



Corralin' the Chorale

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER of the VILLAGE CHORALE of LAGUNA WOODS

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WE 'R' THE VILLAGE CHORALE

Now beginning our forty-first year and with last year's attendance increase from seventy one to eighty eight voices the Village Chorale claims the distinction of being the premier vocal organization in The Village! Last year's Winter "Together for the Holidays" concert was a sellout and rave notices proclaimed it as the "best." Our Memorial Weekend Concert "Celebrate America" was equally well received. And now, as the fall kickoff rehearsal is set for August 26th the establishment of a "Waiting List" is actually on the horizon.

Formally, we are a class, taught weekly on Tuesday afternoons by H. Douglas Custance of the Saddleback College Emeritus Program. Informally, we are a club, with a board and a full yearly schedule of activities. Club members are all Laguna Woods residents but we welcome Guests from the surrounding area who want to experience the best of four part choral singing while developing ensemble sounds through correct singing and correct vocal production.

With the careful artistry of accompanist/performer Juanita Tsu assisting at the keyboard the climax of each semester's work is our ticketed concert - on stage in the Clubhouse 3 Auditorium. Our concerts include choral literature of varying demands, styles, and periods. We sing music of the masters and music of the theatre, and music of the movies. We sing music loved by country stars and rock stars and we sing music loved by Christians, Jews, and Kwanzaa. Our concert audiences have an appetite for the sparkle, the blend, and the sweep of sights and sounds by which they become enveloped.

A few long term Villagers may remember when small groups of Village vocalists gathered informally - as early as 1965. By 1967 the singers were a fully formed Chorale, finding a permanent home in Clubhouse 3 when the doors opened in 1971.

Please! Don't confuse *corralin'* of The Village Chorale with what goes on at the stables! We are vocalists, not equestrians! But some might say *corralin'* is a really good word for keeping ninety to one hundred members in the right place at the right time; in the correct attire; music in hand, head, and heart; ready for listening and learning, for having fun, for eating, and for performing! Hence our monthly newsletter "Corralin' the Chorale." This issue is specially prepared for the Public. If you have ever sung in a four part choir or ensemble you are encouraged to sign up for this Emeritus Institute Class Number MUS 290X taught by Doug Custance. If you are music loving, anything-upwards-of-moderately-hard working, and fun loving you'll fit right in!

Village Chorale EVENT LIST FALL '08

- FIRST REHEARSAL Tue, 8/26/08
- REBATE EVENT / We eat together at a favorite Restaurant and the Chorale receives a % of the combined bill.....Tue. 8/26/08
- PUNCH & COOKIE DAY Tue, 9/16/08
- REBATE EVENT / date and place to be announced
- LAST DAY - NEW MEMBERSHIPS..... Tue, 9/30/08
- CHORALE PICTURE DAY Tue, 10/14/08
- REBATE EVENT / date and place to be announced
- TICKET SALES BEGIN..... Tue, 10/28/08
- ANNUAL POTLUCK and Karaoke..... Thu 11/6/08
- REBATE EVENT / date and place to be announced
- SOLOIST AUDITIONS Tue 11/18/08
- VIVALDI CONCERT with Orchestra Sat 12/5/08
- MESSIAH SING-ALONG with OrchestraMon 12/8/08
- WINTER CONCERT..... Sat 12/20/08
- LIBRARY WORKDAYTue 12/22/08

CUSTANCE DIRECTS IN SIXTH YEAR WITH CHORALE



The announcement on May 15, 2003 that H. Douglas Custance had accepted the position as Conductor of the Village Chorale began five exciting and happy years in the recent life of the Chorale. Mr. Custance, well known in the world of music, has an impressive resume of appearances through-out the United States and Europe both as a soloist and as a conductor.

Mr. Custance has appeared in the Hollywood Bowl, Verizon Wireless Amphitheater, The Dorothy Chandler Pavilion, the Orange County Center for the Performing Arts, the Redlands Bowl, Carnegie Concert Hall, in the Sistine Chapel in Vatican City. and at the Crystal Cathedral. He has conducted the Boston Pops, The Los Angeles Mozart Orchestra, the LA Baroque Orchestra, and the Cypress Pops Orchestra and prepared choirs for Carmen Dragon, Keith Lockhart, the Pacific Symphony, the California Philharmonic, and William Hall. For more than 10 years He served as Conductor of the Southern California Mormon Choir and has been a Guest Conductor of the Mormon Tabernacle Choir of Salt Lake City for varied radio and television broadcasts.

With a degree in Choral Music from Chapman University, Mr. Custance has studied at UCI, USC, and UCLA. He has been a member of the faculty of Saddleback College as adjunct professor of music Emeritus Institute for 26 years and Director of the Chorale now beginning his sixth year.

Doug and his wife, Linda and his youngest son, Nathan are residents of Laguna Hills and are parents of 5 children, 11 grandchildren, and 5 great-grandchildren.



Conductor Doug Custance & Accompanist Juanita Tsu

CHORALE ACCOMPANIST

Juanita Tsu has brought a wealth of talent and expertise to the Leisure World Chorale ever since in 2002 she took the position of Chorale Accompanist.

She has performed extensively on stage, radio, and television as a recital soloist, as soloist with various orchestras and chamber music groups, and as accompanist for a wide range of instrumentalists and vocalists.

At the age of seven and a half, Ms. Tsu started playing the piano and at 15 she entered the National Academy of Arts in Taiwan as a piano performance major. She earned her Bachelor of Music degree from Peabody Conservatory of Music in Baltimore, Maryland and acquired her Master of Music Degree at the New England Conservatory in Boston, Massachusetts. Ms. Tsu was on the Faculty of the University of Massachusetts, Lowell, from 1977 - 2000 where she was coordinator of the piano program.

Ms. Tsu opened her Southern California Piano Studio after moving to the Laguna Woods Village in July, 2000. In addition to accompanying the Chorale, she serves as Choir Director for the Reform Temple of the Village, accompanies the Mission Viejo High School Choirs, and accompanies the Seventh Day Adventist Church Choir of Garden Grove.

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