

# NOTES OF CHRISTMAS PAST

JOHN DOAN'S 'CHRISTMAS UNPLUGGED'  
RECALLS VINTAGE INSTRUMENTS,  
RICHER HUMAN CONNECTIONS

By **PATRICK WEBB**  
FOR COAST WEEKEND

**T**he title of John Doan's seasonal concert on Friday in Astoria offers several depths of meaning.

"Christmas Unplugged – Reclaiming the Holiday Spirit" refers to his acoustic music, produced on his harp guitar and other unusual stringed instruments from the past. But he also invites concertgoers to unplug their modern technology, embrace a face-to-face sense of community, and participate in a musical sing-along and whistle-along.

"It's become more and more essential for our culture to look at who we are," said Doan, a thoughtful interview subject who speaks in rich sentences and savors connecting the dots.

"Education sometimes misses that a past-to-now program is as much about now as it is about the past," he said, when asked about preserving historical musical instruments and traditions.

"I feel like Indiana Jones who has found these great treasures and tried to make sense of them."

## IF YOU GO

### "Christmas Unplugged – Reclaiming the Holiday Spirit"

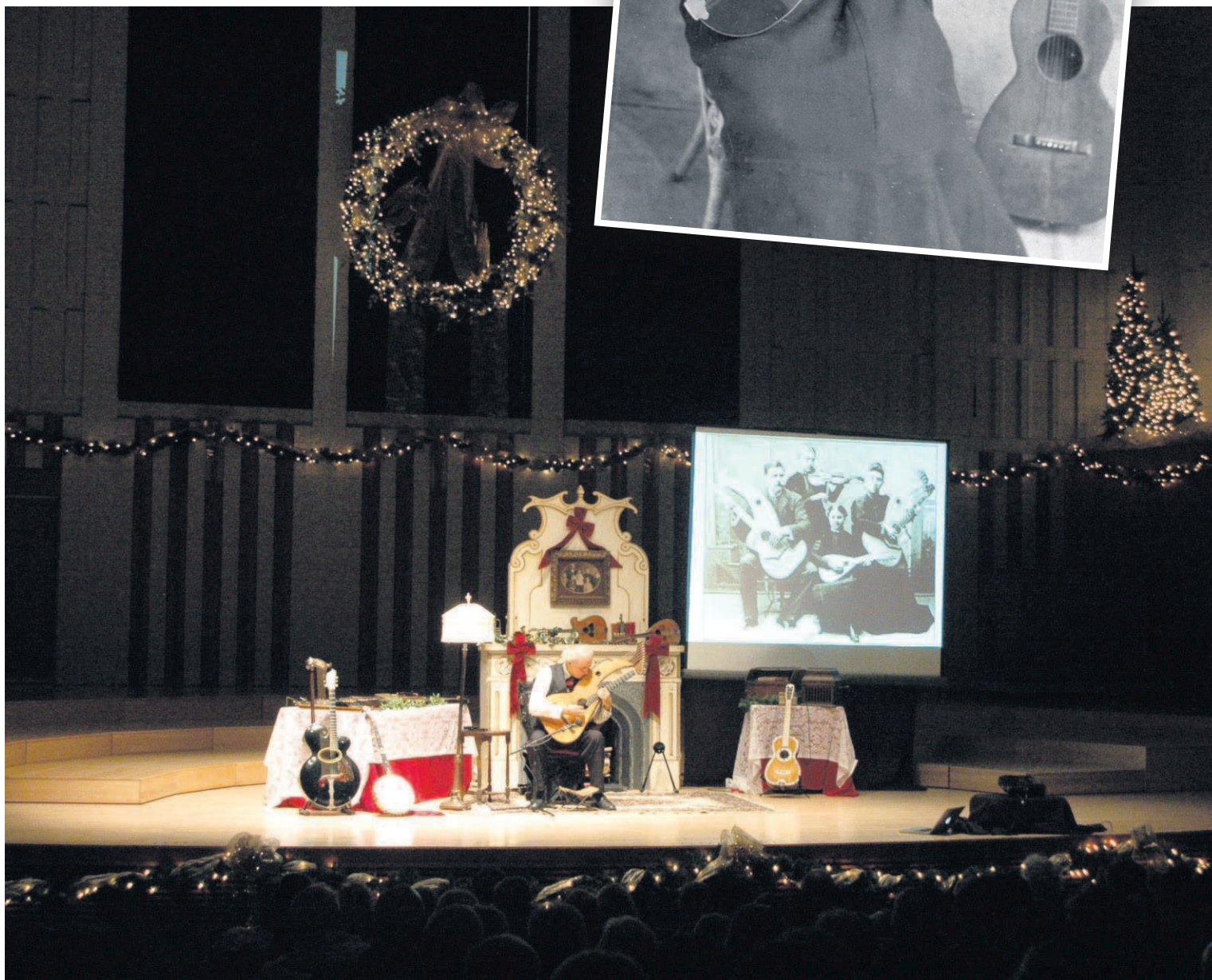
When: 7 p.m. Friday, Dec. 7

Where: Lewis and Clark Bible Church, 35082 Seppa Lane, Astoria

Admission: Suggested donation, \$12-\$15 for adults and \$10 for seniors and children.

Box Office: 503-325-7011.

[johndoan.com](http://johndoan.com)



PHOTOS COURTESY JOHN DOAN

**ABOVE:** A portable fold-out 8-foot fireplace provides a parlor-like atmosphere for John Doan when he performs. A giant screen displays photos from a past era of music making. **TOP:** This undated photo of a woman with a mandolin is among John Doan's collection of historical photos that help illustrate his performances.