

name for himself as a talented turntablist. It only makes sense that the two would join forces and create what we now know as the E and A. From the battle ground to the studio, the pair dropped their first album – appropriately titled *First Born* – in the fall of 2001 through Rhymesayers Entertainment. Since then, Eyedea and Abilities have been touring the country and spreading the word, sharing stages with artists such as De La Soul, the Roots and American Head Charge. The combination of Eyedea's intricate lyrical constructions with Abilities' penchant for funk-driven basslines and jazzy loops has caught the ear of many underground hip-hop heads and critics alike. "You can't argue with the musically inventive use of samples here or the range of subject matter covered," says Will Ashon of *Muzik*. "The record carries real emotional weight because of the subjects dealt with and that's still all too rare in hip hop." Eyedea and Abilities perform with Sector 7G, Abzorbr (Kristoff Krane) and Three Blind Mics at 9 pm Sunday, Dec. 9, at the WOW Hall. \$10 adv., \$12 door. – *Zach Klassen*

**The Most Wonderful Time ...**

Hallelujah!  
Hell yes, I love me some Handel's *Messiah*. Seriously, there's nothing like a good delivery of "For Unto Us a Child Is Born" to make me bop around in my seat at the Hult Center. True, I still try to find the alto parts so I can hum along (in my head, of course, unless it's a sing-along, which this one is *not*) and end up lost in whichever line is dominant. But hey, that's the thing about this Baroque masterpiece: So many notes! So very, very many repetitions of phrases like "And the glory, the glory, the glory of the Lord." (Plus, it's just fun to sing things like "reveal-ed.")

**The Eugene Concert Choir** hates to send us press releases, for some reason, yet we love the *Messiah* enough to walk our fingers onto the internets and find out that this version is the complete work, an interesting choice by ECC director Diane Retallack. With soloists Eugene fave Maria Jette, soprano; Barbara Rearick, mezzo; Steven Rickards, countertenor (the most ethereal of all voices); Robert Breault, tenor; and Stephen Bryant, bass, the many recitatives might not be so, er, meditative. Retallack has no doubt whipped the choir into gorgeous shape, and the propulsive choruses will kick the season off right.

Of course the whole thing finishes not with a whimper but a bang. Whether you think He shall reign forever or never at all, the Concert Choir will knock your socks off (and make you stand up and sing) at 2:30 pm Sunday, Dec. 9, at the Hult Center. \$19-\$34. – *Suzi Steffen*

**Rockin' Around the Christmas Tree**

Hey kid, want to hear some holiday classical-pop-rock fusion songs?

Not, not the kind of elevator-esque crud on tap at many shopping areas (even Market of Choice has gotten into the agony of Christmas "music" – is nothing sacred in this world?). Anyway, this is something different: **Aaron Meyer**, a rock violinist who has composed for or played with Everclear, Pink Martini and Smokey Robinson, brings his six-piece band to the lovely Wildish Community Theater in Springfield for the theater's gala benefit concert.

The Wildish, which opened a year ago, hosts a variety of events from music to community meetings to plays (as you can read on page 48 in Sharleen Nelson's review of the Lord Leebrick's *It's a Wonderful Life: Live Radio Play*, which opened at the Wildish last weekend). Meyer comes to spread a little joy and a little crossover violin power. On his excellent website ([www.aaronmeyer.com](http://www.aaronmeyer.com)), it's easy to hear clips from his many albums, including several holiday song albums. Whoa – "What Child Is This?" sounds like *that*? In the hands of a string player who loves The Rock Music, it sure does. Meyer, who performed a solo with the Philadelphia Orchestra when he was 11, went on to music school and then a sojourn in Asia that left him as likely to perform in Phuket as Portland, where he now lives with his family. Tix for the show are spendy, but it's for a worthy cause: The theater needs community support. And it's also for a fun cause: Meyer will rock your thoughts about holiday music, stringed instruments and classical musicians. Aaron Meyer and band play at 8 pm Friday, Dec. 7, at the Wildish Community Theater, 630 Main St., Springfield. \$65. – *Suzi Steffen*



Aaron Meyer

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