



## A Welcome Letter from Our Artistic Director

Dear Chorus Families,

I hope this finds you well and enjoying the summer. I have been in and out of the state all summer – reconnecting with dear friends and family back east as well as in the Pacific Northwest. I feel happy and refreshed and am looking forward to starting the UNMCC on August 24<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 PM. All three choirs will begin working on some aspect of our collaboration with the Santa Fe Opera – *The Shoes for the Santo Niño* at our very first rehearsal. **The performance dates for this opera are 12/16 and 12/17 in Albuquerque and 1/6 and 1/7 in Santa Fe.** We will also work on songs, rounds, games and dances that are not related to the opera that we hope to use in performances and “sharings” throughout the year.

I want to let you know of a few changes in our organization that have come about – mainly from our desire to serve families and children in more developmentally appropriate and musical ways. Our upcoming opera schedule has also made us aware that we need to account for the various needs of our singers – especially the younger children - in a more family and child friendly way. Please read details of the changes on page two of this letter.

**On August 24 registration will begin at 4:30. After registration, plan to stay with your child for our first rehearsal. Please read “Registration Procedures” on page 2 of this newsletter.**

This promises to be an exciting season and we are so glad you will be part of it with us!

Regina Carlow, PhD

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### UNM Children's Chorus Staff & Contact Information

**Regina Carlow, Artistic Director, Conductor of Senior Chorus: 277-4825 / [rcarlow@unm.edu](mailto:rcarlow@unm.edu)**

**Julia Church Hoffman, Conductor of the Intermediate Chorus, Teacher of Saturday *Fun with Singing* Class  
 277-1462 / [jkchoff@unm.edu](mailto:jkchoff@unm.edu)**

**Tania Hopkins, Conductor of the Primary Chorus**

**Jodi Butler, UNMCCParent Liaison: 379-3120 / [jcbutler@swcp.com](mailto:jcbutler@swcp.com)**

**Diane Bonnell, Director of the UNM Music Prep School: 277-8816 / [musprep@unm.edu](mailto:musprep@unm.edu)**

**Kathleen Clawson, Santa Fe Opera Director of *Shoes for the Santo Niño***

**Andrea Fellows Walters, Santa Fe Opera Education Director and Librettist of *Shoes for the Santo Niño***

**Check out the website! [www.unmchildrening.com](http://www.unmchildrening.com)**

# Change is Good!

By Regina Carlow

## Change #1: Chorus Age Groupings

**Kindergarten children will now be served in a Saturday morning class as part of the UNM Music Prep School.** This class for 4 1/2 year olds through kindergarteners is called *Fun with Singing* and will be taught by Julia Church Hoffman. Children in this class *will not be involved in the opera*. It will involve vocal exploration, games, dances, and fun songs. We hope that many of the children in this class will choose to move on to the children's chorus in first grade. Contact the UNM Music Prep School to register – 277-8816, or the “UNM Music Prep School” website.

**The Primary Chorus taught by Tania Hopkins** will include children in first and second grades.

**The Intermediate Chorus taught by Julia Church Hoffman** will be comprised of children in third and fourth grades.

I will resume teaching the **Senior Chorus**. This group will involve children in fifth grade and beyond. Because the opera has parts for older sisters and brothers – (and because so many of our young singers don't want to leave us) students are welcome through high school. As always we will work with boys who are going through the voice change.

**Please note:** While the temptation to “move-up” to a new level may seem like the right challenge for your child – please be assured that our teachers are well trained to work with individual strengths. Especially for the purposes of this opera project and chorus this year we feel strongly that we need to group children according to age and grade. This change will be permanent.

## Change #2: Rehearsal Location!

We are *thrilled* to have been offered rehearsal space for this semester at the **National Hispanic Cultural Center (NHCC)**. In addition to the Santa Fe Opera and UNM, the NHCC is now a partner in our opera collaboration. There are a number of wonderful things about this change - namely, free and plentiful parking and an affiliation with another national arts organization. (*continued in next column*)

**All rehearsals this semester will be held at the National Hispanic Cultural Center. See directions on the next page.** At our first rehearsal, on August 24, walk your child to the Disney Hall (there will be people and signs to direct you) where you will register. We will gather as a large group. Parents/Guardians should plan to stay for this rehearsal

## Change #3: Registration Procedures

On August 24, registration will be set up in two stations - one for those who have PRE-REGISTERED (by calling 277-8816 or mailing in a registration form and check to the UNM Music Prep School) and one for those who have not.

For registration we will need the following forms completed. To speed up the process, fill out the forms included in this letter and bring them with you:

1. Registration form (if you haven't yet registered) - available on 'UNM Music Prep School' website, or call 277-8816
2. Media Release Form - if you signed one last year you DO NOT need to sign one again!
3. Emergency contact form - who can we contact in case of an emergency DURING rehearsal?
4. Commitment Form signed by singer and parent/guardian - promising to be a dependable member!
5. Payment

**Also - we will accept new members until September 7. Those who join us after August 24 may register on August 31 and September 7.**

## Change #4: Date for Call Backs

The date for call back auditions has changed. If your child received a letter for audition call backs, please note that the date for these call backs is now **Wednesday, August 31**, not the 24th. (See the next page of this newsletter for more information.)

Check out the website! [www.unmchildrensing.com](http://www.unmchildrensing.com)

# AUDITION INFORMATION

## for *Shoes for the Santo Niño* Roles

We had very successful preliminary auditions this past May with 25 singers coming to sing and dance for us.

### **Call back auditions:**

We have scheduled call-back auditions for some of those singers (singers have already been notified) on **August 31<sup>th</sup>**, after our regular rehearsal (this is the new date!), from **6:45-8:00 p.m. at the NHCC**. If your child has been called back, plan for him/her to stay until at least until 7:30.

*Children should bring a snack.* (If your child has not been contacted for a call back audition s/he can go home with you after our regular rehearsal time).

### **For children who were not able to audition in May, or would like to re-audition:**

We are holding auditions on **Sunday August 28<sup>th</sup>** – (NOTE the time for this has changed from 2:00 to **4:00 PM**). **THIS AUDITION WILL BE HELD AT UNM in B-117. Children who are called back from these auditions will attend the call back auditions at the NHCC on Wednesday, August 31 (see above paragraph.)**

### **What to prepare and expect for auditions?**

*There is nothing to prepare ahead of time* for the auditions. Here is how the auditions will work: the singers will gather together as a group with Regina Carlow for vocal warm up and to briefly rehearse the bits of music they will sing for the audition. Singers will sing as a whole group, in small pairings (duets, trios, quartets), and as solos. They will also learn a few dance steps!

The auditions will be conducted by Regina Carlow, Kathleen Clawson and Andrea Walters of the Santa Fe Opera.

### **National Hispanic Cultural Center**

1701 4th Street SW  
Albuquerque, NM 87102  
Main: (505) 246-2261

**Website:** [www.nhccnm.org](http://www.nhccnm.org)

**Location:** The National Hispanic Cultural Center is located at the Intersection of 4th Street SW and Avenida César Chávez (Bridge Blvd.).

### **Directions**

**From I-25**, exit Avenida César Chávez, follow west over railroad tracks. You can enter the campus on 4th Street or 8th Street.

**From Downtown**, follow 4th Street south to Avenida César Chávez. Parking accessible from 4th Street or follow 8th Street south directly to NHCC.

**Check out the website!** [www.unmchildrening.com](http://www.unmchildrening.com)

# Rehearsal and Performance Schedule

## Wednesday Rehearsals

We will rehearse every Wednesday, **August 24 - December 14**, except the Wednesday before Thanksgiving, November 23. Wednesday rehearsal times are the same as last year:

**Primary Chorus** 5:00-6:00  
**Intermediate Chorus** 5:00-6:15  
**Senior Chorus** 5:00-6:30

And then there is concert week! Concert week has EXTENSIVE rehearsals - more information will follow soon. For your planning, here are the dates and times *we know about now*:

## December Concert Week Rehearsals

**Saturday December 10** (time to be announced - likely in the afternoon) Orchestra rehearsal. Chorus (**all three groups**) are expected to attend – likely no more than 90 minutes rehearsal. Soloists will have to stay longer.

**Monday December 12, 6:30 -8:30 p.m.** Full run through of opera with orchestra

**Wednesday December 14, 5:30 -8:30 p.m.** Tech rehearsal – Children should bring snacks

**Thursday December 15, 5:30-8:30 p.m.** Tech/Dress Rehearsal – Children should bring snacks

**Friday December 16 7:00 p.m.** Opening and World Premier of *Shoes for the Santo Niño* Opera at the NHCC. Call time for singers 6:00.

**Saturday December 17 2:00 p.m.** Performance (1:00 call time) and 7:00 p.m. (6:00 call time)

## January Concert Schedule

This performance will be a part of the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of New Mexico's Statehood and will take place in Santa Fe at the Lensic Theatre.

**Wednesday, January 4, 5:00-7:00 p.m.** Brush up – NHCC

**Thursday, January 4, 6:00 p.m.** Tech Rehearsal - Principals only Lensic Theatre – Santa Fe

**Friday, January 5 (Happy 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary New Mexico!) for all singers. Bus will depart UNM at 8:00 a.m. rehearsal in Santa Fe 9:30 a.m.** at Lensic Theatre. **1:00 Matinee Performance Lensic Theatre.** Children will have to miss school on this day. Please let Regina know if you are planning on driving your child to and from Santa Fe. Because we will have more than 60 children in the opera space on the bus is limited.

**Saturday, January 7 3:00 p.m. performance, 6:00 p.m. performance.**

**Wednesday, January 25** - First rehearsal for our Spring 2012 Season ☺

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