

# Choir tradition brings unity through song

■ High school choirs join community and college choirs at Choirs of the Valley concert Oct. 17

LA GRANDE — A decade-old tradition brings unity to communities in and around La Grande at the Choirs of the Valley concert.

Through music, “the young, old and anyone in between” come together, said Peter Wordelman, EOU Chamber Choir’s director.

Sponsored by Red Cross Drug Store, the 2019 Choirs of the Valley concert will begin at 7 p.m. Oct. 17 in McKenzie Theatre on the Eastern Oregon University campus in La Grande.

The event happens every year on the third Thursday of October. Almost all 446 seats in McKenzie Theatre fill up.

Five local choirs partake in the musical performance, including high school choirs from La Grande, Hermiston and Milton-Freewater, the Grande Ronde Community Choir and the EOU Chamber Choir. All of the choirs open their performance season with this collaborative event.

Wordelman said the fall concert exposes many community members and rural students to local choral music, solidifying EOU’s role as the educational and cultural engine of the region.



The annual Choirs of the Valley concert introduces high school students to performing in large choirs, said Peter Wordelman, who directs the EOU Chamber Choir. Five regional choirs will participate in this year’s free concert on Thursday at EOU.

“Since a lot of our students came from small high schools, they are not used to hearing larger high school choirs,” said Wordelman. “(EOU) students tell me they like to hear the high school choirs perform, especially if they were a part

of it (in the past).”

For the high school students, the concert gives them an opportunity to perform together rather than against each other.

The schools regularly compete in the annual Oregon School Activi-

ties Association choir competition. La Grande High School has taken first place six times, and last year, Milton-Freewater won second place.

“This is a great way for everyone to share what they have been

working on,” Wordelman said. “A fun-spirited and quick taste of everyone’s pieces sets the tone for the rest of the year.”

This event is free and open to the all. For more information, contact Wordelman at [pwordelm@eou.edu](mailto:pwordelm@eou.edu).

## Old-time dance planned in Joseph

JOSEPH — An Old-Time Community Dance is planned for Oct. 19 at the Hurricane Creek Grange Hall, 63081 Hurricane Creek Road, Joseph.

From 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. there will be a live band of local musicians and a caller to walk dancers through all the moves. All dances will be called/taught — no experience is needed, and beginners of all ages are welcome. Partners or special clothing are not necessary. The

family friendly evening includes potluck snacks (bring finger foods to share, if you are able). Coffee and hot tea will be provided.

Admission is \$5 per person or \$10 per family. Children younger than 12 get in free.

The Grange welcomes volunteers to help set up for the dance, put up posters, take money at the door, clean up afterward and do other chores.

For more information, call Laura

Skovlin at 541-398-0800.

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