

Light up the holidays with Wishes & Candles

Festive music will ring out along the coast this weekend, as the Central Coast Chorale presents its annual Wishes & Candles Holiday Concerts in Yachats, Lincoln City and Newport.

Under the direction of Dr. Mary Lee Scoville, the 40-voice choir will celebrate the winter season with a selection of holiday music at 7 pm, on Friday, Dec. 13, at the Yachats Commons. The concert will be repeated at 2 pm on Saturday, Dec. 14, at the Lincoln City Cultural Center and again at 3 pm on Sunday, Dec. 15, at the First Presbyterian Church of Newport.

At each concert, the chorale will sing an eclectic mix of tunes of the season. There will be traditional carols from Ireland and England such as Dale Warland's arrangement of the "Wexford Carol" and Steven Strite's innovative version of "Angels We Have Heard on High." Kirby Shaw's jazzy take on "Carol of the Bells" and the very traditional "Psallite" by Michael Praetorius both feature intricate rhythms and interplay between the choral parts.

The chorus will honor the Jewish holidays with "Chanukah Prayer" by David Lantz, as well as celebrating the birth of Christ through Italian folk lullaby, "Dormi, Dormi, O Bel Bambin," arranged by Robert DeCormier and "Birthday Carol" by David Willcocks.

The lineup will include two pieces inspired by poetry appropriate to the season. "The Moon is Distant from the Sea" features lyrics drawn from Emily Dickinson,



a beautiful meditation on the relationship between moon and tide as a metaphor for the poet's feeling for the divine. And "Northern Lights" by popular contemporary composer Ola Gjielo draws its inspiration from the poetry of the "Song of Solomon."

"Most of all, this piece and its text is about beauty," Gjielo said, "about a 'terrible,' powerful beauty although the music is quite serene on the surface."

The Central Coast Chorale's small women's group, Women of Note, will again step out from the group to perform, singing two movements from "A Ceremony of Carols," an 11-movement work composed

in 1942 by Benjamin Britten. The composer wrote this work during a month-long transatlantic crossing, returning to Britain after three years in New York during World War II. The text of this vocal work is from "The English Galaxy of Shorter Poems" which Britten purchased in Halifax, Nova Scotia, while his ship was docked during the voyage home.

The Chorale will also present a mixed octet singing "The Christmas Can Can," performed in the a cappella style popularized by such groups as Straight No Chaser, who wrote and arranged this song. This fun and technically challenging piece

comically portrays the phenomenon of the holiday season arriving earlier and earlier every year. The song also pays homage to Hanukkah and Kwanzaa, describing the commercial imbalance of their celebrations in comparison to Christmas. The piece includes a fast changing medley of Christmas carols, Offenbach's "Can Can" tune and even "Hava Nagila."

All three concerts have a suggested donation of \$10 per person or \$20 per family for admission.

For more information, go to centralcoastchorale.com or email admin@centralcoastchorale.com.

Chorus this one off the list

The Tillamook Community Chorus will merrily ring in the holiday season with "Sing We Now of Christmas," this Saturday, Dec. 14.

The concert will see the four-part chorus and soloists perform a compilation of traditional and multi-cultural Christmas vocal works. Guests will hear some familiar favorites like "The First Noel" and "O Come, O Come Emmanuel." Tillamook High School and Junior High School Choir Director Andrew Bergh will direct the concert, which will feature piano accompaniment from Barbara Richmond.

Saturday's concert will start at 3 pm, at Tillamook United Methodist Church, 3808

12th Street. Admission is free, but there is a suggested donation of \$5 donation per person. Refreshments will be served at intermission and there will be a raffle of gift baskets. Guests who make a \$5 admission donation will receive one complimentary raffle ticket.

Tillamook Community Chorus sang its first concert in 1981. Members of the group come from all parts of the county and some have been singing together for many years. It's a diverse community of music lovers who gather weekly to join their voices in celebration. Singers of all ages and skill levels are invited and encouraged to join; there are no auditions. The chorus rehearses



on Thursday evenings from 6:30 to 8:30 pm in the choir room at Tillamook High School. The next concert season will begin

in early 2020.

For more information, contact Mary at 503-812-1830.