



Notes and Measures

December 9, 2019

Tips and Timelines for Tech Week

Welcome our last rehearsal for this concert at Church of the Foothills! Whether this is your first GCCC concert, or fifty-first, congratulations on completing regular rehearsals – you all sound great! Tonight is the beginning of the week of our performances, known as “technical week” or “Tech Week” for short. Let’s recap what we’ll be doing for the rest of this week at rehearsal and at the performances.

The next time we’ll be getting together will be for our final dress rehearsal on **Thursday, December 12th**, at Crosspointe Church in Ventura. The call time for Thursday night’s rehearsal will be **6:30 p.m.** Please be make sure you’re at the church and ready to go at the call time, and be prepared to be at rehearsal until 10:00 p.m., as we’re going to have a lot to do! Our concerts will be on **Friday, December 13th and Saturday, December 14th** at Crosspointe; the call time will be **6:00 p.m.** for a 7:30 p.m. performance **on Friday**. (*Note the earlier call time and start time for the Friday concert!*) and will be **12:30 p.m.** for a 2:00 p.m. performance **on Saturday**.

Do you know the way to Crosspointe Church? If all you need is an address, the church is located at 5415 Ralston Street, Ventura, 93003. For those of you who prefer written directions, please see below.

FROM OXNARD, THOUSAND OAKS AND POINTS SOUTH: Take the U.S. 101 North to the Victoria Avenue off-ramp. Turn right on to Victoria and continue on Victoria for about 1/2 a mile, and then turn left on Ralston Street; continue on Ralston for about 1/2 a mile and Crosspointe will be on your right, just before Saratoga Avenue.

FROM SANTA PAULA, FILLMORE AND POINTS EAST: Take California 126 West and exit at Victoria Avenue. Take the second off-ramp and turn right on to Victoria; continue south on Victoria for about 1/2 mile and turn right on to Ralston Street. Continue on Ralston for about 1/2 a mile and Crosspointe will be on your right, just before Saratoga Avenue.

FROM OJAI AND OAK VIEW: Take California 33 South and merge on to U.S. 101 South. Continue on 101 South to the Telephone Road off-ramp. From the left lane of the ramp, make a left turn on to Main Street, then turn left at the next signal on to Telephone Road. Continue on Telephone for about 3/4 of a mile and turn right on to Saratoga Avenue. Continue on Saratoga for about 1/4 mile and turn left on Ralston Street. Crosspointe Church will be on your left just after you make the turn.

Now let’s talk about what’ll be happening tonight and at Thursday’s dress rehearsal. Tech Week dress rehearsals may not seem all that different from our regular rehearsals, but that’s really not the case! In addition to the Chorus running through our full concert program, the rehearsals will also focus on working out all the important details to ensure that we sound our best and that the performances go off with as few troubles as possible. Scott will be figuring out where to place everyone on the risers, Pam, Liz, and the sound technicians will be checking equipment and tweaking stuff on stage, and Liz and Jessica will be working with our accompanying percussionist and our soloists. Issues will inevitably arise that may take some time for Liz, Jessica, Scott, and/or Pam to resolve, especially since on Thursday we’ll be doing

all of this in a venue we haven't been in for a while. When we have times during Tech Week where it seems like there's not much happening, please be patient - we'll get back to rehearsing as soon as possible!

Finally, we end our review of the Tech Week schedule with an important reminder about Thursday. Although our next rehearsal is referred to as a "dress rehearsal", there's no need to come to rehearsal on Thursday in concert dress (and trust me, at least one person usually does). Come to rehearsal dressed the way you usually do, and then come to Crosspointe in your concert attire on Friday and Saturday. (If you're still not sure if you have proper concert dress, please see the article below.) In addition to checking your concert dress one last time, make sure your music is in a music folder or some other kind of black folder, and that it's in the correct concert order.

If you have additional questions about Tech Week, please see your section leader or a member of the Board. Otherwise, break a leg, and we'll see you at Crosspointe on Thursday!

Ticket Time Is Almost Up – Let's Put More Patrons in Seats

We received a sales report last Wednesday from Barbara Recker, our ticket sales chairperson, and to be honest, the sales numbers aren't where we'd like them to be. Excluding online purchases made recently through PayPal, we've sold 105 tickets for Friday and 138 tickets for Saturday, which means we'll have less than half-full houses for the performances. A half-filled house isn't great for us as performers or for the Chorus in general, but fortunately we still have time to do something about it!

Ticket sales will continue at rehearsal tonight and on Thursday night; in addition, we'll also continue sales through the ticket hotline and the website through Thursday. We can do this, folks - keep talking up our concerts to your friends and neighbors, take cards and flyers for the concert and post them at your favorite businesses, share and like the concert postings from GCCC on Facebook, but most importantly, keep selling tickets!

Tickets are only \$18 each for adults, \$15 for students and seniors 65 or better, and \$5 for children 12 and under. In addition to purchasing tickets at the ticket table, you can also buy them on the GCCC website at www.goldcoastchorus.org/tickets, by e-mail at tickets@goldcoastchorus.org, or by placing an order through the GCCC Ticket Hotline at (805) 616-7269.

Tickets can be purchased at the ticket table by cash, check, money order, and via credit or debit card using PayPal; purchases can be made via debit or credit card on the website and through the hotline. Besides picking up tickets at time of purchase, you also have the option to request they be held at "will call" for pick up on the performance dates (but please see the note below).

This week will also be the last chance to purchase GCCC season tickets. Season ticket holders receive tickets to all three of our concerts and get to sit in our special VIP section, for only \$45 for adults and \$12 for kids. That's \$15 per adult concert ticket for each of our concerts – a total savings of \$9, or 16 percent over purchasing tickets individually. If you know someone who comes to all of our concerts, don't let them miss out on this great offer!

For those of you who checked out a batch of concert tickets to sell, remember that unsold tickets and proceeds from ticket sales must be turned in to the GCCC Ticket Team no later than Thursday night. You still have a chance to make a final push to sell your remaining tickets – we know you can do it!

Finally, please note that, per a change in policy the Chorus implemented last season, we will no longer hold unpaid tickets at the Will Call table – all tickets being held must be pre-paid. If you have any questions about tickets and ticket policies, please see Barbara, another member of the ticket team, or another member of the Board.

Concert Attire: I'm Telling You for the Last Time...

Remember a couple of weeks ago I promised that I would cover concert attire for the last time, because I was sure that everyone was getting tired of me reminding them what they should be wearing? Well, my fellow Board members and I have gotten enough questions from singers since then that I think that covering our options just once more might not be a bad idea; we also need to cover some information about an additional piece of concert attire we'll be providing for some of our singers. So, for the last time (and I promise this *will* be the last time - this is our final issue of *Notes and Measures* for this concert!), let's talk about December concert attire.

Our first option for concert attire consists of a long sleeved or $\frac{3}{4}$ length sleeved black blouse, with a V neck, scoop neck, or boat neck. The blouse should not have short sleeves, collars, beading, or adornment. In addition to the blouse, you should be wearing 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 can be 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.

In addition to the clothing items we're asking you to provide, the Chorus will be providing each female singer a red sash that will be pinned on to the blouse. Pat Chaney, our concert support coordinator, will be providing sashes to your section leaders, and they'll be passed out to you prior to the concert on Friday night. We'd like to ask that you please leave the sashes in the green room before you go home on Friday night, to be sure that they'll be available on Saturday. Please also be sure to return the sashes to Pat after Saturday's performance, so we can use them in future concerts. Thanks in advance for your cooperation!

Option number two for concert attire is a black tuxedo, a white tuxedo shirt with a standard collar (no French collars, please), a red bowtie and red cummerbund, black shoes, and black socks. (Sorry guys, but you don't get any sashes.)

For the second half of the program, singers may stay in their formal concert dress or liven things up slightly by changing into festive holiday attire. Ladies may change into a holiday blouse, or put on a scarf or hat; gentlemen may loosen their ties, take off their jackets, or put on a vest, holiday-themed shirt, or a festive hat. If you have a Christmas sweater, you're welcome to wear it, but please remember that it can get very hot under the stage lights. Santa hats and other head gear is also permitted, but please check with your section leader before the concert – in addition to the stage lights making your head very warm, hats may also block the sight lines of the performers behind you.

Being clean and fresh is always welcome, but please refrain from using perfumes, colognes, scented lotions or any fragrance, as this may cause other singers to have adverse reactions. Thanks - your cooperation will literally help your fellow singers breathe a little easier!

If you have any questions about concert attire, please see your section leader, Pat Chaney, or another member of the Board.

Thanks for the Offers, but We Have Setup Covered

For the last couple of weeks, we've been running articles in *Notes and Measures* asking folks to join us for setup of our equipment, including the new risers, later this week. We really want to thank everyone who put their names on the sign-up sheets and contacted our equipment manager Pam Washburn – it's great to know we can count on so many of you to help us when need it! For this concert, however, we're going to ask that folks interested in helping out at the concert venue assist with the green room instead of with setup and takedown. I know that this is unusual, but there's a method to our apparent madness! Please allow me to explain...

Our new risers have different parts and are assembled and disassembled differently than our old ones. Since this will be our first time using them, Pam and a special team of volunteers will be working on figuring out the best way to set up and take down the risers, as well as labeling the various parts of the new equipment so that we know what will go where the next time we use the risers. Figuring this out will require more time than usual, but won't require a lot of people, so rather have a lot of volunteers standing around for a long time while Pam and her team figure things out, the special team will work exclusively on riser and equipment setup. For those of you who are looking forward to helping set up the new risers, not to worry – we'll be asking for your help at a future concert. Enjoy a break from setup this time, and watch future editions of *Notes and Measures* for requests for equipment setup volunteers.

For more information about setup and other things you can do to help at the concert venue, please see a member of the Board.

We Have A Green Room, Too – Help Us Stock and Care for It

If you watch any of the late-night talk shows, you know that the stars who come on the show don't just hang out behind the curtain until it's time to talk to the host. They have a special room, known as a "green room", where they can relax, chat with each other, and have a snack or a drink before they go on stage. Well, we're not celebrities (although you're all stars the minute you go on stage, in my book), but we also have a green room, where we gather before we go on stage and where we take a break at intermission. Unlike the talk shows, we don't have a staff of paid production assistants to take care of our green room for us; that's why we're asking for your help in setting up, cleaning up, and stocking up the green room at Crosspointe.

Pat Chaney is looking for singers to show up a before our scheduled call time on December 13th to help set up our green room. We'll need volunteers' help with setting up the snack tables and chairs, setting up the coffee and hot water pots, and putting out items provided by the Chorus and by our fellow singers. Since we can't leave food items out overnight, we're going to need some folks to come in a little early prior to Saturday's call time to help put out snacks and drinks and to get the coffee and hot water pots brewing again. Setup doesn't require any special skills – it just requires people willing to help, and the more people the better!

What gets set up eventually has to be taken down and put away, so Pat is also looking for folks who help us pack up snacks after the show on Friday, as well as folks to put tables and chairs back and pack up food immediately after the performance on Saturday. Our goals are to make sure the green room is clean and comfortable for singers on both performance days, and that when we leave Crosspointe on Saturday afternoon, the facilities look as good as they did when we came in. We know that many of you will be looking forward to meeting family and friends after the performances, but if we have enough people available to pack up and clean up on both days, we can make quick work of it and get everyone out to their friends and family as quickly as possible.

Last but definitely not least, we need singers to bring snacks! GCCC will provide coffee and hot water for the snack table; Pat would greatly appreciate it if singers would bring in light snacks to energize us for the program – things like finger sandwiches, cheese and crackers, chips and dip, veggies, fruit, granola bars, and so on. Your fellow singers would especially appreciate it if you would bring in lemon wedges and honey to add to the hot water – they're great for soothing a singer's throat between acts! Any and all snack items that you can contribute will be greatly appreciated. Please note that since we can't leave any unopened food items in the green room at Crosspointe overnight, we'll need anyone bringing food to pack up any leftovers on Friday night and bring them back (or bring new stuff) on Saturday afternoon.

If you're interested in volunteering to set up, clean up, or stock up the green room, or if you have questions about what's involved or what we need, please see Pat or another member of the Board at break.

Thank You for Your Generosity and Support!

Much like Blanche DuBois, GCCC has always depended on the kindness of friends and singers; we simply couldn't put on concerts without your support and your willingness to volunteer. This has been especially true so far this year, where everyone has stepped up to help us deal with challenges and make purchases that will benefit the Chorus for this year and for years to come. Before we go on stage for our concert performances, the GCCC Board of Directors would like to thank our supporters, our friends, and especially you, our singers, for everything you've done for the Chorus so far this season.

First and foremost, we want to thank you for the contributions you've made toward the purchase of our new risers. Between additional contributions at registration, individual donations, and change put in the Riser Bucket at rehearsals, we've raised \$6,099.33 so far to help us cover the cost of the riser purchase! Your generosity helps keep the Chorus financially sound and ensures we have funds available to support our concerts and be prepared for any unforeseen future issues.

This year, we've also asked everyone to encourage friends, family members, and business to advertise in our concert programs, both to help cover the costs of the concert program as well as to help cover the cost of the risers. This season, we'll be running more ads in our program than we have in a couple of years, which means we'll be able to cover more of the costs of offering quality concert programs to our patrons. Thanks to our advertisers and thanks to all of you for encouraging them to sponsor us!

Finally, we want to thank the unsung heroes who got the church ready and made us all feel more welcome at rehearsals – the singers who arrived early to open up the sanctuary, set up tables and equipment in the sanctuary and patio, manned the ticket table, brought in cookies and candy for everyone to enjoy, and who stuck around after most of their fellow singers had gone home to clean up and put everything away. You made rehearsals a better experience for everyone, and helped us to be good guests at Church of the Foothills. Give yourselves a great big hand!

Don't Wait Until After Performance to Purchase a Concert CD

I've helped sell concert CDs for about a year now, and I purchased concert CDs for several years before that, so I've witnessed the following scenario several times. We have an outstanding concert performance. Anywhere from moments to weeks after the performance is done, several singers realize that our performance was so great that they change their mind and decide that they want to order a concert CD after all. These folks go to the person who handled CD sales or another member of the Board, and ask if it's not too late to make a purchase. Much of the time, we can accommodate the

request, because we order a few extra CDs from Tom in anticipation of someone changing their mind. Occasionally, however, we have so many people ask for a CD after we place the order that we run out of extra CDs to sell them, and the singer walks away disappointed. There's only one sure way to avoid missing out: Order a GCCC concert CD before the concert, so when the CD order comes in, we have a copy waiting for you!

I will be taking orders for CDs of the December concert performance at break tonight and on Thursday. The cost of a concert CD is only \$20; CDs will be given to those singers who placed an order and purchased the CD as soon as the master recording is mixed and completed by our sound engineer extraordinaire Tom Scharf, which usually occurs a few weeks after the concert. It's not necessary to pay for the CD when you place the order, but payment in advance is greatly appreciated. If you're interested, see me at break and I'll get your name, the number of CDs you'd like to purchase, and the payment, if you have it ready. If you have any questions about concert CDs, please see me or another member of the Board.

That's it for this concert – see you in January!

Registration and rehearsals for our March concert, *The Best of All Possible Bernstein*, will begin on Monday, January 6th at Church of the Foothills; watch your e-mail for an announcement with registration dates and times near the end of December. Enjoy your holiday break, and we'll look forward to seeing you in the New Year!

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.