

Chamber Singers bringing 'Ballads and Blarney' to library fundraising event

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The Alfred University (AU) Chamber Singers, along with the Alfred Box of Books, will host “Ballads and Blarney,” a celebration of St. Patrick’s Day full of food, drink, and song on Saturday, March 22 beginning at 7 p.m. in Susan Howell Hall on the AU campus which will benefit the village library.

Tickets to the event may be purchased in AU’s Powell Campus Center during the week of March 17 or at the Box of Books Library, Main Street, Alfred - \$20 per person or \$140 for a table of eight.

The evening’s food fare will include light appetizers, desserts (you may find Irish soda bread, Guinness brownies, shamrock cookies, key lime treats) and a cash bar - all in the Irish tradition.

The program offers an opportunity to experience the rich beauty of Irish music and will include choral selections, solos, duets, poetry readings, and short selections from Irish theater. Solo and choral music will be sung in both English and Gaelic, with favorites like “Danny Boy,” “Siuil a run,” and “The Kerry Dance.” Participants will also hear an original ballad composed by Emma Brown-Shaklee, and AU students will lead the audience in singing old favorites including “When Irish Eyes are Smiling,” and “Irish Lullaby.”

The AU Chamber Singers are directed by AU Professor of Voice and Chorus Dr. Luanne Crosby.

Eliza Ordway, Alfred Box of Books Library director, explained that funds raised by this event will be used to make the library’s entryway more handicapped accessible. She envisions an automatic door so that everyone, including people with strollers or in wheelchairs, can enter the library easily. Uneven pavement outside the entryway will be corrected as well. A grant from the Foundation for Southern Tier Library Systems will cover a quarter of the costs, so Ordway says she is grateful to Crosby and the Chamber Singers for efforts on the library’s behalf.

Crosby earned a doctor of musical arts degree in vocal performance from the Cleveland Institute of Music/Case Western Reserve University and bachelor’s and master’s degrees in music education from the State University of New York at Fredonia. In addition to teaching voice and chorus, Crosby also has sung professionally in a number of groups and has worked with the Cleveland Opera, Aspen Opera Theater, the Chautauqua Symphony Orchestra, Cleveland Chamber Orchestra, Orchestra of the Southern Finger Lakes, and the Fredonia Chamber Players.

For more information on “Ballads and Blarney” contact Martha Lash at marbar428@gmail.com or Crosby at fclarke@alfred.edu