

# Music fest: 'We don't want the festival to go away'

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co-exist with another Keith Clark festival in Astoria."

This year's festival featured 23 performances of symphonic and chamber music, operas and educational events. Within the last decade, the festival has grown into a classical music institution of the North Coast, as cherished as it is distinguished.

"We don't want the festival to go away. That's the bottom line," Debby Halliburton, the outgoing board vice president, said. "If Keith isn't able to work with the board as it is now, well, we don't want him to go away."

## Keep the music going

However, Clark said that several of the board's assertions are "totally inaccurate."

"I, frankly, am sorry that they sent this (press release)

out," he said, adding that he wishes the kerfuffle had played out privately rather than publicly.

Clark told the board in an email, "Whoever wrote the press release did harm to the future of the Astoria Music Festival — if, indeed, there will be a future."

"It was never my intention or hope that there would be any separation," he said.

For six months, the board "refused to confirm that I would continue as the musical director until after the music festival," he said. "I'm a professional conductor. I've conducted all over the world. I've never been treated like that before. It's either a 'yes' or a 'no.'"

With speculation beginning to circulate that he would be replaced, Clark said his top concern was to keep the performances going.



Dwight Caswell/For The Daily Astorian

**Astoria Music Festival Artistic Director Keith Clark conducts Hideki Yamaya, left, Leslie Green and Adaiha Mac-Adam-Somer at this year's festival.**

"My stance — and that of some of the musicians — was that, if I was discontinued, we would just continue to do our concerts as we've always done them," he said.

In addition, the notion that he wanted to take the festival

in a different direction is false, he said.

"I don't want to change anything. I want to continue the trajectory of the Astoria Music Festival in exactly the same direction in which it's been going: great concert,

great international artists, great involvement of the community," he said.

However, he said he wants the musicians to be more involved at the decision-making level and in a position to vote about "their own artistic life."

"All I'm interested in is that we continue to build the Astoria Music Festival," he said.

## Differences of opinion

"There's a lot of pieces to (the festival), and there's a lot of opportunity for miscommunication and for things to fall through the cracks because it's such a complicated festival," said Rosemary Baker-Monaghan, executive director of the Liberty Theater, where most of the festival performances are held. "It's a fabulous festival, but it's a big job to pull that together every year."

Clark said he hopes that

the outgoing board members remain involved long enough to nominate and elect the next board, though Diane Tiedeman, the outgoing board president, requested in a letter to Clark that he appoint new board members by Sept. 1.

Both the outgoing board, in its statement, and Clark said they harbor no ill will. Clark also said that Tiedeman "has been fantastic" to work with. "We wouldn't exist as a music festival without her," he said.

"I'm disappointed that anybody resigned. They certainly didn't have to do that," Clark said. "There were certainly some differences of opinion, but in any organization there are differences of opinion, and none of these are differences of opinion that should threaten an organization that's had a 13-year history of continued success."

# Seaside: South East Hills site is favored because it contains the necessary acres

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boundary started two years ago in order to comply with statewide planning goals and guidelines for land use planning.

Through consultation with Otak, the city forecast the rate of growth in Seaside over the next two decades and estimated how much land needs to come into the urban-growth boundary to accommodate the city's growth, Hanson said.

Otak and the city collaborated to create a land-need analysis showing the city will require 154.6 acres of residential land, 10.6 acres of parkland and 35.6 acres of industrial and institutional land, for a total of 200.8 acres.

With that "land budget" in mind, they considered where in Seaside it could be found, in pieces or as a whole, Cupples said.

Cupples and Otak picked four study areas for further analysis: North Hills, east of North Wahanna Road with access from Shore Terrace and Forest Drive; Lewis and Clark, north of Lewis and Clark Road; East Hills, east of South Wahanna Road; and South Hills, south of Avenue S and encompassing part of South Wahanna Road.

The team evaluated slope conditions, infrastructure, emergency access and utilities, among other criteria, Hanson said. Additionally, any property under consideration must be outside the tsunami inundation zone.

Cupples and Otak came up with a preferred site proposal that incorporated components of the South Hills and East Hills sites. The South East Hills site was favored because it contains all the necessary 200.8 acres.

"We saw that as the least constrained area to grow the city in the future," Hanson said.

The South East Hills map indicates a potential multi-acre site for Seaside School District 10 to build a new campus.

The school district will need to make its own request of the city and state to expand the



Submitted Photo

South East Hills, an area considered for potential expansion of Seaside's urban-growth boundary.

## YOUR SAY

If property owners in the expanded urban-growth boundary wanted to develop their sites they need to:

- Request annexation into the city of Seaside;
- Request a zone change in conformance with the overall plan; and
- Go through an individual approval process, which means their plans would be vetted publicly.

boundary to include the site if or when the time comes.

## Landowners concerned

Landowners are not entirely on board with the idea of their property being brought into the

urban-growth boundary. Several said they need more information.

During the Planning Commission meeting, Marie Pincetich, the owner of about a dozen acres near South Wahanna Road, asked if it is too late for the city

to change direction and choose a different site. She said she was concerned that some people in her neighborhood could get priced out of their properties because of higher taxes.

In addition, residents already have invested in the area's infrastructure, Pincetich said. "That just doesn't seem fair that we bear all that for the good of the city."

Pincetich asked if the city would reconsider plans to expand the UGB zone.

"This is not the plan we wanted for our properties," added landowner Mary Kemhus. "We

like the way South Wahanna is and we'd like to keep it that way. We don't want to be forced into anything."

Landowner Janet Ottem questioned why Seaside needs to grow at all. She said she believes expanding the urban-growth boundary could pave the way for some of her neighbors to subdivide their property and sell it for profit.

"I live in a small town, because I want to live in a small town," she said. "It does not thrill me to have roads going by my house for more houses to be developed eventually."

"It's this kind of juggling act to try and come up with some way of doing it in a planned fashion," Commissioner Chris Hoth said. "Everybody is not going to get what they want."

Based on the property owners' concerns, the city is revisiting the possibility of expanding the boundary with some land from a different site. One way or another, though, Cupples said, they need to account for about 200 acres.

The Planning Commission will revisit the topic at an upcoming meeting before making a recommendation to City Council.

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