



ROGUE VALLEY  
PEACE CHOIR

P.O. Box 825, Ashland, OR 97520

## NEWS RELEASE

Contact: Su Rolle, (541) 840-7881

### **Peace Choir Seeks Singers**

**Ashland & Medford, OR** – The Rogue Valley Peace Choir, a non-audition secular choir, invites all singing activists to join us on Thursday, September 6th as we embark on a new season of singing for peace, equality, social justice and the environment.

Registration begins at 6:15pm, at the First United Methodist Church, 175 N. Main Street, Ashland, with rehearsal following at 7pm. Singers considering joining may attend at 6:15pm any Thursday evening throughout September. The choir rehearses from 7-9pm each Thursday through May 2019. Call (541) 840-7881 or, for more information, go to <http://roguevalleypeacechoir.org>.

Beginning its 16th season, the nearly 100-member Rogue Valley Peace Choir is directed by Rob Griswell-Lowry and accompanied by Mikiko Petrucelli. This season's songs, submitted by choir members themselves, span a variety of genres, including songs by Holly Near, Bono, Pete Seeger, and Brian Tate, to name just a few. The songs promote peace, tell stories, inspire and empower, and raise awareness of social justice and environmental issues.

The choir performs in a variety of venues throughout the year, often receiving special invitations such as the recent invite by the world-class Britt Orchestra, Jacksonville, OR, to perform during an evening spotlighting housing insecurity. Choir members were among the special guest singers performing the newly composed piece "*Emergency shelter intake form*," written by Gabriel Kahane and co-commissioned with the Oregon Symphony. On September 21, the choir will sing at the dedication of the World Peace Flame at the Thalden Pavilion at Southern Oregon University's Sustainability Center in Ashland. The World Peace Flame is being brought to the United States from the Netherlands as an international symbol for unity, hope, and peace. Only one other World Peace Flame resides in the United States, the first one being at the Civil Rights Museum in Memphis Tennessee. Still in the planning stage, a trip to Ashland's sister city, Guanajuato, Mexico, is in the works for the choir during its 2019-2020 season. The choir also performs at a variety of Rogue Valley venues throughout the season, including schools, assisted living facilities and during public concerts.

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**[NOTE TO EDITOR:** Media interview and photo opportunities are available with Rogue Valley Peace Choir Director Rob Griswell-Lowry. To schedule an interview or for more information, contact Su Rolle, (541) 840-7881.]