



# Notes and Measures

October 9, 2017

## Welcome to “Cheers”! Let Everybody Know Your Name

Welcome to a new season of the Gold Coast Concert Chorus – our 30th season, in fact! We’re glad to see so many new singers and so many singers who have returned after a long absence – and, of course, we’re always glad to see all of you folks that choose to sing with us season after season.

We’d like to encourage everyone to get to know their fellow singers; you’ll be surprised how much you have in common with them! We also encourage everyone to take advantage of the many opportunities the Chorus offers to volunteer – from helping to set up and put away refreshments at rehearsals to serving on our Board of Directors. Stepping up to help out not only helps GCCC, it also helps people to get to know you better, and vice versa. No matter what you do and how many people you get to know, have a great concert and a great season!

## In Two Weeks: Beat Feet to the Foothills

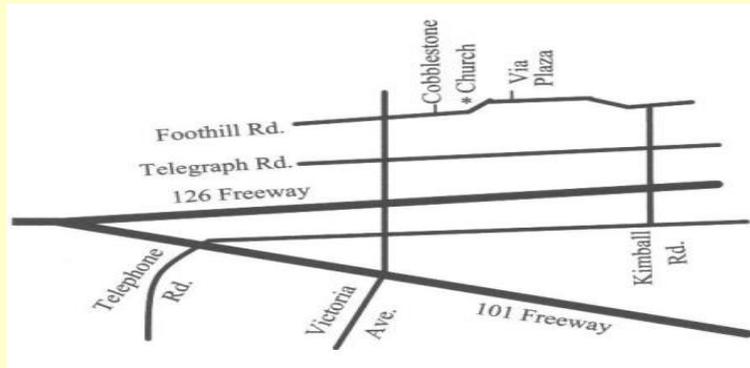
We love our rehearsal home at VACE, but from time to time, we’re not able to meet here. VACE is part of the Ventura Unified School District, and when the District doesn’t have classes, VACE is not available to us; when that happens, we hit the road to rehearse at another venue. In a couple of weeks, we’ll have to move our rehearsal location because VACE won’t be available, so here’s information on how to get to our alternate rehearsal site.

For our rehearsal on **October 23rd**, 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 directions using Google Maps or some other website or app. For those of you who prefer written directions, here’s how you get 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).



Area map courtesy of Church of the Foothills

Rehearsals will start at 7:00 as usual, so be sure to allow for extra time to get to rehearsal - it may take longer for you to get to the church than to VACE. We appreciate your patience and your flexibility; if you have any questions, please talk to your section leader or a member of the Board.

## Will You Need a Seat? Let Us Know!

I realize that it's only our fifth week of rehearsals, but we need to start preparing for our concert dates – December will be here sooner than you think! One very important bit of preparation for the concerts is finding out who will need to be seated during the concert; although most singers stand on the risers during the concerts, some singers aren't able to do so for a variety of reasons, and we do our best to accommodate them by providing chairs. Thing is, we can only accommodate someone if we know that they need to be accommodated!

If you believe you'll need to be seated for the concert performances, please be sure to write the word "SIT" on the attendance sheet near your name; Scott Groeneveld, our concertmaster, will note your request and arrange for a seat for you at the concert venue. Be sure to write "SIT" on the attendance sheet even if you've sung with us before and had a chair – we want to be sure we have an accurate count of the number of singers that need chairs, and we don't always remember everyone who's needed a chair in the past! If you have any questions about being seated, please talk to your section leader or a member of the Board.

## Scents and Sensibility

For our next item, I'd like to share a fun (and important) fact: Singers as a group tend to be more sensitive to strong scents and fragrances. Unfortunately, I'm not bringing this up just as an interesting piece of trivia; many of our singers are very sensitive to things like perfume or cigarette smoke, and when we're singing in close quarters (as we are when we rehearse or perform), the presence of strong scents or smells can cause a singer to not only have trouble singing but also trouble breathing. Even a scent that may not seem all that strong to the person who uses the fragrance can impact a singer with sensitivity to scents severely. (Hey! I alliterated!)

As a courtesy to your fellow singers, we ask that everyone refrain from using items like perfumes, colognes, scented lotions, or scented soaps prior to coming to rehearsals and performances. If you're a smoker, we ask that you refrain from smoking at rehearsals or at performances – even when we're on a break; VACE and the churches where we'll perform and rehearse this season are non-smoking facilities. We and your fellow singers thank you for your cooperation! If you have questions, please see your section leader or a member of the Board.

## Hints from the Handbook: As in School, Attendance Counts

This season in *Notes and Measures*, we're re-introducing a feature we call "Hints from the Handbook", where we remind everyone of important information from their Singer Handbooks. While I'm sure that everyone's thoroughly read their handbooks since they received them at registration (right?), it never hurts to go over handbook information as a refresher.

In this edition of Hints from the Handbook, we'd like to review GCCC's attendance policies. When everyone registered, they made a commitment to attend a minimum number of rehearsals; the number of rehearsals depends on the number of rehearsals we'll have for a concert. For our upcoming concert, singers can have unexcused absences for up to 3 rehearsals and still perform with the Chorus at the concert; if you miss more than 3 rehearsals, it's up to Liz whether or not you may perform. In addition, singers cannot miss either of the technical week dress rehearsals and still perform.

Now, we understand that life happens, and there will be occasions where you won't be able to make it to rehearsal. If you know in advance that you can't make it, please contact your section leader and we'll note that when we review the attendance sheets. If you're not feeling well, but you're not contagious and you feel up to it, you have the option of sitting in our unofficial "sick bay" away from the other singers instead of missing a rehearsal.

As long as we're on the subject of rehearsing, we'd also like to encourage everyone to not just rehearse on rehearsal days. Some of the music we're singing – lyrics especially – can be tricky, and a little bit of extra time between rehearsals spent practicing or reviewing your music can be a big help when it's time for the performance! Shortly, we'll be sending out an e-mail with links to audio files you can use to practice; we also encourage singers to use voice recorders at rehearsals, so they can review them between sessions. While singing along with an audio file or a recording isn't quite the same as rehearsing with your fellow singers, many singers find doing so very helpful.

If you have any questions about attendance or other items in the Singer Handbook, please talk to your section leader or a member of the Board.

## "Where Can I Get One of Those Cool Folders?"

If you're new to GCCC, you may have noticed that many of your fellow singers have these nice black folders that they keep their music in. Those folders you've been admiring are music folders; they're designed to not only keep your music organized when you sing, but to also be easier to hold and to carry than a 3-ring binder. While we don't require our singers to have music folders for concerts, our singers quickly discover they're really nice to have. Singers shopping for music folders often discover that they aren't the easiest items to find at music stores and music-related websites, so from time to time a member of the Board will take orders to purchase them for our members.

Valerie Allison, our vice-president, will be taking sign-ups at break tonight to purchase music folders. The exact cost of the folders will depend on the number of folders we order, but they typically run between \$20 to \$25 each – about the same that you'd pay if you went to a music store or if you ordered your own folder online. If you have questions about purchasing a music folder, please see Valerie, your section leader, or a member of the Board.

## Another Season, Another Reason to Shop With a Smile

As many of you know, GCCC participates in Amazon's Shop With a Smile Program, where you and your friends and family can help support the Chorus just by purchasing items on Amazon.com. Since *Notes and Measures* has been on its summer vacation, we haven't been able to update you on how much you've contributed to the Chorus, but now that we're back, we're happy to announce that GCCC received \$40.69 last quarter from your Amazon purchases! While that may not sound like an enormous amount of money, every little bit we raise in donations helps us pay for the many different things we need to put on our concerts, so we appreciate every penny we receive from Amazon thanks to you! Besides, summer's not exactly a big shopping season – if we can raise \$40 in the summer, imagine what we can do this quarter once the holiday shopping season gets underway!

For those of you who are new to GCCC or aren't familiar with Amazon and their Amazon Smile program, here's how the program works. If you shop on Amazon.com, and you **#StartWithaSmile**, Amazon donates 0.5% of your purchase price to GCCC. There are no special codes or passwords involved; all you have to do is register and use a special hyperlink - <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/77-0214637> - instead of the regular Amazon home page. Once you've signed up and gone to our Amazon smile page, Amazon will even remind you if you'd like to Shop with a Smile the next time you go to their regular website! When you shop at our Amazon Smile page, you support GCCC every time you shop.

Please share the Amazon Smile link with your friends and family members, and remember to go to [smile.amazon.com](https://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.

## Send a Message & Support the Chorus with a GCCC Program Ad

As I mentioned in the previous article, every dollar we raise for the Chorus will help us pay for everything we need to keep GCCC running while keeping us on a sound financial footing. The funds we need come in from many different sources, such as your membership and music fees, ticket purchases, and donations from individuals and outside organizations (thank you, donors!), just to name a few. But did you know that you can also support the Chorus by placing an ad with us? Don't worry, this doesn't involve wearing logos all over your concert attire. But it does involve singers asking friends and family if they'd be interested in advertising with us. Here's how it works.

At each of our concerts, our patrons (and our singers) receive copies of a concert program. Besides providing concertgoers with information about the Chorus and our performance, the concert program has space for advertising. The ads are available in various sizes and very reasonable price points, and can include text, graphics, logos, even copies of business cards. Running a program ad gives businesses the chance to reach new customers, gives singers, friends, and family members an opportunity to offer thanks and encouragement, and allows everyone to show their support for the arts. Did I mention the prices to run an ad are very reasonable?

If you know someone who might be interested in running an ad in our concert program, please take one of the concert ad forms that Sharon Groeneveld, our publications coordinator, will have available on the tables at break. If you have any questions about concert ads or other ways you and others can support the Chorus, please see a 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](mailto:membership@goldcoastchorus.org).