



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 – Singing activists who wish to sing for peace, social justice, and the environment are invited to join the Rogue Valley Peace Choir as it begins its 2018-19 season on Thursday, Sept. 6, at the First United Methodist Church, 175 N. Main St., Ashland. Registration begins at 6:30 p.m. and the first rehearsal for the non-audition secular choir begins that evening at 7 p.m. The choir rehearses from 7 to 9 p.m. on Thursdays and will meet through May 2019. Singers considering joining can come any Thursday evening at 6:30 throughout September. Call (541) 840-7881 or go to <http://roguevalleypeacechoir.org> for more information.

Rogue Valley Peace Choir, beginning its 16th season, is dedicated to building peace, equality, social justice, and stewardship of our planet through song. The choir's nearly 100 members are 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 Brain 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 on July 27. Choir members were among the special guest singers performing during 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. Although 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.

Throughout the choir's season, which runs through May 2019, the choir will perform at a variety of other venues, including at schools, assisted living facilities, and for the public during concerts presented in the Rogue valley.

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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.]