



PORTLAND  
CHOIR & ORCHESTRA

*Inspiring the Northwest*

presents

# *The Wonder of Christmas*



Featuring  
*Fired-Up Dance Academy*

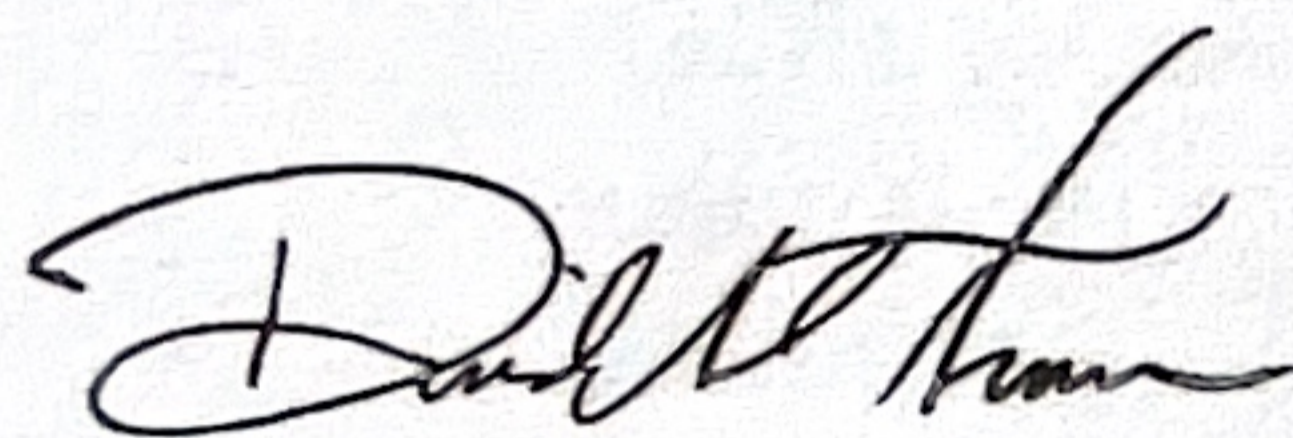
**Newmark Theatre**

**November 26, 2016**



Welcome to the opening concert of the Portland Choir & Orchestra 2016-2017 season. Thank you for your support which allows us to continue our mission to share excellent, uplifting music with an ever-broadening Portland-area audience. We are grateful to be returning to the beautiful Newmark Theatre and collaborating once again with the exhilarating dancers from Fired-Up Dance Academy.

One of the pieces you will hear tonight has played a central role in forming the spirit and vision of the overall concert program. "The Work of Christmas" calls attention to the time after Christmas celebrations have ended, reminding us that the real rewards of Christmas come as we then work "To find the lost, To heal the broken, To feed the hungry, To release the prisoner, To rebuild the nations; To bring peace among brothers, To make music from the heart". As our concert is quite early this year we can hear and apply this message not only after Christmas is over, but also right now, in the weeks leading up to Christmas Day. We invite you to join us in our quest to spread throughout our communities the hope and light that comes from remembering and celebrating the birth of Jesus Christ. The actual ways to do this important work will become clear as we follow the example given by the Savior during his life, taking time to search for the lost, and discovering the needs of the hungry and broken around us. It is our prayer and deep desire that each of us here tonight might be able to transfer some of the hope that music instills in our souls to the people around us through personal, meaningful service.



David M. Thomas  
Artistic Director



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**Dr. David M. Thomas**  
Artistic Director

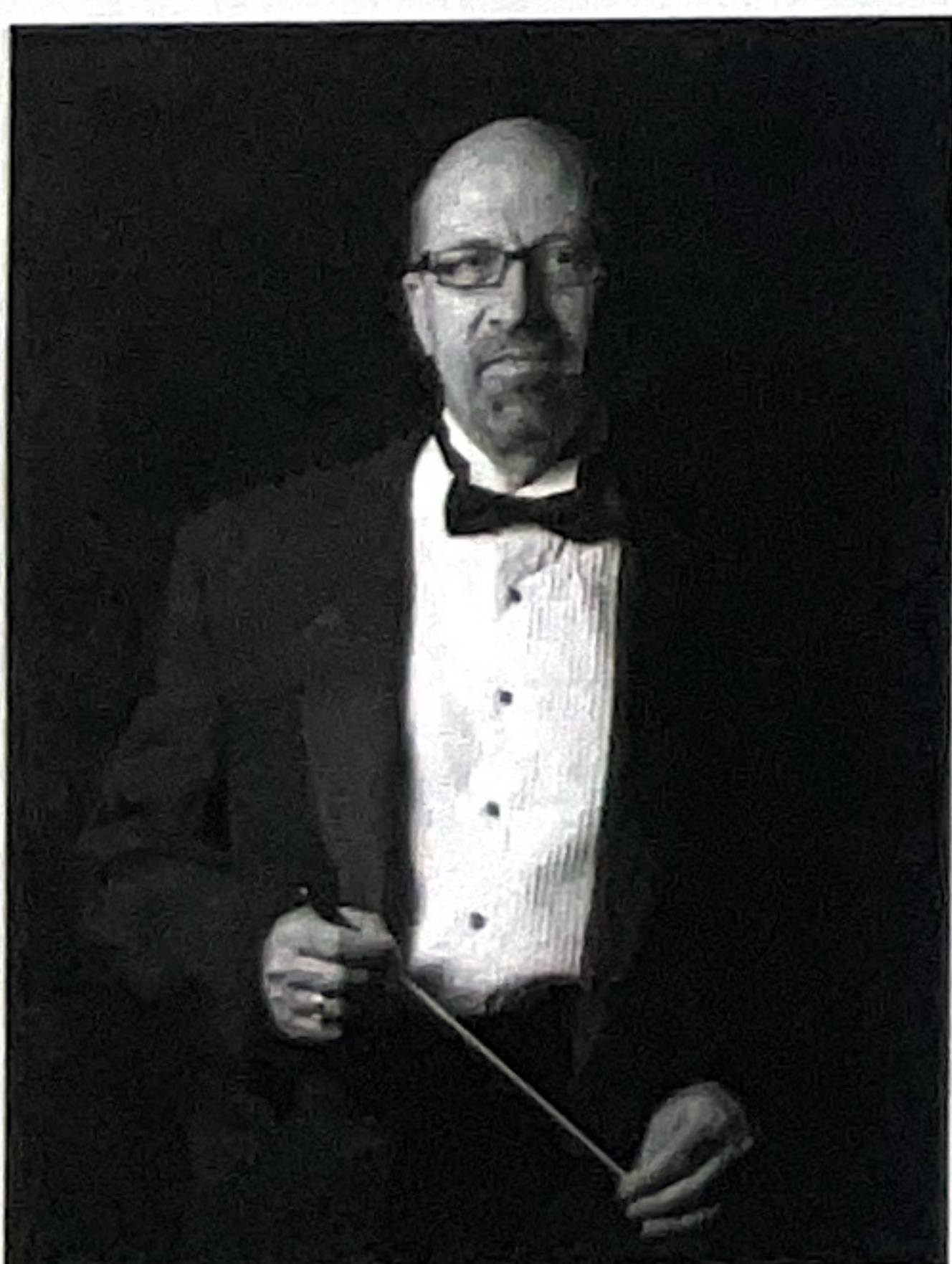
**David M. Thomas** enjoys a strong reputation throughout the Pacific Northwest as a conductor who fuses technique and artistry to provide a compelling and transformative musical experience.

Dr. Thomas excels as a choral musician through his unwavering commitment to healthy vocal production in the choir. 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 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 soloed 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. Dr. Thomas is highly sought after as a clinician and adjudicator. Artistic Director of the 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.



**Dr. Edward Higgins**  
Orchestra Director

**Dr. Edward Higgins** began his versatile performance 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 positions in the La Crosse Symphony and St. Joseph Symphony Orchestras.

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

Dr. Higgins is currently the Conductor of the Portland Choir and Orchestra and Director of Bands and Associate Professor of Conducting at Portland State University. For nearly a decade, Dr. Higgins served as the Artistic Director and Conductor of the Portland Wind Symphony transforming it into one of the most prominent ensembles of it's kind in the Pacific Northwest.

He founded the Oregon Conductor's Symposium and has been a featured guest with the Portland Festival Orchestra. Dr. Higgins more recent appearances have occurred in such diverse locales as New York's La Guardia School of the Performing Arts, (featured in "Fame") the Conservatory of Music in Guangzhou, China and an appearance in 2015 as guest conductor/clinician of the Alaska All-State High School Honor Band.

On the concert stage, Higgins has collaborated with notable artists such as, Glenn Dicterow (Concertmaster, New York Philharmonic), Charles Schlueter (Principal Trumpet Emeritus, Boston Symphony), Ronald Baron (Principal Trombone Emeritus, Boston Symphony), Fred Korman (Principal Oboe, Emeritus, Oregon Symphony) and world-renowned trumpet soloist Carl "Doc" Severinsen.

Dr. Higgins resides in Portland Oregon with his wife and renowned flutist Sydney Carlson. He holds a Doctorate in Conducting from the University of Missouri-Kansas City and Bachelor's and Master's degrees in trumpet performance from the Juilliard School.

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## Choir

### SOPRANO 1

Suzette Gibson  
Cynthia Greathouse  
Heidi James  
Susie Josephson  
Kari Key  
Jamey McClellan\*  
Elizabeth Polay  
Emily Thomas  
Carrie Walser

Ingrid Gosney  
Shelly Holman  
Barbara Laney  
Christy Lewis  
Anita Manning  
Hannah Mautz  
Chris Noble  
Jennie Peterson  
Pam Roesler  
Brooke Ryles

Dana Garrett  
Jennifer Gennings  
Amanda Hansen  
Allyn Kirnak  
Pamela Russell  
Donna Spackman\*  
Heather Tanner  
Eliza Turner  
Kathleen Westhara

Cheryn Hunter  
Kathy Jensen  
Elisa Kennedy  
Kathy Logan  
Jennifer Parent  
Abby Schaeffer  
MaryAnne Shamrell  
Nicole Stoddard  
Daya Tracy

### TENOR 2

Joshua Bush  
Matt Davis\*  
Michael Dethman  
Joe Everton  
Doug Lowder  
Jonathan Smith  
Chris Waddell

George Risenmay  
Lawrence Roesler  
Brant Russell  
Bob Thompson  
Craig Walker

### SOPRANO 2

Kaylee Alberts  
Jean Creek  
Diana Evensen  
Tammy Fry  
Camille Gifford

### ALTO 1

Kara Anderson  
Janet Apostalon  
Shelley Bigelow  
Jessica Bush  
Gayle Dethman

### ALTO 2

Kay Card  
Jane Conklin  
Jackie Emmett  
Rebekah Folsom  
Kristen Gardiner  
Mary Griffiths  
Bre Hunter

### TENOR 1

Keith Biggs  
Marci Dayley  
Phillip Green  
John Hester  
Wendilynn Kerezman  
Jack Pippin  
David Robbins

### BASS 1

John Alberts  
Curtis Bedont  
Randolph Buckingham  
Mark Deason  
James Evensen  
David Hogan  
Donald Jensen

### BASS 2

Kevin Ainsworth  
Colin Bay\*  
David Clift  
Tim Frodsham  
Parker Fuhriman  
Jarit Pitochelli  
Howard Russell

### PIANO

Shelley Bigelow

## Orchestra

### VIOLIN 1

Adam LaMotte\*\*\*  
Eri Nogueira  
Tara Burke  
Nancy Bair  
Kristina Dill  
Madi Wilde

Marya Kazmierski  
Lacey Peters

### VIOLA

Mary Rowell\*\*  
Brittany Graham  
Maren Knopp  
Katie Lake  
Sharron Ogden

Hannah Burke

### BASS

Garrett Jellesma\*\*  
Amy Sticksel  
Deanna Pretlow

### FLUTE

Hannah Nordlie\*\*  
Pippa Randolph

### OBOE

Alan Juza\*\*  
Emily Drapela

### CLARINET

Andy Sharma\*\*  
Luke Gorman

### BASSOON

Nicole Buetti\*\*  
Glinda Bliss

### TRUMPET

Brett Randolph\*\*  
Jamie Waroff  
Jake Morgan

### HORN

Sarah Henphill\*\*  
Allan Stromquist

### TROMBONE

John Warton\*\*  
Heidi Aispuro

### BASS TROMBONE

Scott Evenson

### TUBA

Stephen Fulks

### PERCUSSION

Dianna Hnatiw\*\*

Kevin Schlossman  
Chris Koroshetz

### PIANO

Daniel Hughes

\* Section Leader

\*\* Principal

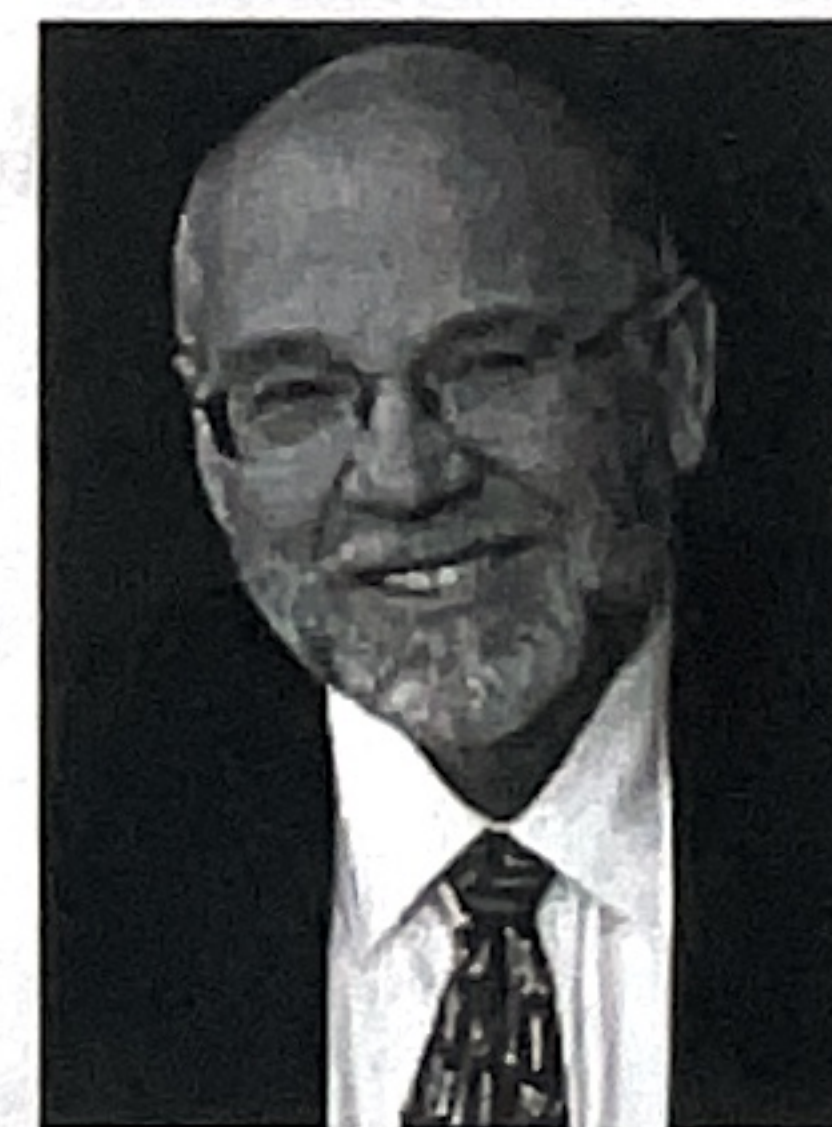
\*\*\* Concert Master



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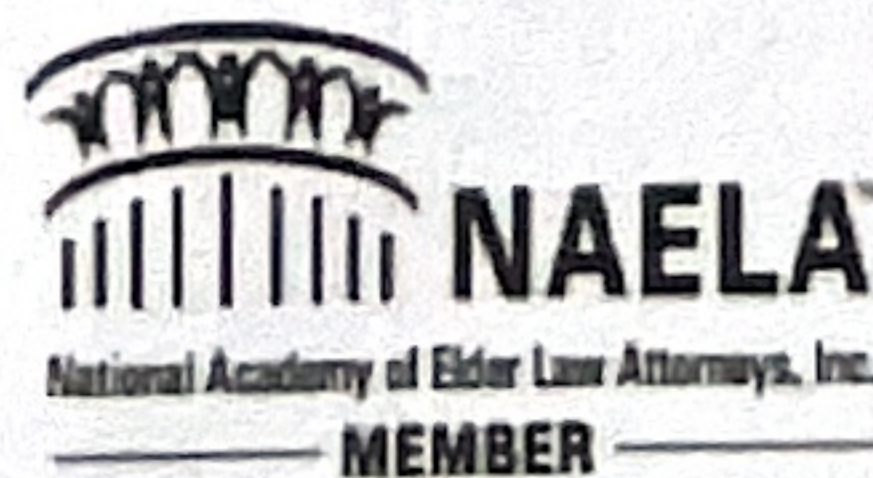
Michael Rose

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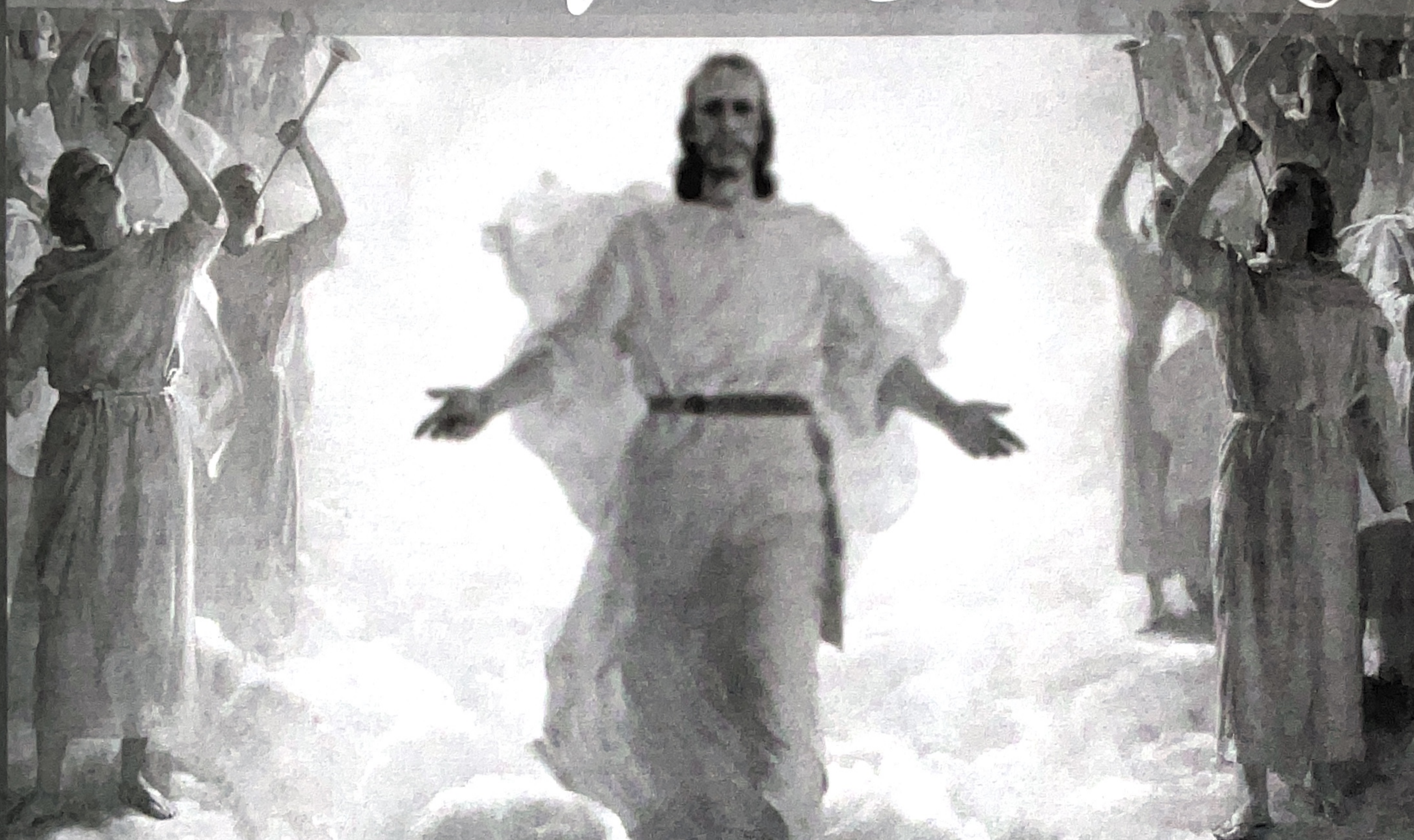
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Fired-Up Dance Academy Presents  
*Beautiful Savior*



*A Christmas Performance at*

**PCC Sylvania Performing Arts Center**

**Saturday, December 3rd**

**2:00pm & 6:30pm**

**Please Contact 503-620-3155 for more information.**

## **Dancers**

Haley Brase, Liam Burns, Mandolin Burns, Audrey Conant, Brighton Farrell, Madelyn Feeney, Jenna Fernandez, Malia Fernandez, Abby Granger, Sawyer Gray, Lily Hirata, Alisa Isler, Samantha Lopresti, Isabelle Macielinski, Stella Rivas, Ally Rodriguez, Danielle Simmons, Ellie Tone, Isabel Vestergaard, Sarah Warren, Sydney Warren, Madison Westfall

**Christmas Day performers:** Danielle Simmons, Alisa Isler, Audrey Conant, Liam Burns, Brighton Farrell, Madelyn Feeney, Jenna Fernandez, Isabel Macielinski

**Twas the Night Before Christmas performers:**  
Pa – Ally Rodriguez, Ma – Abby Granger, Santa – Ellie Tone, Elves – Malia Fernandez, Samantha Lopresti, Stella Rivas, Dasher – Haley Brase, Dancer – Lily Hirata, Prancer – Sawyer Gray, Vixen – Isabel Vestergaard, Comet – Sydney Warren, Cupid – Mandolin Burns, Donner – Madison Westfall, Blitzen – Sarah Warren

**Bring a Torch performers:** Haley Brase, Mandolin Burns, Malia Fernandez, Abby Granger, Sawyer Gray, Lily Hirata, Samantha Lopresti, Stella Rivas, Ally Rodriguez, Isabel Vestergaard, Sarah Warren, Sydney Warren, Madison Westfall

**Manger Scene:** Mary – Ellie Tone, Angel – Danielle Simmons, Shepherds – Abby Granger & Isabel Vestergaard, Wise Men – Samantha Lopresti, Ally Rodriguez, Sydney Warren, Torch Girl – Mandolin Burns

**Carene Boersma, Director**

**Ashley von Weller, Choreographer / Instructor**

Fired-Up Dance Academy believes in providing a fun, nurturing environment with the highest quality in dance education, striving to build a dance family that helps students of every age, skill level, experience, shape, size and background discover the dancer within. Fired-Up Dance emphasizes a friendly, non-competitive environment, encouraging dancers to compete with the dancer they were yesterday. Fired-Up Dance Academy offers quality instruction and age-appropriate music that encourages dancers to maximize their potential through performances and community involvement. Located in Tigard, Oregon,



Fired-Up Dance features top-notch facilities where parents can observe classes and dancers enjoy more than 3500 square feet of dancing space.

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## **Gaudete**

Gaudete, gaudete! Christus est natus  
Ex Maria virgine, gaudete!  
Rejoice, rejoice! Christ has born  
(Out) Of the Virgin Mary – rejoice!

Tempus adest gratiae Hoc quod optabamus,  
Carmina laetitiae Devote reddamus.  
The time of grace has come—what we have  
wished for,  
songs of joy let us give back faithfully.

Deus homo factus est Natura mirante,  
Mundus renovatus est A Christo regnante.  
God has become man, (With) nature marvelling,  
The world has been renewed by Christ (who is)  
reigning.

Ezechielis porta Clausa pertransitur,  
Unde lux est orta Salus invenitur.  
The closed gate of Ezekiel is passed through,  
Whence the light is raised, salvation is found.

Ergo nostra concio psallat iam in lustris;  
Benedicat Domino: salus Regi nostro.  
Therefore, let our preaching now sing in  
brightness  
Let it give praise to the Lord: greeting to our  
King.

## **Breath of Heaven**

Text by Chris Easton and Amy Grant

I have traveled many moonless nights  
Cold and weary with a babe inside  
And I wonder what I've done  
Holy father you have come  
And chosen me now to carry your son

I am waiting in a silent prayer  
I am frightened by the load I bear  
In a world as cold as stone  
Must I walk this path alone?  
Be with me now

Breath of heaven hold me together  
Be forever near me, Breath of heaven  
Breath of heaven Lighten my darkness  
Pour over me your holiness  
For you are holy, Breath of heaven

Do you wonder as you watch my face  
If a wiser one should have had my place  
But I offer all I am  
For the mercy of your plan  
Help me be strong  
Help me be  
Help me

## **The Hands That First Held Mary's Child**

Text by Thomas Troeger

The hands that first held Mary's child  
were hard from working wood,  
from boards they sawed and planed and filed  
and splinters they withstood.

This day they gripped no tool of steel,  
they drove no iron nail,  
but cradled from the head to heel  
our Lord, newborn and frail.

When Joseph marveled at the size  
of that small breathing frame,  
and gazed upon those bright new eyes  
and spoke the infant's name,  
the angel's words he once had dreamed  
poured down from heaven's height,  
and like the host of stars that beamed  
blessed earth with welcome light.

"This child shall be Emmanuel,  
not God upon the throne,  
but God with us, Emmanuel,  
as close as blood and bone."  
The tiny form in Joseph's palms  
confirmed what he had heard,  
and from his heart rose hymns and psalms  
for heaven's human word.

The tools that Joseph laid aside  
a mob would later lift  
and use with anger, fear, and pride  
to crucify God's gift.

Let us, O Lord, not only hold  
the child who's born today,  
but charged with faith may we be bold  
to follow in his way.

## **The Shepherds Had an Angel**

Text by Christina Rossetti

The Shepherds had an Angel,  
The Wise Men had a star,  
But what have I, a little child,  
To guide me home from far,  
Where glad stars sing together  
And singing angels are?

Those Shepherds through the lonely night  
Sat watching by their sheep,  
Until they saw the heavenly host  
Who neither tire nor sleep,  
All singing 'Glory glory,'  
In festival they keep.

The Wise Men left their country  
To journey morn by morn,  
With gold and frankincense and myrrh,  
Because the Lord was born:  
God sent a star to guide them  
And sent a dream to warn.

Christ watches me, His little lamb,  
Cares for me day and night,  
That I may be His own in heaven:  
So angels clad in white  
Shall sing their 'Glory glory,'  
For my sake in the height.

## **The Work of Christmas**

Text by Howard Thurman

When the song of the angels is stilled,  
When the star in the sky is gone,  
When the kings and princes are home,  
When the shepherds are back with their flock,  
The work of Christmas begins:

To find the lost,  
To heal the broken,  
To feed the hungry,  
To release the prisoner,  
To rebuild the nations,  
To bring peace among brothers,  
To make music from the heart.

## **Festival First Nowell**

The first Nowell the angels did say

Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;  
In fields where they lay, keeping their sheep,  
On a cold winter's night that was so deep:

Refrain:

Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,  
Born is the King of Israel.

They looked up and saw a star,  
Shining in the east, beyond them far:  
And to the earth it gave great light,  
And so it continued both day and night:  
(Choir only on Refrain)

Then let us all with one accord  
Sing praises to our heavenly Lord  
That hath made heaven and earth of nought,  
And with his blood mankind hath bought:

Refrain:

Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,  
Born is the King of Israel.

**Special Thanks To:**

**Ryan  
"Santa Claus"  
Keeler**

# The Wonder of Christmas

## PORTLAND CHOIR & ORCHESTRA

Dr. David M. Thomas, *Artistic Director* Dr. Edward Higgins, *Orchestra Director*

*With Special Guests:* Fired-Up Dance Academy

Deck The Hall

Traditional Welsh Carol  
arr. Mack Wilberg

Fum, Fum, Fum!

Catalonian Carol  
arr. Mack Wilberg

Gaudete

Solo: Cynthia Greathouse

16th Century Carol  
arr. Brian Kay

Christmas Day

Gustav Holst  
arr. Douglas Wagner

The Bells of Christmas

arr. Bob Krogstad

Grown-up Christmas List

Solo: Kristen Gardiner

David Foster and Linda Thompson Jenner  
arr. David T. Clydesdale

Twas The Night Before Christmas

Solos: David Robbins & Abby Schaeffer

Ken Darby  
arr. Harry Simeone

### INTERMISSION

Bring a Torch, Jeanette, Isabella!

Traditional French Carol  
arr. Mack Wilberg

Breath of Heaven

Solo: Jackie Emmett

Chris Eaton and Amy Grant  
arr. Craig Courtney

The Hands That First Held Mary's Child

Dan Forrest

The Shepherds Had an Angel

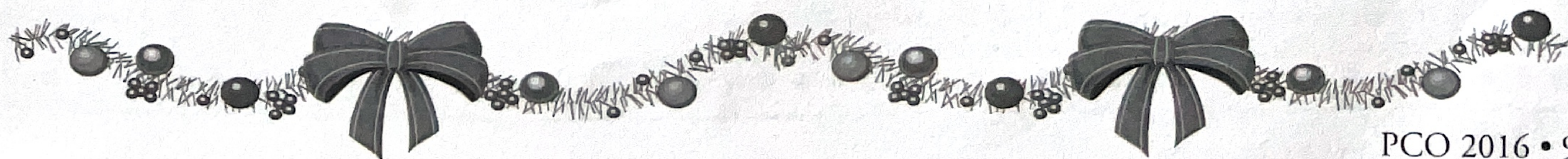
Barlow Bradford

The Work of Christmas

Dan Forrest

Festival First Nowell

17th Century English Carol  
arr. Dan Forrest





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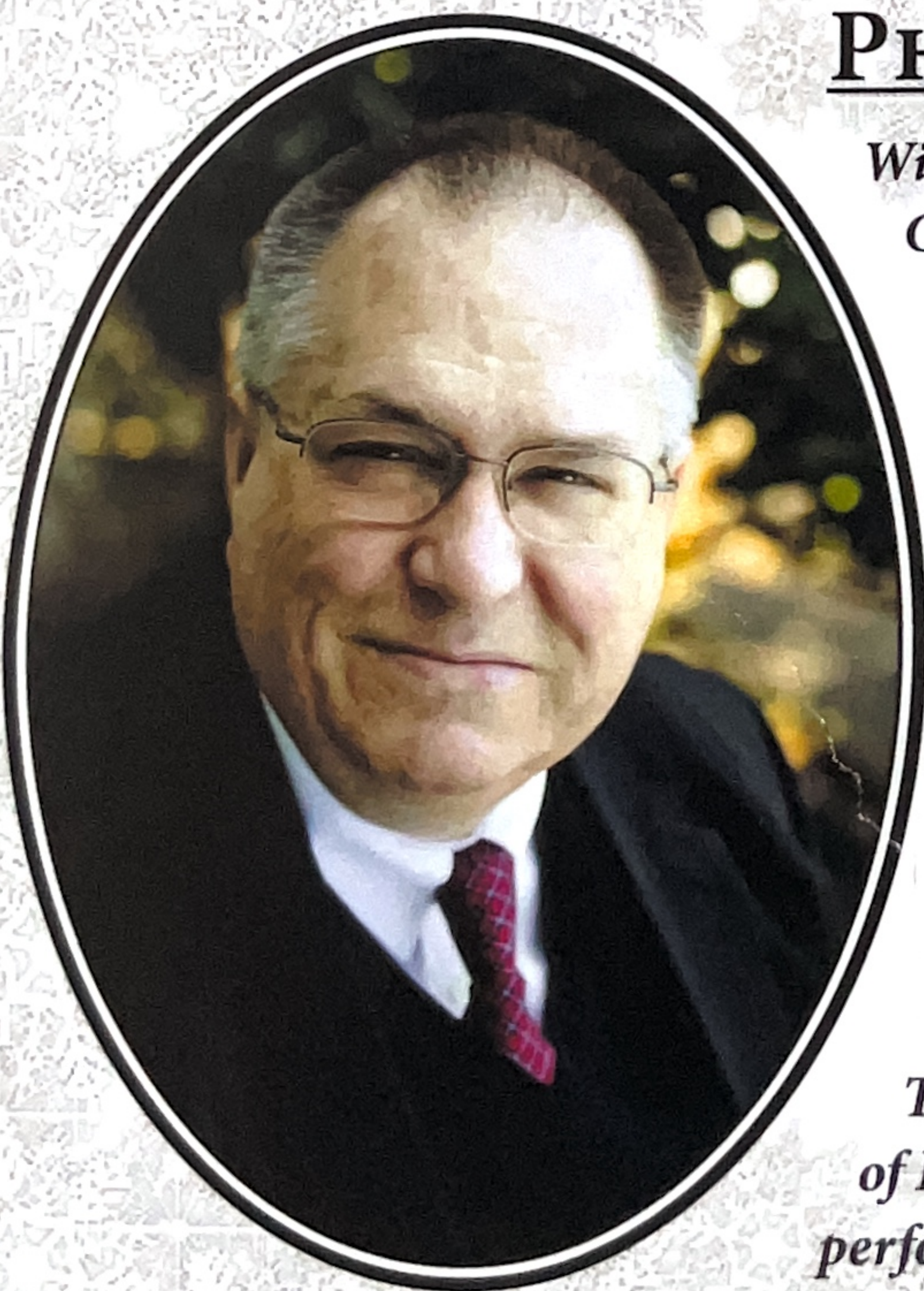
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## PHIL GREEN

*With deep sadness, the Portland Choir and Orchestra has learned that Phil Green, one of our members who was to sing for you here today, passed away on November 14th while vacationing in Hawaii with his family.*

*Phil was a tireless and committed member of our choir. A CPA by trade, Phil had served as a volunteer Treasurer for our Board of Directors for many years performing all of the painstaking,*

*but required, duties associated with running a large non-profit organization.*

*With the same dedication, Phil drove from his home west of Salem to Lake Oswego to practice with the choir every Tuesday evening during our rehearsal season.*

*Phil was looking forward to singing in today's concerts. Instead, today was our friend's funeral. We dedicate these performances to his memory.*

*- Keith Biggs, Executive Director*