

# THE ARTS

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# HITTING A HIGH NOTE

Cannon Beach  
Chorus celebrates  
30 years

By **BRENNA VISSER**  
COAST WEEKEND

**N**ot a minute is wasted at the Cannon Beach Chorus.

Every Monday night, the lobby of the Cannon Beach Community Church is packed with more than 60 singers with name tags that show people from Oceanside, Oregon, to Ocean Park, Washington, ready to sing at 6:30 p.m. They come from all walks of life, with some members still in high school and others more than 80-years-old.

And at the helm is their director, John Buehler, who made sure warm-ups began no later than 6:31 p.m.

“The discipline is what allows people to do this casually,” Buehler said. “You don’t get this time back, so I plan to the minute. There are many different needs that need to be addressed every minute, and it’s supremely important that people’s time is honored.”

But moments of seriousness are laced with lighthearted fun.

“Bless your heart but not your throats,” Buehler said after the choir was trending flat after multiple repetitions of a phrase, a comment met with a roll of laughter.

Now in its 30th year, the choir, currently in the throes of preparing a Christmas Oratorio, is known to perform regularly in the community and across the coast. To celebrate, the choir will have a piece commissioned especially for them to premiere next spring.

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PHOTOS BY COLIN MURPHEY

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: The Cannon Beach Chorus, which is celebrating its 30th anniversary, rehearses under the direction of John Buehler.

Members of the Cannon Beach Chorus practice under the direction of John Buehler, right, as the group prepares for upcoming performances.

John Buehler conducts the Cannon Beach Chorus during a rehearsal. The group is celebrating its 30th anniversary this year.

