

Famed conductor featured in fest

By Kathleen Taylor
Emerald Contributor

In 1970, Helmuth Rilling and Royce Saltzman decided to hold a week-long choral and organ music workshop ending with a concert in Eugene.

In the following years, the workshop expanded into the Oregon Bach Festival, featuring national and international solo artists, professional musicians from the United States and Canada, and many fine artists from the Eugene area including faculty from the University's music school.

The 19th annual season is now underway, running through July 3. In addition to pieces by Bach, Beethoven, Mozart, Tchaikovsky and other composers, the festival will also feature Krzysztof Penderecki, one of the world's most distinguished composers, conducting his own and other works.

Penderecki was invited to Eugene by Festival Artistic Director Helmuth Rilling.

Penderecki's work has been described as aggressive and intense by himself and others. He employs a variety of innovative techniques to create music that is exciting — changing pitch and tempo frequently.

One of Penderecki's most talked-about works performed at the festival is "Polish Requiem," written from 1980 to 1984. The requiem was written in response to events surrounding the Solidarity movement in Penderecki's native Poland.

Although these events were the inspiration for the writing of many of his compositions, Penderecki stressed that the musical structure is important. He hopes the audience will listen and enjoy the music.

The Penderecki String Quartet will perform with pianist Victor Steinhardt tonight at 8 p.m., in the School of Music's Beall Concert Hall.

The concert will include String Quartet No. 2 (1968), composed by Penderecki. A wide range of special effects including sounds without definite pitch, alternating tempos and

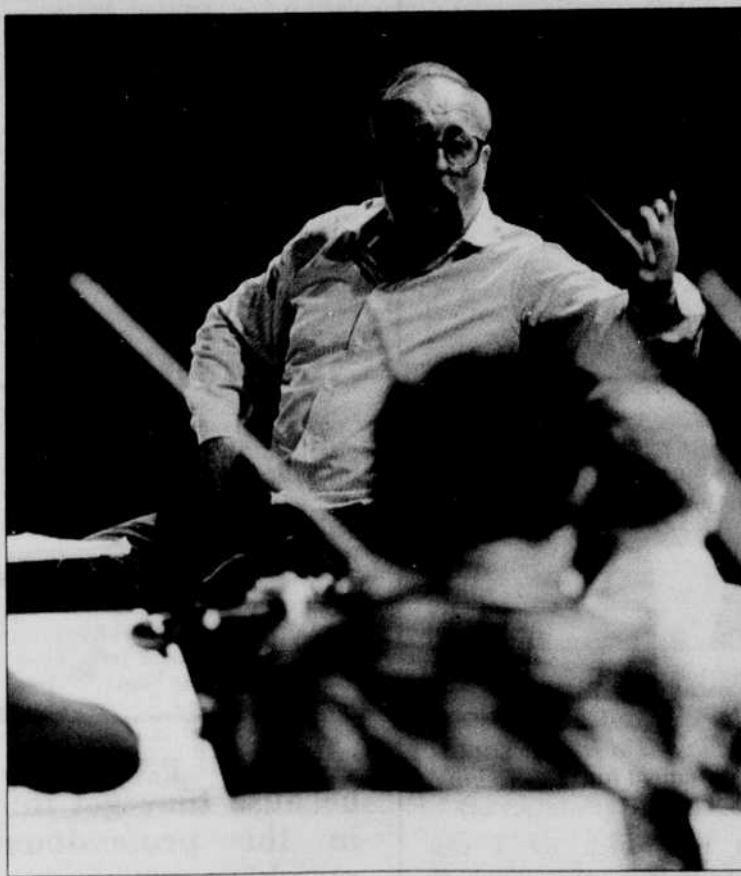


Photo by James Marks

Krzysztof Penderecki, one of the world's most highly acclaimed conductors, will offer concerts at this year's Oregon Bach Festival.

pitches and tone clusters are included in this piece, demonstrating the boldness of Penderecki's works.

Penderecki, who has conducted throughout Western Europe, said that he is very pleased with the artists he has worked with at the festival, and said that the rehearsals have been "fantastic."

The Oregon Bach Festival has become internationally known, and is regarded as one of the best of its kind.

Among the artists of international acclaim is Pamela Kuhn, a graduate of the University's music school. Kuhn is a soprano soloist living in London who has returned to Eugene for the festival.

Several concerts will be offered through July 2 both at the Hult Center and Beall Concert Hall, including two free noon concerts on Thursday and Saturday in the Hult Center

foyer.

Tickets may be purchased at the Hult Center ticket office; for more information call the Oregon Bach Festival at 686-5666.

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