



Helmuth Rilling, artistic director of the Oregon Bach Festival, brings together world-renowned musicians to honor peace and the 50th anniversary of the end of World War II. COURTESY PHOTO

Bach Festival to unite state with 'War, Reconciliation and Peace'

Anne Moser-Kornfeld
Oregon Daily Emerald

Nothing unites the world, the little geographic area Eugene calls home, or the University community, like music.

The Oregon Bach Festival accents that unity when the festival begins a two-week schedule of events on Friday, June 23. Opening ceremonies take place at the Hult Center Plaza at 6 p.m.

The Oregon Bach Festival's longstanding tradition, more than 25 years strong, of offering one of the premier cultural events in the United States, includes 51 events and concerts that are dedicated to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the end of World War II.

George Evano, director of communications for the Oregon Bach Festival, said this year's theme — "War, Reconciliation and Peace" — takes on many forms.

For students, this means the festival provides numerous opportunities to begin their appreciation of Bach, enhance their understanding of world music or start a lifelong love affair with classical music.

Access to the Oregon Bach Festival is as easy as attending

four free noon concerts on June 24 and 28, and July 5 and 8. Evano said these hour-long concerts provide an excellent introduction to the festival or fill out even further a serious concertgoer's appetite for music.

Ticket prices range from \$2 — for events like those devoted to children's audiences — on up to \$35 for major concerts, which are held in the Silva Concert Hall of the Hult Center. Generally prices depend on availability, concert dates, seating, and the performance location.

The Oregon Bach Festival began in 1970, under the artistic direction of Helmuth Rilling. Rilling uses music to cross political and ethnic boundaries. He received the Theodor Heuss Prize in 1995 for advancing reconciliation and international understanding.

Rilling recorded all 200 of Johann Sebastian Bach's church cantatas. Rilling conducts, among other performances during the festival, the Discovery Series Lecture Performances, which take place at 5 p.m. in the Beall Concert Hall beginning June 27. During the series he explains the symbolism and artistic intent of the cantatas in a relaxed atmosphere.

Other festival performers include the Paul Winter Consort, and Benjamin Britten's *War Requiem* with Laszlo Hetlay directing.

The Oregon Bach Festival's affiliation with the University ensures education remains the lifeblood of the festival.

Each year the festival includes advanced training in choral and orchestral conducting through the Master Class in Conducting. The Composers Symposium gathers composers from around the world and enables them to premiere new work. Creative Journeys is a series of community-based discussions that put the musical events of each year's festival in context for audiences.

The festival continues through July 8 in various locations throughout the state. This year marks the first time Salem and Corvallis residents can experience the festival. Concerts will be held at the Elsinore Theatre in Salem and LaSells Stewart Center for the Performing Arts and the First Presbyterian Church in Corvallis.

Contact the Hult Center's Bach office for available ticket prices at 687-5000 and the Oregon Bach Festival for any additional information at 346-5666.

Toronto's 'Ice Cream Quartet' brings life

Anne Moser-Kornfeld
Oregon Daily Emerald

Quartetto Gelato, "ice cream quartet" in Italian, performs June 26 at Beall Hall in the University School of Music.

The artists developed their trademark sound with a combination of accordion-violin-violoncello-mandolin-guitar-tenor voice.

According to cellist George Meanwell, Quartetto Gelato was flattered to be asked to play at the Oregon Bach Festival.

The musical intent of the group is to play wonderful music. Meanwell describes their range as being classical in the European tradition.

Quartetto Gelato hopes their music is able to eliminate distinctions between what is traditionally considered classical and what makes up a serious chamber ensemble.

Meanwell said the musicians "take the music seriously but not themselves." On stage Claudio Vena, who plays the viola and accordion, explains the

Festival Pick of the Week
Quartetto Gelato
Monday June 26
8 p.m. at Beall Concert Hall
Admission is \$13, \$17, \$19

background of the music they're playing.

As part of the festival, Quartetto Gelato will play in Eugene, Corvallis and Salem. Meanwell says they will contribute well to the theme of this year's festival.

"When you're talking about death and reconciliation, you're also talking about life. That's where Quartetto Gelato comes in; we bring life," Meanwell said.

To him, it is a "tremendous gift" to play music for audiences who appreciate classical music.

Quartetto Gelato's members live in Toronto and originally their success has been measured by the reception they've gotten from audiences.

Quartetto Gelato plans to release a new compact disc in September and to tour Australia and Hawaii in the upcoming year.

Meanwell said audiences watching the Quartetto Gelato perform "will see four friends in a joyous celebration of music."

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