

Christmas Concerts at Gualala Arts Center

Bell Ringers and Children's Choir

- Saturday, Dec. 3rd at 2:00 p.m.

When we think of the Christmas season, we recall most fondly the sound of bells and of children's voices



singing the traditional carols. In the annual Christmas concert of the Ernest Bloch Bell Ringers, they will be joined by the Anchor Bay Children's

Choir to complete your holiday pleasure. The Anchor Bay Children's Choir, under the direction of Sue Bohlin, who also directs choirs in the San Francisco Bay Area, will perform "A New Year Carol," and "Pat-a-Pan," plus several other holiday songs. Following the Children's Choir, the Ernest Bloch Bell Ringers will perform. In addition to ensemble ringing by the fourteen members, there will be community sing-alongs of several children's favorites such as "Jingle Bells." Bill Ballagh will be featured with "Santa is Coming to Town." Sita Milchev will sing "What Child is This?" She will be joined by Jeanne Jackson and Linda Bostwick for a three-part harmony rendition of "Winter Wonderland."

This event is a benefit for the Coast Community Library and Gualala Arts. Donations will be gratefully accepted at the door. This



concert is appropriate for the entire family, and the audience will be encouraged to sing along with the bells and choir on several holiday favorites.

Anyone interested in studying to becoming a bell ringer would be welcomed into the Ernest Bloch Bell Ringers. For further information, contact Jeanne Jackson at (707)884-1761. The Anchor Bay Children's Choir is for young singers 7 to 13 years old. No experience is necessary. If your child is interested in singing with this group, contact Sue Bohlin at 884-5477.

Coast Community Chorus

- Saturday, Dec. 3rd at 7:30 p.m.

Continuing a special day of music, Local Eyes will also sponsor The Coast Community Chorus, directed by Carolyn Steinbuck, presenting their annual Christmas Concert. The group will again perform on Sunday, December 4 at 3 p.m. at St. Paul's Community United Methodist Church in Point Arena.

Robert Ray, a lecturer, clinician, conductor, pianist and educator composed "Gospel Mass" in 1978. The piece is Ray's interpretation of 2000 years of liturgical tradition within the more contemporary music style of the Afro-American church. The composer states, "It is my desire to combine centuries of old traditions of mass settings with sounds of the contemporary Black church. The move from Latin lyrics to English created new opportunities for composers to express their feelings about the texts of the Ordinary of the Mass. I wanted everyone to experience the sense of joy and celebration that is generally felt in true Afro-American worship." The Mass will be accompanied by Marion James on piano, Daney Dawson on bass, and Dan Albrecht on drums.



The program will also include a selection of holiday pieces, some by traditional composers Handel, Rachmaninoff and Tchaikovsky. Other lighter pieces will be presented such as "Away in a Manger" and "We Wish You a Merry Christmas". The audience may join the choir in concluding the evening with some well-known Christmas carols.

The Coast Community Chorus is sponsored by Santa Rosa Junior College. Admission is free, but donations will be accepted at the door. Call 707-877-3222 for more information.

Sketches Newsletter of Gualala Arts Center

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