



# Notes and Measures

October 16, 2017

## Next Week: Be Fleet of Feet & Fly to the Foothills

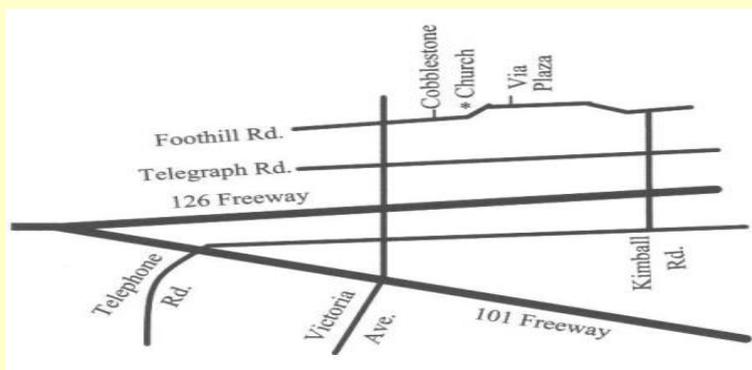
We're starting off this edition of Notes and Measures with a reminder: If you come to VACE next week, you're going to find rehearsal to be unusually quiet! Due to a public school holiday, our usual rehearsal venue at VACE will be closed next week, so we'll be rehearsing at another location. Here are the details.

For our rehearsal on **October 23rd**, we'll be meeting at Church of the Foothills, located at 6279 Foothill Road in Ventura, zip code 93003. Here are written 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).



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.

## **We Need YOU for the GCCC Ticket Team**

Francine Redmond, our ticket coordinator, is just about ready to start selling tickets to our concert. But she needs one more thing before she can begin to sell tickets - a team of devoted volunteers to assist her in taking and processing ticket orders. If you can contribute a little bit of your time before or after rehearsals or during breaks for the next several weeks, you can be a part of the GCCC ticket team; no prior experience is necessary, but a positive attitude and willingness to try something new is a definite plus. Francine will have sign-up sheets available on the desk at break; if you have any questions about being a ticket sales volunteer, please see Francine or another member of the Board.

## **Don't Stand for Not Having a Seat - Let Us Know!**

A very important bit of preparation for our concerts is finding out who will need to be seated during the performance. 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. However, 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 to be available 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.

## **Be "Scents-less" When You Sing**

As a courtesy to your fellow singers, we'd like to ask that everyone refrain from using items like perfumes, colognes, scented lotions, or scented soaps prior to coming to rehearsals and performances. Many singers are very sensitive to fragrances and scents, and when singers are together in close quarters (like we are at rehearsal or during performances), singers can not only have trouble singing, but trouble breathing! Even scents you may consider to be mild can have a serious effect on your fellow singers. The best bet for coming to rehearsals and concerts is to come "clean and fresh" - a shower or bath before practice is just fine, but please forego anything with a fragrance before you come to rehearsal.

We're not trying to pick on smokers, but the smell of cigarette or cigar smoke is another "fragrance" that can cause people trouble when they're singing. 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.

The Board 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: Watch, Look, and Listen**

It's time for another edition of "Hints from the Handbook", where we remind everyone of important information from their Singer Handbooks. Today's Hint from the Handbook involves making sure that everyone - including you! - gets the instruction that they need at rehearsals.

It's not a coincidence that the first thing we ask everyone to do at rehearsals and concerts is to watch Liz. We don't ask everyone to do this because we love and respect Liz (although we do), but because we need to be paying attention to what Liz is doing. Liz will be running the show during the performance – she'll be giving us our tempos, giving cues to singers and sections, even silently reciting the lyrics to ensure we're literally all on the same page. At rehearsals, Liz will also be listening carefully for mistakes or times that we're not singing clearly, or she'll be trying to figure out if there's another way we can perform a piece that makes us sound better. Liz does a lot to make our performance the best it can be – but she can only do it if we follow along.

"Watching Liz" means more than just *watching* Liz. For Liz to do what she needs to do, we also need to keep things as quiet as possible. That means we need to refrain from unnecessary conversations and refrain from singing our part while she works with another section. We also need to be ready to start rehearsals on time and be back in our seats as soon as the allotted time for a break has ended, so Liz has as much time as she needs to work with us before she lets everyone go home for the night.

Even if Liz doesn't happen to be working with your section at a certain point, we recommend that you listen to what she's saying – the advice and information she's providing to that other section may be useful to you and your section, as well. Be ready to receive instruction from Liz when it's time for her to work with your section – make sure you know what song and what page we're working on, so everyone isn't waiting for singers to find their place.

Oh, by the way, the advice we've just given to you doesn't apply only to Liz! We're fortunate to have other talented folks who will take Liz's place on the podium to conduct a piece of music, like Jessica, Ted Mathews, and Ivan Shobe; please be sure to show everyone on the podium the same respect and courtesy that you show Liz.

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.

## There's No Trick When You Shop With a Smile for Treats

In about two weeks, there will be monsters all over your neighborhood – some of the cutest little monsters you've even seen, and they'll be on the hunt for treats. If you haven't stocked up on candy for the Trick or Treaters yet, we have one of two suggestions: (1) Make plans to be elsewhere on Halloween night, or (2) consider stocking up through online retailers like Amazon.com. If you decide to buy your candy and Halloween party supplies from Amazon, consider giving GCCC a treat while you're at it, by making your purchase through Amazon Smile. It's frightfully easy!

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

Thanks to everyone who picked up a copy of the concert ad forms at last week's rehearsal – please be sure to give them to your friends, family and favorite businesses and ask them to return the forms as soon as possible. If you haven't picked up an ad form yet, there's still plenty of time for you to pick up some forms and encourage someone to place an ad – it's an easy and inexpensive way to support us and to reach a significant audience! Here's how it works.

At each of our concerts, our patrons receive copies of the concert program. Besides providing concertgoers with information about the Chorus and our performance, the concert program has space for advertising. 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.

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, has placed on the table 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.

## Save The Date & Save Your Stuff – The GCCC Auction is Coming!

In our season newsletter, we told you that we were planning our fifth annual GCCC Silent and Live Auction for later in our concert season. Well, we're happy to announce that the date and location of the Auction is now set! The Auction will be held **on Saturday, February 3rd** from **2:00 to 5:00 p.m.** at **St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Ventura**. We'll have additional reminders, flyers and directions to St. Paul's as we get closer to the auction date.

Please save the date in your calendars and tell your friends and family – we'll need a lot of volunteers and a lot of bidders to help make this auction a success! In addition, start looking around and thinking about any interesting items, amazing experiences, or helpful services that you'd be willing to contribute. After all, we can't have an auction without auction items! For more information, please see Valerie Allison, our vice-president, 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](mailto:membership@goldcoastchorus.org).