

**Jerry Douglas**  
plays the Shedd on  
Friday, June 27.



## A Touch of Twang

Summer brings out the best.

Imagine a band boasting the world's greatest bassist (Edgar Meyer), fiddler (Mark O'Connor), mandolinist (Sam Bush), and banjoist (Bela Fleck). Such a band existed — it was called Strength in Numbers — and it had one other member. What other musician could stand in such august company?

Even if you've never heard of **Jerry Douglas**, you've almost certainly heard his dobro, a guitar augmented by a metal plate and amplifying cone that makes a distinctive twangy sound. Like his aforementioned colleagues in the pantheon of American acoustic music, Douglas is a Nashville studio stalwart who's played on literally hundreds of recordings, transcending the boundaries between bluegrass, country, rock, jazz, pop — even contemporary classical. He's won dozens of awards, including six Grammys and last year's Musician of the Year award from the Country Music Association. He added zing to the "O Brother Where Art Thou?" soundtrack and albums by Ray Charles, Emmylou Harris, Paul Simon, Earl Scruggs, Bill Frisell, Phish, and dozens of others. And, he's played in bands with Ricky Skaggs and is a member of Alison Krauss's Union Station.

Douglas's latest album (featuring guest turns from James Taylor and Maura O'Connell) appeals to fans of country, jazz, bluegrass, folk, and most other American music, as should his concert at the Shedd on Friday, June 27. Like O'Connor, Meyer, and other titans that the Oregon Festival of American Music has brought to the Shedd, Douglas represents some of the finest musicianship this country has to offer. (And after his show, bluegrass fans can head over to Sam Bond's garage to catch the end of Portland's Foghorn String Band's set.)

One of Douglas's boundary-crossing projects involved traditional Indian music. Another Westerner who's drawn inspiration from that great musical culture, **Dave Stringer**, performs contemporary and original Sanskrit chants and devotional songs backed by an electric band (including drummer Matt Butler) at Far Horizons School on Friday, June 20.

More spiritual music from way back East appears at the WOW Hall on Thursday, June 26, when Tuvan shaman **Ai-Churek** and multi-instrumentalist Buddhist monk **Sarymai Urchimaev** play traditional and

original music of Tuva, the area of Russia bordering Mongolia that's produced so many celebrated throat singers. On Friday, June 27, Eugene's **Son Mela'o** plays traditional music from Cuba, Colombia and Puerto Rico at Luna. This 11-member band marries the string instruments of old-school *son* with a brass section, percussion, and vocals.

Finally, world music fans can head up to Salem's Riverfront Park on June 28-29 for the annual **World Beat Festival**, featuring ensembles from all over (including many from Eugene) performing music and dance from Africa, Asia, Europe, the Middle East, South America and more, along with food, crafts, cultural demonstrations and music and dance workshops.

## Douglas

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Summer's here and the time is right for dancing in the parks. Along with too many pop music festivals and concerts to count, summer also brings opportunities to hear classical music. Along with the Oregon Bach Festival (see this week's cover story), you can hear local musicians play light classics for wind and brass instruments in the band and classical series at Washburne Park, a tradition stretching back almost four decades. This summer's series, which runs through early September, opens Sunday, June 22 with the **New Horizons Band**, and later dates feature Renaissance music, marching band, polka, and various community orchestras and brass ensembles.

The Bach Festival is the big news hereabouts, but classical music fans can find plenty of other opportunities to feed their summer cravings when journeying to Portland (Chamber Music Northwest), the coast (Oregon Coast Music Festival, Cascade Head Music Festival, Ernest Bloch Music Festival), and several others at points south, east, and north. No room here for detailed previews, but if you enter the festival names in your favorite search engine, the magic of the Internet can bring you schedules, locations, and the rest.

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