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Orchestra Director - Dr. Edward Higgins

Assistant Choir Director - Jennie Peterson

Concertmaster - Ann Christensen

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Thanks to The Reser Production team

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.



PORTLAND
CHOIR & ORCHESTRA
Inspiring the Northwest

JOHANNES BRAHMS

EIN DEUTSCHES REQUIEM

PATRICIA RESER
CENTER FOR THE ARTS
APRIL 26, 2025

JOHANNES BRAHMS

EIN DEUTSCHES REQUIEM



Where is art created and stored—in the heart of the artist or the observer? One answer is in their union. Art is often a fusion of forms (words, music, physical material, color, etc.), each one representing a piece of heart and mind. Tangible art may emerge from studios and gardens (like those treasured by Jan Jacobsen and her family) and takes on new life as others interact with it in a museum or a private residence. In concert halls we create a unique in-the-moment type of musical tapestry with each melding of the efforts of creator, performer, and listener.

Johannes Brahms' choral-orchestral masterpiece, *Ein deutsches Requiem*, has endured over centuries in large part because it stirs the souls of performers and listeners alike with its ponderous treatment of the meaning of life and death. Portland Choir & Orchestra is honored to have been invited by the Hart-Jacobsen family to present this work as a tribute to Jan Jacobsen and is especially grateful for their sponsoring this event.

We hope you enjoy this unique union of voice, instruments, and Jan's visual artwork all set within the beautiful Reser Center for the Performing Arts. It is our sincere hope you will feel lifted by what you experience and, if so moved, we invite you to find ways to share its meaning with others.

Tonight is our final performance under the baton of Orchestra Director Dr. Edward Higgins who has led our orchestra for 11 seasons. His impact on our organization has been transformational, both artistically and professionally. We will always cherish our years with Dr. Higgins and wish him the best in his new endeavors.

Ken Hollenzer - Executive Director

David M. Thomas - Artistic Director

Thank You To Our 2024-2025 Season Donors:

Paul Hart	Mary Curtis
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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.

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 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.



THE CHOIR

Soprano 1

Heidi Dominguez
McKenna Hartley
Jamey McClellan*
Jamie McKell
Elizabeth Polay
Emily Thomas
Katrina Wheele

Soprano 2

Liberty Barnes
Alyson Broberg
Asuka Cuff
Victoria de la Llama
Deb Dougal
Lauren Drossel
Tammy Fry
Brittany Jones
Susie Josephson
Kassidy Moyle
Erin Owens
Jennie Peterson
Brooke Ryles
Amy Updike
Ellynn Willmor

Alto 1

Janet Apostalon
Laurie Bailey
Amy Bak
Stefani Carlton
Kristi Crusan
Jenny Gennings*
Kristen Hess
Allyn Kirnak
Kathryn Latour
Samantha Lopez
Jodi Peterson
Pamela Russell
Helen Shellman
Ellie Tracy
Kathleen Westhora
Lindsey Yun

Alto 2

Kara Anderson
Margie Armstrong
Juanita Bloom
Jennifer Edwards
Jackie Emmett
Rachel Mohlman
Courtney Pixton Atack

Nicole Stoddard
Daya Tracy

Tenor 1

Darren Boss
Marci Dayley
Chris Harris*
Joshua Hartley
Han Kim
Steve Pitzel
David Robbins
John Rogers
Tarry Smith
Patty Weenig
Richard Westover
Tom Wilde

Tenor 2

Levi Barnes
Matt Davis
Joe Everton
Eric Harker
Erik Hoggan
Ken Hollenzer

Bass 1

Nathan Bennion
Stephen Blinco

Marc Davis
Mark Deason
Helaman Escobar
James Evensen
Clark Green
Rob Perkins
Paris Tracy

Bass 2

Michael Blinco*
Brenden Edwards
Ken Garner
Wouter Latour
Russ McMurdie
John Meagher
David Monson
Eric Motto
Michael Rex
David Riddle
Howard Russell

Piano

Laurie Bailey
Asuka Cuff

* Section Leader

JOHANNES BRAHMS

EIN DEUTSCHES REQUIEM



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 has served as the Orchestra Director of the Portland Choir & Orchestra for 11 seasons—tonight marks his last as he transitions to the role of Conductor Emeritus. Dr. Higgins 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.

THE ORCHESTRA

1st Violin

Ann Christensen**
Brian Bennett
Stacy Edgar
Lori Brosius
Erin Hatch

2nd Violin

Briana Nielson*
Shion Yamakawa
Elisa Boynton
Lauren Trujillo
Jody Morrisette
Mary Ann Coggins Kaz

Viola

Alistair Leon Kok***
Anamaria Ghitea
Maren Knopp
Keely McMurry
Linda Emerson

Cello

Kevin Jackson*
Stephen Emerson
Amelia Hunnicutt
Paula Flynn

Double Bass

Garrett Jellesma*
Marc Bescond

Harp

Jeff Parsons

Flute

Marco Granados*
Pippa Randolph

Piccolo

Gail Gillespie*

Oboe

Victoria Racz***
Sam Rockwood

Clarinet

Alicia Charlton*
Lisa Taylor

Bassoon

Joseph Hartman***
Gary Zaganiacz

ContraBassoon

Gary Zaganiacz

French Horn

Jon Holloway***
Kurt Heichelheim
Doug Riggs
Rebekah Schaub

Trumpet

Brett Randolph*
Jason Gunderson

Trombone

Heidi Aispuro***
John Warton*

Bass Trombone

Jerry Stalnaker***

Tuba

Stephen Fulks*

Timpani

Kevin Schlossman***

** Concertmaster
* Principal
*** Acting Principal

COMING EVENTS

Tickets and information at MusicInPortland.org



Register now for the

PCO Golf Classic

Join us to help support Portland Choir & Orchestra Youth Scholarship program at the beautiful Stone Creek Golf Club

June 28

Information at MusicInPortland.org

Don't miss this year's

Christmas Concert

Our annual celebration of Christmas for the whole family

December 20

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



JOHANNES BRAHMS

EIN DEUTSCHES REQUIEM



Concert Program: Ein deutsches Requiem, Op. 45

- I. "Selig sind, die da Leid tragen"
- II. "Denn alles Fleisch es ist wie Gras"
- III. "Herr, lehre doch mich, daß eine Ende" (with baritone soloist)
- IV. "Wie lieblich sind deine Wohnungen"
- V. "Ihr habt nun Traurigkeit" (with soprano soloist)
- VI. "Denn wir haben hie keine bleibende Statt" (with baritone soloist)
- VII. "Selig sind die Toten"

Madison Barton-Holloway - Soprano



Madison is a West Coast soprano celebrated for her radiant tone, stage presence, and versatile artistry across operatic, musical theater, and concert stages. Born and raised in Portland, Oregon, she holds a Master's degree from the San Francisco Conservatory of Music, where she cultivated her passion for both canonical repertoire and contemporary works. Recent operatic highlights include *Die Zauberflöte*, *Der Rosenkavalier*, *Gianni Schicchi*, *La fille du régiment*, and *The Impresario*. This May, she will appear as Girl 2 in the West Coast premiere of Errollyn Wallen's *Anon*. On the concert stage, Madison has performed as the soprano soloist in Beethoven's *Symphony No. 9*, Handel's *Messiah*, Vivaldi *Gloria*, and Fauré's *Requiem*. When she's not practicing classical music, she is performing jazz standards with her husband, Alex, around the San Francisco Bay Area.

Stacey Murdock - Baritone



Stacey has performed extensively throughout Oregon and the Northwest appearing in Opera, Oratorio, and Musicals. Stacey's musical credits include: *The Mikado*, *A little Night Music*, *The Man of La Mancha*, *Oklahoma*, and *The Mystery of Edwin Drood*, to name a few. His theater credits include Shakespeare's *Much Ado About Nothing*, and Dickens' *A Christmas Carol*. He often performs with Portland Opera, and most recently was Antonio in Portland Opera's *Le Nozze di Figaro*. Stacey has been a frequent performer in the Astoria Music Festival and Portland Summerfest. He is also a successful concert performer and has sung in Haydn's *Creation*, Bach *Vespers* and *Carmina Burana* with Portland Choir & Orchestra. He sang the role of Gianni Schicchi with The Muses Creative Arts Project in Hot Springs, Arkansas. Originally from Idaho, Stacey now resides in Beaverton, Oregon with his wonderful wife and three children.

A Requiem in German

Ein deutsches Requiem, considered to be Johannes Brahms's greatest choral work, was the largest scale work he ever composed. Although he was already an established composer, this piece represented a breakthrough that cemented his fame and redefined the genre. Instead of creating a mass for the dead, he created one for the mourners left behind on earth, and in so doing, created something extraordinary. The libretto is not taken from the traditional Latin rite of the Roman Catholic Church and does not include references to the last judgment, final pleas or prayers for the dead. Rather, Brahms compiled specific scriptures from Martin Luther's German translation of the Bible that gave him comfort during a difficult period in his life when he lost several people who were very close to him including his mother and his friend, the composer Robert Schumann.

The title refers simply to the fact that it is sung in German instead of Latin, the language of all previous Requiems.

The Requiem as a whole represents a journey from earthly sorrow to heavenly peace. The representation of this journey can also be found within the individual movements, which depict the progression from mourning to consolation to joy and finally to peace.

I. Blessed are they who mourn

Blessed are they who mourn; for they shall have comfort. (Matthew 5:4)

They that sow in tears shall reap in joy. Who goeth forth and weepeth, and beareth precious seed shall come with rejoicing, bringing sheaves with them. (Psalms 126:5-6)

II. For all flesh is like grass

For all flesh is like grass and all its glory like the flower of grass. The grass withers, and the flower falls, but the word of the Lord remains forever. (1 Peter 1:24, 25)

Be patient, therefore, brothers, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, being patient about it, until it receives the morning and evening rains. Therefore be patient. (James 5:7-8)

And the ransomed of the Lord shall return and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain gladness and joy, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away. (Isaiah 35:10)

III. Lord, make me know my end

Lord, make me know my end and what is the measure of my days; let me know how fleeting I am! Behold, you have made my days a few handbreadths, and my lifetime is as nothing before you. Surely all mankind is a mere breath! Surely each person goes about as a shadow! In vain they go about, heaping up wealth and not knowing whose it will finally be. And now, O Lord, for what do I wait? My hope is in you. (Psalms 39: 4-7)

The souls of those who do right are in the hand of God, and they will never feel the pain of torment. (Wisdom of Solomon 3:1)

IV. How lovely is your dwelling place

How lovely is your dwelling place, O Lord of hosts! My soul longs, yes, faints for the courts of the Lord; my heart and flesh sing for joy to the living God. Blessed are those who dwell in your house, ever singing your praise! (Psalms 84:1-2, 4)

V. You have sorrow now

You have sorrow now, but I will see you again, and your hearts will rejoice, and no one will take your joy from you. (John 16:22)

Look at me: I suffered for a little time; toil and labor were mine; and at last I have found comfort. (Ecclesiasticus 51:35)

I will give you comfort, as one whom his own mother comforts. (Isaiah 66:13)

VI. For here we have no lasting city

For here we have no lasting city, but we seek the city that is to come. (Hebrews 13:14)

Behold! I tell you a mystery: we shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed. Then shall come to pass the saying that is written: "Death is swallowed up in victory." O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting? (1 Corinthians 15:51-52, 54-55)

Worthy are you, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they existed and were created. (Revelation 4:11)

VII. Blessed are the dead

Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord henceforth. The Spirit tells us they will rest from their labors, for their deeds follow them! (Revelation 14:13)



In Memory of Jan Jacobsen

1941 - 2024

Jan Jacobsen was a true Renaissance woman whose life reflected a rare balance of intellect, creativity, and compassion. From an early age, her talents were clear.

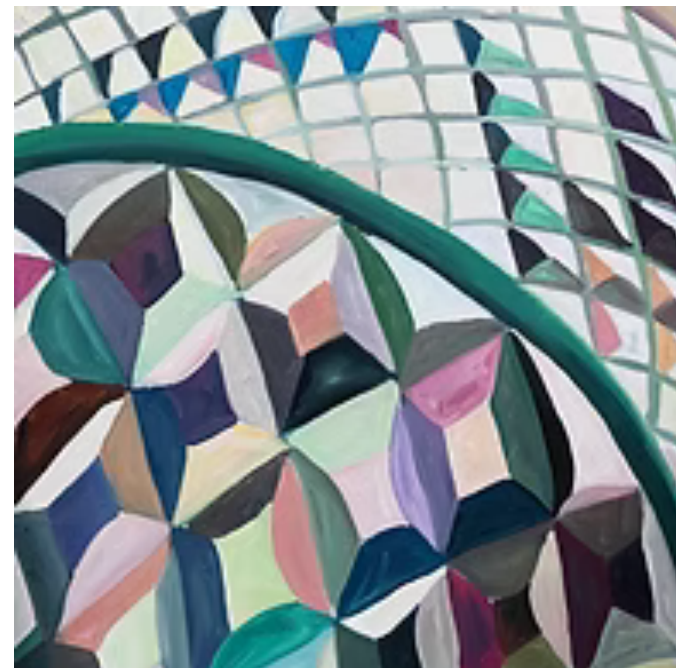
As a student in Billings, Montana, Jan excelled in science and mathematics, particularly geometry, where her sharp mind and endless curiosity often kept her teachers on their toes. Yet her heart always leaned toward the arts. Despite encouragement from her engineer father to pursue a stable career in teaching, Jan found every opportunity to weave art classes into her academic life, a quiet nod to her mother's gifts as an artist and interior designer.

Even in small matters, Jan's creative spirit showed itself. As a teenager, she declared that she would no longer answer to her birth name, Cathleen Jan, preferring simply "Jan" because she felt the letter J was more artistic and full of life than a C. Though her father stubbornly continued to call her "Sugar," Jan remained true to herself, a theme that would define her life.

Jan's early years were filled with dance, from classical ballet to twirling with the high school band, and in college, she added modern dance to her repertoire. After graduating with a Bachelor of Science degree in Mathematics from the University of Montana, she moved to Portland and began her teaching career at Woodrow Wilson High School. Her energy and enthusiasm captivated her students, who respected her brilliance even as they struggled to keep their eyes on their geometry lessons instead of her fashionable miniskirts—a sign of the times.

Marriage to medical resident Gary Jacobsen brought two children, Kristina and Bernt, and further studies at Portland State University. After some time at home raising her young family, Jan returned to the classroom, teaching mathematics and pioneering one of the school's first computer science courses.

Following her divorce, a serendipitous meeting at a Portland Actuarial Society dinner changed the course of her life. There she met Paul Hart, a young actuary who was immediately drawn to her bright smile and luminous spirit. Their connection was instant, and a second marriage soon followed, blending their families and expanding the circle of Jan's love and influence.



Never one to do things halfway, Jan threw herself into new adventures with Paul, including learning tennis and later golf, becoming a competitive player and active club member. She returned to her lifelong passion for art by enrolling at Marylhurst University, where she pursued a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree. What began as a part-time interest blossomed into a full-time calling. Jan's early fears that she might lack creative ideas were quickly put to rest; her imagination overflowed with vibrant paintings and intricate three-dimensional sculptures, many commissioned for private and public spaces.

Jan's talents extended beyond the studio. When Paul co-founded Rex Hill Winery, Jan became an integral part of its success. She trained tasting room staff, cultivated stunning gardens that turned the winery into a beloved destination, and helped establish the Yamhill County Wineries Association. She also designed the ceremonial robes and regalia for the Oregon Wine Brotherhood, serving as its first Master Sommelier. Together, she and Paul traveled the world, sharing their love of wine, art, and culture.

Her gardens at Rex Hill and later at home were legendary, bursting with vibrant vegetables, colorful flowers, and a quiet beauty that reflected her deep connection to nature. Her children, once reluctant helpers in the garden, grew to appreciate the life lessons she quietly instilled through tending to the earth.

Jan's greatest joy, however, was her family. She was a devoted mother to Kristina and Bernt, a loving stepmother to Bruce and Jennifer, and an adoring grandmother to nine grandchildren: Lea, Steffen, Matthew, Tori, Derrick, Marco, Kyle, Makenzie, and Morgan. She cherished her time with them, whether it was exploring a garden, building sandcastles, or sharing stories that celebrated the wonder of being alive.

In her later years, even as Lewy Body dementia gradually slowed her once-boundless energy, Jan's spirit remained luminous. She continued to garden, create art, and share moments of joy with friends and family. With the loving support of her caregivers, Adriana and Melissa, and the care team at Brighton Hospice, Jan remained at home surrounded by the beauty and love she had cultivated throughout her life.

Jan passed away peacefully in December 2024. In keeping with her deep respect for the natural world, her body was returned to the earth through a composting process, and her remains will nourish the garden she so lovingly tended. A private family ceremony this spring will celebrate her life, planting new crops of fruits and vegetables in the soil she enriched, ensuring that her legacy of creativity, love, and beauty will continue to bloom for generations to come.

Jan Jacobsen's life was a vibrant symphony of intellect, creativity, and love. We dedicate this concert to her memory with gratitude for the lasting inspiration she gave to all who knew her.

