



PORTLAND
CHOIR & ORCHESTRA
Inspiring the Northwest

THE

REDEEMER

an Easter Celebration

PACIFIC NORTHWEST PREMIERE

FEATURING:



GRAMMY-NOMINATED VIOLINIST

Jenny Oaks Baker

April 8, 2023

Lakeridge High School



THE REDEEMER

Life Death ... No one subject has captured the human imagination more than the joy of birth and the deep pain of permanent loss through death. And yet, there is One who came into mortality to do that which seemed impossible ... to conquer death ... forever. The story of Jesus Christ is the realization of true love for all mankind. It was His birth, death and resurrection that gave new meaning to the word; HOPE.

In *The REDEEMER - An Easter Celebration*, Jenny Oaks Baker and Kurt Bestor have captured the essence of what the Savior's mortal ministry was all about. From the opening moments of the Overture, we are invited to fix our minds to that time, now two millennia ago, when the world would forever be changed because of one single act; God's gift of His Son, Jesus Christ.

Tonight's concert is a musical journey of the Savior's life. We know you will be transfixed by the passion this evokes, and the masterful performances of Jenny Oaks Baker, Hannah Baker and Sarah Baker. During the Intermission, we invite you to consider taking a few moments to contemplate what you have heard and what you have felt. We hope our music evokes a sense of awe. And then we hope you will continue to feel the Lord's redeeming love during Easter as you recall the glorious portrayal of His birth, death and resurrection captured so beautifully by this music.

Thank you for being here. May you have a glorious Easter!

Ken Hollenzer - Executive Director

David M. Thomas - Artistic Director

Thank You To Our 2022-2023 Season Donors:

Anonymous - \$50,000

Watkins Family Charitable Fund - \$500

Mike Terry - \$100

Meinzer Family Trust - \$14,000

Amazon Smile - \$283

The Kaiser Foundation - \$87

PGE Employee Giving - \$1,580

Benevity Fund - \$390

The Kroger Company - \$84

Nathan Hurst - \$1,000

YourCause LLC - \$120

Amy Gross - \$50

WE NEED YOU

Portland Choir & Orchestra loves to perform music that inspires the Northwest and beyond. We are seeking the help of partners who are willing to provide financial assistance to our organization. Through the generous support of corporations and foundations we are able to make music accessible to diverse members of our community.

Examples of the types of giving made possible through Corporate and Foundation Support are described on our website www.musicinportland.org under the heading "Support Live Music". A big thank you to all our supporters!

- Your sponsorship allows us to keep ticket prices low and connects you to our audience.
- Your contribution is needed, and is tax deductible. Portland Choir & Orchestra is a non-profit organization that receives its funding solely from donations, sponsors, and ticket sales.
- You can make a one-time donation, a monthly donation, or provide sponsorship for our organization. The options are described at: www.musicinportland.org/support.

THE
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MUSICAL SOLOISTS

Violin: Jenny Oaks Baker

Cello: Sarah Noelle Baker

Piano: Hannah Jean Baker

Soprano: Kristi Crusan

Tenor: Steve Pitzel

Baritone: Stacey Murdock

NARRATORS

Saida Brown

Tyber Parsons

All musical selections arranged by Kurt Bestor

The Redeemer Overture

KURT BESTOR

The Chosen: God Loved Us, So He Sent His Son

ALEXANDER SCHREINER

The Annunciation: Ave Maria

CHARLES GOUNOD/J.S. BACH

Born This Day: For Unto Us a Child Is Born from "Messiah"

GEORGE FRIDERIC HANDEL

Jesus' Baptism: Righteousness Fulfilled

KURT BESTOR

Fishers of Men: Come Follow Me

SAMUEL MCBURNEY & JOHN NICHOLSON

Woman at the Well: I Stand All Amazed

CHARLES H. GABRIEL

Mary Magdalene: O Divine Redeemer

CHARLES GOUNOD

The Beatitudes: Blessed Be

KURT BESTOR

The King Returns: And the Glory of the Lord from "Messiah"

GEORGE FRIDERIC HANDEL

15 MINUTE INTERMISSION

Overture Reprise

KURT BESTOR

The Last Supper: In Humility, Our Savior

ROWLAND PRICHARD & MABEL J. GABBOTT

Gethsemane: From Every Pore

KURT BESTOR

Crucifixion: Upon the Cross of Calvary

LEROY J. ROBERTSON

Spirit World: In Paradiso

KURT BESTOR

He Lives!: Theme from the "The Lamb of God"

KURT BESTOR

The Ascension: Hallelujah from "Messiah"

GEORGE FRIDERIC HANDEL

After the show, Jenny Oaks Baker will be in the lobby to greet guests



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Jenny Oaks Baker

"America's Violinist," Jenny Oaks Baker is a Grammy Nominated, Billboard No. 1 performer and recording artist. She received her Master of Music degree from The Juilliard School and her Bachelor's Degree from The Curtis Institute of Music. Jenny has performed as a soloist at Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center, The Library of Congress and as a guest soloist with The National Symphony, Jerusalem Symphony, Pittsburgh Symphony, Utah Symphony and The Tabernacle Choir on Temple Square. Jenny has released nineteen studio albums, including her latest, *The Redeemer* which have sold over a million copies and consistently charted on Billboard. Music from her Grammy nominated album, *Wish Upon a Star* is featured at Walt Disney World and Disneyland to introduce the nightly fireworks show. Jenny's popular music videos can be viewed on her YouTube channel. Jenny, her husband Matthew, and their four children (musical group Family Four) are from Salt Lake City, Utah. [@jennyoaksbaker](http://www.jennyoaksbaker.com)



Sarah Noelle Baker - Cello

Sarah Noelle Baker, age 18, began playing cello at age three and studies with Dr. Alison Wells from the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland through FaceTime lessons. Sarah has performed throughout the US, Europe and Asia and has soloed with The Utah Symphony, the Utah Philharmonic, The American Fork Symphony, the Timpanogos Symphony, the Warminster Symphony and The Tabernacle Choir and Orchestra on Temple Square. Sarah has been featured on NPR's *From the Top* national radio broadcast.



Hannah Jean Baker - Piano

Hannah Jean Baker, age 19, began playing the piano when she was four years old and currently studies at The Royal Academy of Music in London. Hannah has performed throughout the US, Europe and Asia and has soloed with The Utah Symphony, The Utah Philharmonic, the Timpanogos Symphony and The Tabernacle Choir and Orchestra on Temple Square. Hannah has been featured on NPR's *From the Top* national radio broadcast.

Kristi Crusan - Soprano

Kristi Crusan is a veteran of stage and studio. She has worked with such artists as Donny Osmond, Stephen King, Michael McLean, Stephen Kapp Perry, and Kurt Bestor. Her credits include *Guys & Dolls* at Sundance Theatre, *OpryLand USA* in Nashville, *West Side Story*, *The Wiz*, *Little Shop of Horrors*, *The Magic Flute* and performing throughout Russia in BYU's Young Ambassadors. Her most recent productions have been *Into the Woods* as the Witch and *Gypsy* as Mama Rose. Her most beloved accomplishments however are her 5 children and wonderful husband Ben.

Steve Pitzel - Tenor

Steve Pitzel has an unusual past. Outside of singing on commercials and soap operas, he was the "Voice of Doom" on *Baywatch*, essentially singing the power ballads on that show whenever a lifeguard died. He is also an animator, animation tools instructor, and a bestselling author on Amazon of detective stories under the pseudonym, Steve Zell.

Stacey Murdock - Baritone

Stacey Murdock has performed extensively throughout the Northwest and across the USA, appearing in numerous operas, musicals, and concert work. As a member of the Portland Opera to Go outreach program for nine seasons, he performed for approximately 200,000 children in Oregon, Washington, Idaho, & California. Since 2008 he has been a troupe member with the Muse's Creative Artistry Project in Hot Springs, Arkansas where he currently serves as Associate Artistic Director.



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David M. Thomas, Artistic Director

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. He attributes much of his success as a conductor and pedagogue to the early influence of his mother Beverly (soprano and conductor), and his years of study and performance with Dr. Ronald Staheli. Dr. Thomas (baritone) soloed in the Mormon Tabernacle Choir's well-known weekly television broadcast, 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. Dr. Thomas is highly sought after as a clinician and adjudicator. Artistic Director of Portland Choir & Orchestra since 2007, Dr. Thomas also finds great joy teaching and performing with his wife Emily (Soprano) and, together, raising their five children.

CHOIR MEMBERS

Soprano

Kristi Crusan
Heidi Dominguez
Jamey McClellan*
Elizabeth Polay
Emily Thomas
Ingrid Adams
Alyson Broberg
Sue Doherty
Deb Dougal
Angie Fisher
Tammy Fry
Tara Janson
Susie Josephson
Cristina Kennington
Barbara Laney
Wendy Latta
Jamie McKell
Erin Owens
Jennie Peterson
Brooke Ryles
Amy Updike
Ellyn Willmore
Carol Xanthos

Alto

Janet Apostalon
Laurie Bailey
Amy Bak
Liberty Barnes
Stefani Carlton
Pricilla Dickinson
Jenny Gennings*
Kyleen Hunter
Allyn Kirnak
Kathryn Latour
Christa Lowe
Heather McCollum
Jodi Peterson
Amanda Porter
Pamela Russell
Helen Shellman
Ellie Tracy
Eliza Turner
Kathleen Westhora
Melissa Woodside
Lindsey Yun
Jessica Allred
Kara Anderson
Margie Armstrong

Brooklyn Chapman
Karren Christensen
Rachelle
DesRochers
Danelle Dullum
Jennifer Edwards
Stephanie Ellsworth
Jackie Emmett
Stephanie Fields
Kristen Gardiner
Cheryn Hunter
Dhanya Mary Jacob
Kathy Jensen
Kathy Logan
Cheri Noffz
Deanna Peabody
Carol Preshong
Mary Anne Shamrell
Nicole Stoddard
Daya Tracy

Tenor

Keith Biggs
Darren Boss
Marci Dayley

Whitney Jenkins
Steve Pitzel
David Robbins
Tarry Smith
Patti Weenig
Ian Allred
Matt Davis*
Joe Everton
Erik Hoggan
Ken Hollenzer**
Doug Lowder
Joel Wagstaff
George Xanthos

Bass

Curtis Bedont
Nathan Cluff
Marc Davis
Mark Deason
Helaman Escobar
James Evensen
Clark Green*
Dan Harris
Jim Istook
Donald Jensen

Steve Maxfield
Rob Perkins
Ben Rich
Gerald Whisenant
Ben Davis
Mike Doherty
Dustin Geddes
Brad Gennings
David Lake
Wouter Latour
Russ McMurdie
John Meagher
David Monson
Michael Rex
David Riddle
Howard Russell

* Section leader
** Choir President

THE REDEEMER

Edward Higgins, Orchestra Director



Applauded as a true bright light in artistry and expression, Dr. Edward Higgins, is currently a Professor of Music at Portland State University in Portland Oregon. He also serves as the Orchestra Director of the Portland Choir & Orchestra and has authored four books with subjects ranging from musical performance practice, to the Motown Record Company and its relationship with the City of Detroit.

Dr. Higgins began his multifaceted career with the Spoleto Festival Orchestra in Spoleto, Italy, where he served as Principal Trumpet on such works as the Grammy-winning recording of Samuel Barber's Antony and Cleopatra. After two seasons, Dr. Higgins went on to hold the Principal Trumpet position of the Sacramento Symphony. He achieved comparable accolades in the Midwest as a professional tubist, holding principal tuba positions in the La Crosse Symphony and the St. Joseph Symphony Orchestras.

His educational career has seen similar successes with brass pedagogy and conducting positions at the University of California Davis, California State University Sacramento, Winona State University in Minnesota, and Washburn University in Kansas.

Dr. Higgins holds bachelor's and master's degrees in trumpet performance from the Juilliard School, and a doctorate in conducting from the University of Missouri, Kansas City.

MUSICIANS

1st Violin

Ann Christensen**
Jody Morrissette
Tara Burke
Eri Nogueira
Charlotte Laughlin
Mary-Kathryn Rodriguez

2nd Violin

Briana Nielson*
Marya Kazmierski
Bev Louthan
Jessica Scott
Elisa Boynton
Lacey Peters

Viola

Sharon Eng*
Anamaria Ghitca
Jazzy Leemhuis
Katie San Diego

Cello

Kristopher Duke*
Kevin Jackson
Amelia Hunnicutt
Paula Flynn

String Bass

Garrett Jellesma*
Tommy Thompson

Flute

Darren Cook*
Gail Gillespie

Oboe

Alan Juzza*

Oboe/English Horn

Karen Strand

Clarinet

Eric Tishkoff*
Andy Sharma

Bassoon

Nicole Buetti*
Gary Zaganiacz

Horn

Kurt Heichelheim*
Derek Gustafson

Trumpet

Brett Randolph*
Jason Gunderson

Trombone

John Warton*
Heidi Aispuro

Tuba

Stephen Fulks*

Percussion

Brian Gardiner*
Nick Rose

Timpani

Will Reno

Keyboard Harp

Alex Isackson

** Concertmaster

* Principal



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COMING EVENTS

Tickets and information at MusicInPortland.org

Portland Choir & Orchestra presents

BYU Singers

Brigham Young University's premier vocal ensemble will be in Portland

Saturday, May 6

with a special appearance by the singers of Portland Choir & Orchestra



Register now for the

PCO Golf Classic

Join us to help support Portland Choir & Orchestra at the beautiful Stone Creek Golf Club with lunch and silent auction

Thursday, July 27

Don't miss this year's

Christmas Concert

Our annual celebration of Christmas for the whole family

December 2

at the Newmark Theatre in Portland. Info at MusicInPortland.org





CREDITS

Concert Concept & Design - Jenny Oaks Baker
Composer & Arranger - Kurt Bestor
Script - Brian Cordray
Christ Artwork - "Light of the World" by Scott Sumner
Script - Brian Cordray
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- Edited by Danny Drysdale

PCO ARTISTIC STAFF

Artistic Director - Dr. David M. Thomas
Orchestra Director - Dr. Edward Higgins
Assistant Choir Director - Jennie Peterson
Concertmaster - Ann Christensen

ADMINISTRATIVE BOARD

Executive Director - Ken Hollenzer
Finance Manager - Kerry Morgan
Treasurer - Tara Janson

OPERATIONS

Technology - Mark Deason
Wardrobe - Marci Dayley
Orchestra Music Librarian - Curtis Bedont
Orchestra Personnel Manager - Tara Burke
Box Office Coordinator - Mark Deason
Public Relations - Keith Biggs
Marketing & Social Media - Ben Davis

PRODUCTION

Executive Producer - Brad Goodwin
Stage Manager - Peggy Goodwin
Equipment Transportation - Michael Rex, Bob Anthony
Audio - Mark Deason, Rob Perkins, Clark Green
Recording Engineer - Greg Blaisdell
Guest Artist Concierge - Sicily Dickman
Follow Spot Operators - Tucker McLain, Ian Lay
Photographer & Video Team Leader - Jordan Bigelow
Camera Crew - Kathie Robbins, Sophia Dickman, Charlize Kellmer
Promotional Collateral Design - Jordan Hayter
Printed Program - Brad Goodwin, Kristi Crusan

CHOIR AUDITIONS

Join us in bringing uplifting professional quality music to the Portland/Vancouver community. We welcome singers from all walks of life who enjoy singing a variety of excellent music. We hold weekly rehearsals and perform 2-3 concert events per year.

You can expect fun people, professional conductors and exciting event productions.

Scan this code to learn more about how to become a member of the choir.

