them during the performance. But Scott can't arrange for a seat if he doesn't know that you need one!

If you believe that you'll need to be seated during the performance, please be sure to indicate it on the attendance sheet for your section; you can either check off the box labeled "SIT" on the far right of the row where you mark off your attendance, or write the word "SIT" on the right edge of the sheet. Please don't assume that because you've had a seat available for past concerts, you'll automatically have a seat for this one – we have a lot of singers, and although Scott is a great concertmaster, he can't be expected to remember everyone who requested a seat from him for past concerts! If you have any questions about being seated, please ask Scott, your section leader, or a member of the Board.

We'd Love to Have You Send a Love Note

Let's say that you'd really like to show someone your appreciation for the love, kindness, and support they've shown you as you prepare for this concert. Let's say that your special someone would like to show their appreciation to you! Maybe you own a business or provide a service, and you'd like to reach new customers. Did you know that there's a way you can show your love or reach new people while you show support for our Chorus? You can, by placing a "love note" or a program` ad in our concert program!

In case you're not sure what I'm talking about, here's how a love note works: You or someone who knows you can submit a form to GCCC to run a short message – no more than about two short sentences or so - in a small space in the concert program we give to you and our patrons. A love note doesn't necessarily have to be an expression of romantic love – a note of friendship or support is just fine! Unlike many ways of sending a message these days, the cost of a GCCC program love note is very reasonable – only \$10. In addition to being a nice way to show someone at our concert that you care, the costs of a love note help pay the costs of making the concert programs available to our singers and our guests.

If you'd like to send a longer message, or a message promoting your business or a service you provide, consider running a concert program ad. We have several options available as far as ad types and sizes, all available for reasonable prices. Like love notes, program ads also help to pay for the concert programs GCCC provides.

You can pick up forms for concert program love notes and concert program ads from the table at break. If you know someone who might like to send you a love note or would like to run a program ad, please take a form and ask them to complete and return it to us as soon as possible. If you have any questions about love notes or program ads, please see Sharon Groeneveld, our publications coordinator, or another member of the board.

That's it for this edition – see you next issue!

If you have news or information that you'd like to share in a future issue, please contact a member or the Board at rehearsal, or send an e-mail to Paul Schnebelen at membership@goldcoastchorus.org.