

As Attorney General Ashcroft's taxpayer-financed robing of the statue of justice's nudity shows, plenty of American politicians fear art more than terrorists.

Shakespeare set to music by Purcell, Gounod, Sondheim and others, and the following Thursday, May 22, several UO vocal groups sing Ralph Vaughan Williams' setting of a Shakespeare text, "Serenade to Music," along with music by Monteverdi, Handel, and Portland native Morten Lauridsen.

And choral music fans have one more big treat before the Bach festival: On Saturday, May 10, the Eugene Concert Choir and the Oregon Mozart Players perform one of the masterpieces of choral-orchestral music: Haydn's joyous oratorio, *The Creation*. And on Friday, May 16 at the Newman Center, there's a free concert of vocal and instrumen-

tal music (Beethoven, Spohr, and lesser-known composers) by soprano Valerie McIntosh, harpist Laura Zaerr, and fortepianist Susan Miller, accompanied by Gillian Johnson's readings from Jane Austen.

Some interesting improvisation comes our way in May. On the 16th, Seattle saxophonist **Cynthia Mullis**, a veteran of well-regarded ensembles in New York and San Francisco, plays straight-ahead standards and originals at Luna with her rhythm section. On May 17, Los Angeles guitarist/singer **Skip Heller** and band play some of his intriguingly off-center originals and covers at Jo Federigo's. *ew*

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