



# Notes and Measures

January 14, 2019

## First Steps on “The Road Not Taken”

If this is your first time singing with the Gold Coast Concert Chorus, welcome! If you're a returning singer – whether you last sang with us in December or much earlier – welcome back! We have an exciting program with some challenging but beautiful music to perform; the words should be just as amazing as the music, as our concert features music from *Frostiana*, inspired by the poetry of Robert Frost. We'll also be premiering a piece commissioned by a group of community and school choruses, including ours, about the timely topic of bullying.

We have a lot of steps to take before we reach our final destination in the middle of March; as the old slogan goes, getting there will be half the fun! If you're ready to take those first steps, let's get started!

## The Next Two Weeks: Taking a Detour to the Foothills

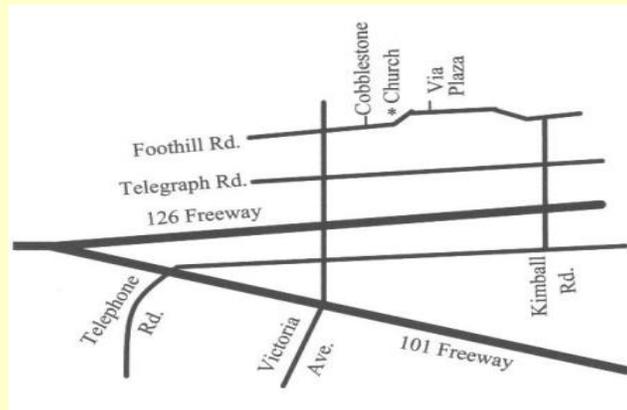
The trickiest part of getting something done at the start of a new year is working around the holidays on the calendar. For example, next Monday is Martin Luther King Day, which is a school holiday; the following Monday is what's called an in-service day for the Ventura Unified School District, where school faculty and staff are given a chance to meet and prepare for a new school semester. In both cases, since VACE is a part of the Ventura Unified School District, our usual rehearsal space will be closed. Although your kids or grandkids may get to take two Mondays off, we don't have that luxury with a concert only 8 weeks or so away; hence, for the next two weeks, we'll be asking everyone to join us at our alternate rehearsal site. Here are the details.

For our rehearsals on **January 21st and January 28th**, 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).*



Map courtesy of Church of the Foothills

Don't forget to allow extra time for your trip if you need it, since it may take longer to reach the church. Thanks to everyone for their patience and cooperation! If you have any questions, please talk to your section leader or a member of the Board.

## The GCCC Spirit Is the Volunteer Spirit

In *A Streetcar Named Desire*, Blanche DuBois famously said that "I have always depended on the kindness of strangers." Here at GCCC, we're just as dependent on the kindness of our singers and their friends and families; there's just no way that we could do what we do week after week, concert after concert, and season after season without people volunteering to get things done. Now, a few of you might be tempted to think that we members of the Board are going to take a moment to congratulate ourselves on all we do, but the fact is, even the members our Board can't do everything all by themselves. We need you – all of you, ideally, but definitely as many of you as possible – to give us a little of your time to make it possible for this Chorus to do great things.

This brings up the next topic of discussion: What kind of things could we use your help or your friends' and families' help with? There are almost as many opportunities to volunteer your time as there are measures in the pages of a book of music. Here are some examples:

**Rehearsal Set Up/Take Down:** When we open the door to the rehearsal hall every Monday night, the only thing in place is the furniture. Everything else – power cords, speakers, handouts, and music to be handed out – have to be prepared or put into place. When rehearsal is done and we're all ready to head home, we could really use a few people to stay behind for a few minutes and put away all those things that we took out when we came in.

**Hospitality Set Up/Take Down:** We all love snacks and drinks at break time. If you can come in a little bit early and help with setting up coffee and hot water pots or putting snacks on the table before rehearsal begins, that's always appreciated. We also appreciate it immensely when folks spend their time and money to buy and make snacks to share with us (and thank YOU for all YOU do, Loueen!). At the end of the rehearsal, a couple of people willing to help put away the uneaten packaged snacks and clean up the pots and snack table are more than welcome.

**Concert Set Up/Take Down:** Three times a year, we transform a church into a performance venue and back in the space of a few days! A lot of planning and practice go into making it happen, but a lot of people giving us some of their spare time a couple of days before the show and for an hour or so afterward make that transformation possible. The more people we have doing, the faster we can do it and do it safely.

**Ushers/Ticket Takers:** As anyone who witnessed our sold-out performances a few weeks ago will attest, it can be tricky to distribute tickets and get patrons seated, especially when we have a full house. Since singers can't be two places at once, we need friends and family members to man the Will Call table and to serve as ushers on performance days – without them, we won't wait a ready and waiting audience!

This is by no means an exhaustive list of all the things you and people you know can do as a GCCC volunteer. In fact, we're sure there are other things we haven't thought of that could make things go easier and smoother. If you have some ideas and you'd be willing to take the lead in making them happen, a member of the Board would love to hear your ideas.

If you're one of those folks who regularly step up and show your volunteer spirit, **THANK YOU!** We could never tell you how much everything you do means to the members of this choir. If you'd like to show us a little of your volunteer spirit, please see our hospitality coordinator Pat Chaney or another member of the Board and ask us how you can help, or tell us about a great new way you can help the Chorus. Either way, thanks in advance for your support!

## The Request Lines Are Now Open!

Seeing as it's only the second week of rehearsals for our March concert, it may strike some of you as a bit odd to start talking about our June concert. But June – and mid-March, when we'll begin rehearsals for June – will be here sooner than you think, and Liz would like some suggestions for songs we can sing at that concert.

Our June concert will be called "Hot Days and Cool Nights" and will feature pop songs that remind us of the fun we had – and still have! – in the good ol' summertime. Do you have any favorite pop songs from the 70s, 60s, or earlier that you'd enjoy singing? Are there songs out there that say "summer" to you any time you hear them? Suggest them to Liz – maybe we'll be singing on the risers in a few months!

To suggest songs for the June concert, please e-mail them to me at [membership@goldcoastchorus.org](mailto:membership@goldcoastchorus.org); to help us get a list together in less time than it takes the Academy to choose Oscar winners, we ask that you provide no more than 3 songs per e-mail. I'll forward your suggestions on to our favorite "Boss Radio DJ" (Liz), and come March, we'll see if your favorite songs made GCCC's playlist! If you have any questions about our upcoming concert, please see a member of the Board.

## Gold Coast Wind Ensemble Pops Concert - January 19th

We love being part of the arts community here in Ventura County, and we love to do what we can to promote not only our performances, but the performances of our fellow organizations, as well. As it happens, one of those organizations is holding a concert this weekend, and we thought we should pass the word about that concert along.

This Saturday, January 19th, the Gold Coast Wind Ensemble will be performing the 28th edition of its annual pops concert. If you love movie and Broadway music, you're gonna love this performance, because it features selections from films and shows like *Les Miserables*, *North by Northwest*, *Fiddler on the Roof*, *The Polar Express*, and *Porgy and Bess*, among many others. The concert will also include a performance of the *Harlem Nocturne*, featuring a solo by our favorite sound technician, Tom Scharf (yep, he plays music as well as records it, folks). If you're looking for a fun way to kick off your long holiday weekend, why not come out and enjoy what promises to be a really fun concert?

The Gold Coast Wind Ensemble's Season Pops concert will be held on Saturday, January 19, 2019 at 7:30 p.m. at the Newbury Park High School Performing Arts Center, located at 456 N Reino Rd in Newbury Park. Tickets are just \$20 for general admission, \$10 for seniors 62 and better, and \$5 per students, and are available at the door or by calling the GCWE ticket hotline at (805) 766-7968. For more information about the Gold Coast Wind Ensemble, including their other performances this season, please visit their website at [www.gcwe.org](http://www.gcwe.org).

## **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).