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Inspiring the Northwest

DURUFLÉ
REQUIEM
FEATURING MORMON TABERNACLE ORGANIST
CLAY CHRISTIANSEN

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

APRIL 15 & 16, 2016



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A personal invitation

Last Friday Open House

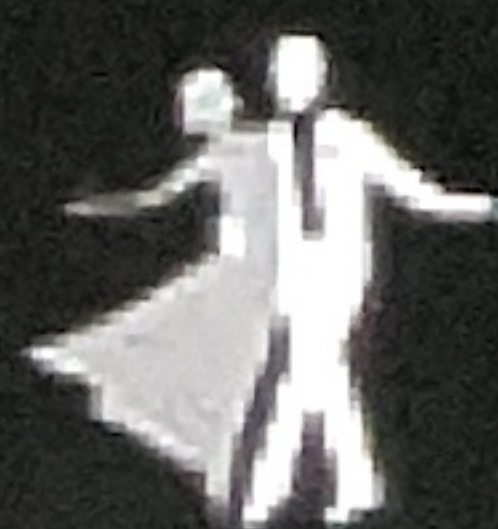
Last Friday of every month... 8:00 - 9:15

Fred Astaire Dance Studio of Portland has created a fabulous new ballroom dance studio and invites the public to our Last Friday Open House.

Come with a friend and watch student and professional exhibitions, then learn a few steps yourself and try them out on our new dance floor.

We are also introducing Ballroom dance classes for teens starting this June. We will focus on the major ballroom dances, smooth and rhythm, floor and partner etiquette.

Registration is open now.

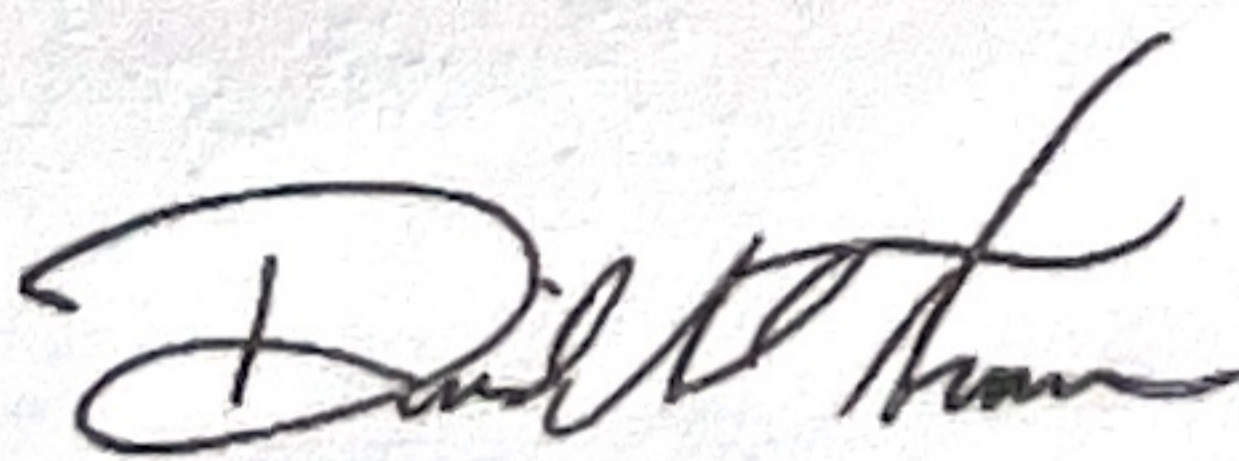


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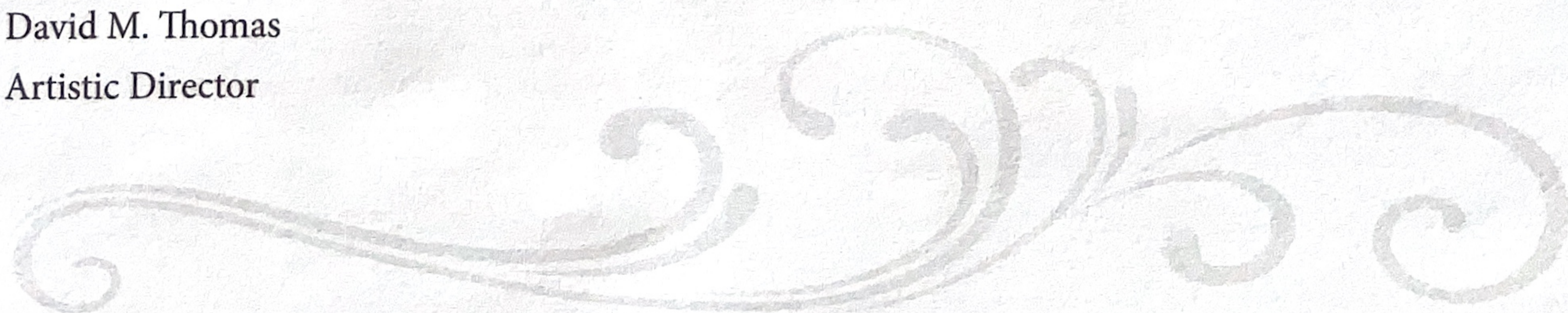
WELCOME to the final concert of the Portland Choir & Orchestra 2015-2016 season. As we look back on 10 years of successful concerts in the Portland-Vancouver area, we are especially thankful for your support. You have played a central role in the success of the last 10 seasons and we are thrilled to be moving together with you into our second decade.

Our PCO logo includes the phrase, "Inspiring the Northwest". We cherish the uniquely inspiring power of music and desire to share it with everyone. Maurice Duruflé's Requiem is such an inspirational work—one that lifts us to be better, kinder, more charitable people. We are honored to be able to share this sacred-text choral masterpiece of the 20th century, in this beautiful First United Methodist Church venue, with Clay Christiansen—a spiritually and musically sensitive master of his craft. The choral anthems and organ solos in the first half of the concert also focus on uplifting themes.

Our presentation of Requiem reflects our attention to the spiritual nature of the work in a few ways. Requiem originated in Duruflé's composition of a Suite for Organ based on Gregorian chants from the Mass for the Dead, and the version for Choir and Organ we perform tonight is one of 4 versions created by Duruflé. While Duruflé's orchestrated version (which we will surely perform sometime in the future) fits well the grand concert hall setting, his setting for Organ fuses liturgical traditions of organ and chant hearkening back to centuries of human searching for the divine. Christ said in the New Testament, "whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it." Many artists throughout history have honored this by attempting to produce anonymously their sacred creative works, so that the focus might be on the subject matter, not the author. It has long been my belief that this same concept is a key source of the power of choral music: it requires the individual singer's full commitment and passion as well as a willingness to give up some "solo" characteristics for the benefit of the ensemble, the musical work and those listening to it. In this concert we have chosen to extend this idea further, with the choir performing the solo voice sections (something Duruflé practiced, at times, in his own performances of this work). It is our desire that as we experience this sacred music together (performers and audience alike), we will become strengthened individually, and use that strength to lose ourselves in serving others.



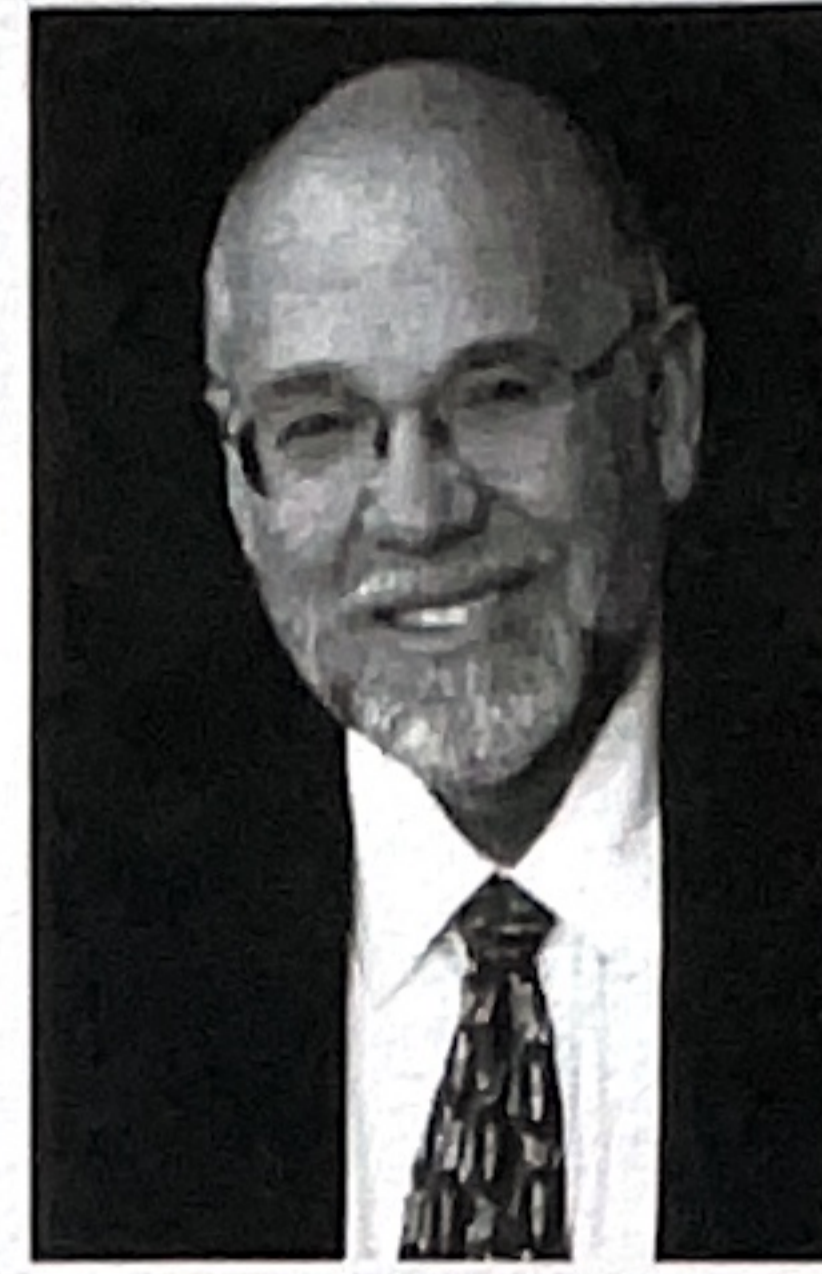
David M. Thomas
Artistic Director





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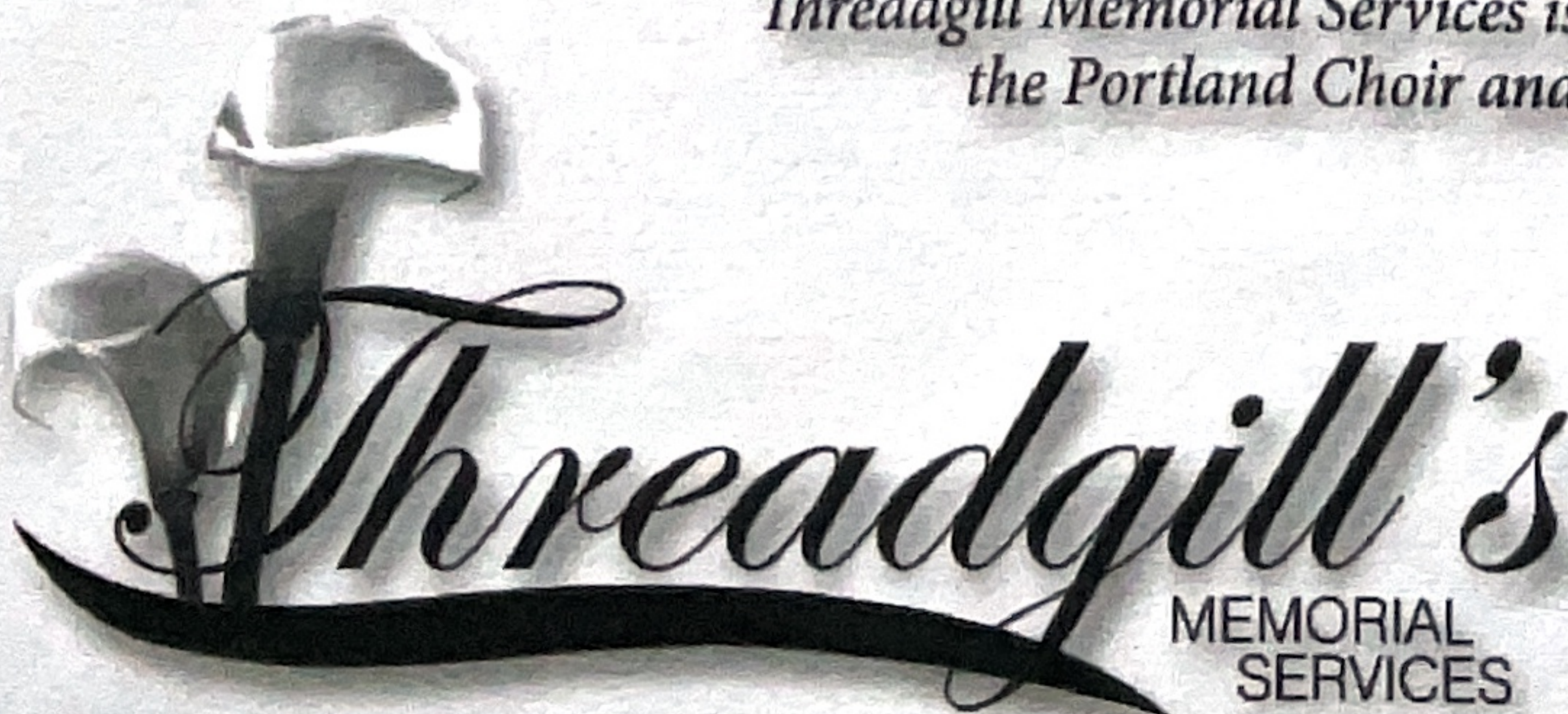


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CLAY CHRISTIANSEN

Clay Christiansen was appointed organist in 1982 at the world-famous Mormon Tabernacle on Temple Square in Salt Lake City, Utah. He shares the console of the renowned 206-rank Aeolian-Skinner pipe organ with Tabernacle Organists Richard Elliott and Andrew Unsworth. With them, he serves as organist for the Mormon Tabernacle Choir, and performs at the daily Temple Square organ recitals. The Choir's weekly broadcast Music and the Spoken Word has aired for some seventy-five years on the CBS Radio Network. It is now also heard over many FM and hundreds of television stations not only through North America, but in Denmark, South Africa, and Australia as well. From 1982-91 Christiansen served as organist for the Mormon Youth Symphony and Chorus.

Dr. Christiansen's solo performances have taken him across the United States, Canada and England. He has performed with the Tabernacle Choir in many countries of Europe and in Israel and has been featured artist for groups such as the U. S. Air Force Band/Singing Sergeants and the Danish Radio Choir. He has been invited to perform for conventions of the American Institute of Organbuilders and the American Guild of Organists.

Before taking his post at the Tabernacle, Christiansen served for ten years as Organist/Choirmaster at Utah's oldest non-Mormon church, St. Mark's Episcopal Cathedral, where he became well known for his weekly radio broadcasts and popular New Year's Eve Bach recitals. He served for five years as organist at Salt Lake's only Jewish synagogue, Congregation Kol Ami.

Though not presently teaching, three of his students became the only organists ever to perform on the Utah Symphony's annual Salute to Youth concerts. Composer of several published organ and vocal works, his writings also include works for chorus, string quartet, woodwind trio, chamber and symphony orchestra.

A member of Phi Kappa Phi, Christiansen completed a Ph.D in composition at the University of Utah, including private studies with Vladimir Ussachevsky, Ramiro Cortes and Bruce Reich. His doctoral dissertation is a cantata for chorus, orchestra and soprano and tenor soloists titled Isaiah, the Prophet. Organ studies have been with J. J. Keeler (Brigham Young University), Alexander Schreiner (widely-known former Tabernacle Organist), and Robert Noehren (internationally-acclaimed organist and University of Michigan Organist Emeritus).

Not so prolific as the great Johann Sebastian Bach who fathered some twenty children, Clay and his wife Diane are, nevertheless, not too far behind with thirteen, including eight daughters and five sons. They now are the happy grandparents of some fifty-six grandchildren and one great granddaughter!



Clay Christiansen
Tabernacle Organist
Mormon Tabernacle Choir

Dr. David M. Thomas enjoys a strong reputation throughout the Pacific Northwest as a conductor who fuses technique and artistry to provide a compelling and transformative musical experience.

Dr. Thomas excels as a choral musician through his unwavering commitment to healthy vocal production in the choir. Influenced early on by the beautiful soprano voice of his mother, Beverly Thomas, and her work building a thriving children's and youth choral academy, Dr. Thomas spent much of his childhood years engrossed in the art of singing. As a teen, he took quickly to conducting, found early success leading his peers in rehearsal and, soon thereafter, conducting in performance, laying a strong foundation for his future education and career path. Earning an undergraduate degree in vocal performance (Brigham Young University) provided the confidence and skill necessary to elicit healthy, energetic singing from choristers.

Dr. Thomas attributes much of his success as a conductor and pedagogue to his years of study and performance with Dr. Ronald Staheli. Valery Uspensky, Stanislav Legkov and Mack Wilberg also played key roles in his development as a musician. Dr. Thomas (baritone) has performed as a soloist in the Mormon Tabernacle Choir's well-known weekly television broadcast, and on the Mariinsky Theatre stage, and has prepared choirs or collaborated as a guest conductor with many prestigious ensembles including the Oregon Repertory Singers and the Newport Symphony Orchestra.

After earning additional degrees in Russian language (BA) and choral conducting (MM) at Brigham Young University, Dr. Thomas received his Doctor of Musical Arts degree from the Rimsky-Korsakov Conservatoire in St. Petersburg Russia. He has continually integrated Russian music in his performance and research, providing performance coaching for ensembles and soloists, and presenting scholarly work at national and regional level professional conferences. Artistic Director of the Portland Choir & Orchestra since 2007, Dr. Thomas pursues his greatest love (teaching) via a robust private studio and is highly sought after as a clinician and adjudicator.



Dr. David M. Thomas
Artistic Director

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Laura Walhood
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Kelli Bledsoe
Paula Bowen
Jean Creek
Katie Edwards
Diana Evensen
Tammy Fry
Camille Gifford
Ingrid Gosney
Barbara Laney
Christy Lewis

Anita Manning
Hannah Mautz
Chris Noble
Jennie Peterson
Pam Roesler
Brooke Ryles
Caroline Walters
Barbara Ward
Alyse Wecker

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Janet Apostalon
Ruth Bascom
Heidi Bruno
Jennifer Gennings
Katie Grether
Amanda Hansen
Pamela Russell
Donna Spackman
Heather Tanner
Eliza Turner
Kathleen Westhora

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Curtis Bedont
Randolph Buckingham
McKay Coffey
Marc Davis
Mark Deason
James Evensen
Phillip Green
David Hogan
Donald Jensen
George Risenmay
Lawrence Roesler
Brant Russell
Vinh Tran
Craig Walker

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Jane Conklin
Tricia Craft
Jackie Emmett
Kristen Gardiner
Mary Griffiths
Cheryn Hunter
Bre Hunter
Kathy Jensen
Elisa Kennedy
Kathy Logan
Heather Raddatz
Nicole Stoddard
Daya Tracy
Patty Weenig

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Colin Bay
Tim Frodsham
Parker Fuhriman
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REQUIEM *in English*

1. INTROIT

Grant them eternal rest, Lord, and let light shine on them forever.

You are praised in Zion, God, and homage will be paid you in Jerusalem.

Hear my prayer: to you all flesh will come.

Grant them eternal rest, Lord, and let light shine on them forever.

2. KYRIE

Lord have mercy on us,

Christ have mercy on us.

Lord have mercy on us.

3. DOMINE JESU CHRISTE

Lord Jesus Christ, King of glory, liberate the souls of the faithful,

departed from the pains of hell and from the bottomless pit.

Deliver them from the lion's mouth lest hell swallow them up, lest they fall into darkness.

Let holy Michael, the standard-bearer, bring them into holy light as was promised to Abraham and his descendants.

Lord, we offer you sacrifices and prayers of praise.

Receive them in behalf of those souls we commemorate today.

And let them, Lord, pass from death to life, as was promised to Abraham and his descendants.

4. SANCTUS

Holy Lord God of Hosts—Heaven and earth are filled with your glory.

Hosanna in the highest!

Blessed is he that comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest!

5. PIE JESU

Gentle Lord Jesus, grant them eternal rest.

6. AGNUS DEI

Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world, grant them eternal rest.

7. LUX AETERNA

May everlasting light shine upon them, O Lord, with your saints in eternity, for you are merciful.

Grant them eternal rest, O Lord, and may everlasting light shine upon them.

8. LIBERA ME

Deliver me, O Lord, from eternal death on that awful day when both heaven and earth will shake: when you come to judge the world by fire.

I am seized with fear and trembling for the wrath to come, when both heaven and earth will shake:

The day of wrath, that day of calamity and misery; a great and bitter day, indeed.

Grant them eternal rest, O Lord, and may light shine upon them forever.

Deliver me, Lord, from eternal death on that awful day when heaven and earth will shake, when you come to judge the world by fire.

9. IN PARADISUM

May the angels lead you into paradise and may the martyrs receive you and lead you to the holy city Jerusalem.

May choirs of angels receive you and may you, with poor Lazarus, have eternal rest.

DURUFLÉ REQUIEM

PORTLAND CHOIR & ORCHESTRA

David M. Thomas, Artistic Director

With Special Guest
Clay Christiansen, Organist

Rejoice the Lord is King

Malcolm Archer (b. 1959)

Ring Out, Wild Bells: "O Love, How Deep, How Broad, How High"

Robert Hebble (b. 1934)

God So Loved the World

Bob Chilcott (b. 1955)

Three Original Hymn Settings

Clay Christiansen (b. 1949)

Were You There

He Is Risen

Beautiful Savior

Festival Toccata on "St. Anne"

Frederick Swan (b. 1931)

This is the Christ

Michael F. Moody (b. 1941)
arr. Barlow Bradford

Come, Come, Ye Saints

Early Latter-day Saint Hymn
arr. Mack Wilberg

INTERMISSION

Requiem

Maurice Duruflé (1902-1986)

I. Introit

II. Kyrie

III. Domine Jesu Christe

IV. Sanctus

V. Pie Jesu

Erik Nils Velasquez, cello

VI. Agnus Dei

VII. Lux aeterna

VIII. Libera me

IX. In Paradisum



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Portland Choir and Orchestra donors support us for many reasons including:

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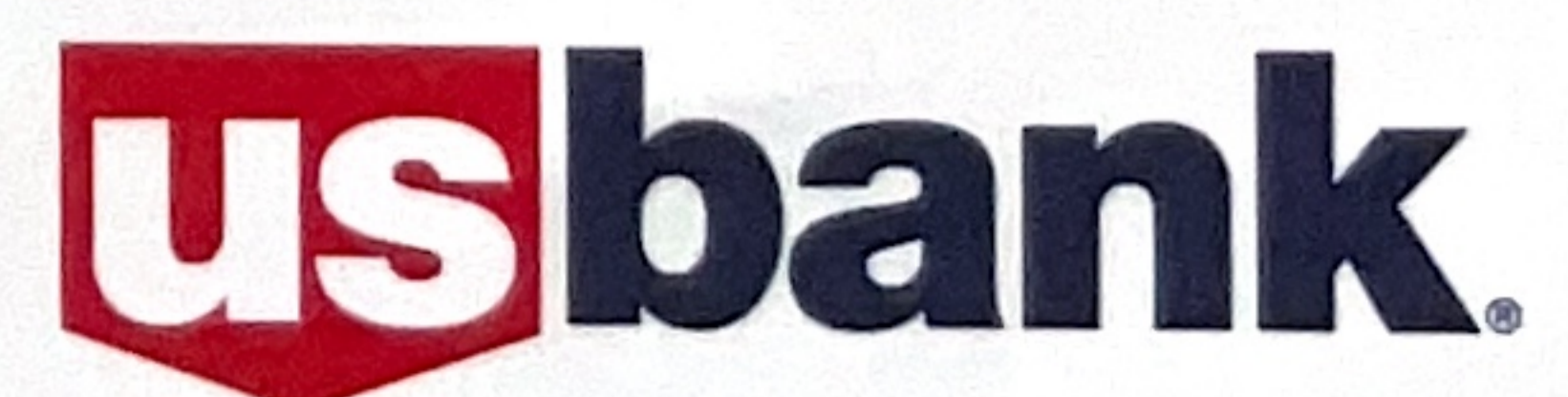
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