



Metro/Religion

May 13 workshop unites faith community for Mother's Day march

CONTRIBUTED STORY
FOR THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Every day in our country 12 children die from gunshot wounds. On Mother's Day, May 14, mothers and "honorary moms" will meet in downtown Portland for the Oregon Million Mom March at the same time that concerned citizens from across the nation will rally in Washington D.C. to encourage Congress to pass sensible gun safety legislation.

On the eve of the Portland march, May 13, faith communities in the Portland area are invited to worship together at an interfaith service at Temple Beth Israel, 1972 NW Flanders, from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. Readings will be offered by leaders from the Christian, Jewish, Buddhist, Hindu, Muslim, Bahá'í and Native American communities. Participants will share prayers and songs for peace, justice and the sacred lives of all children. The service is jointly sponsored by the Million Mom March and Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon.

As Archbishop Desmond Tutu said on a recent visit to Oregon, "we are each indispensable," said Leslie Sackett, religion outreach coordinator for the Million Mom March. "Our styles and expressions of worship may be different, but at the heart of all faith traditions is a love of God and

a reverence for the sacredness of God's creation." The Oregon Million Mom March will begin Sunday morning, May 14, at 11 a.m. at SW Park and Salmon, and will conclude with a rally at Pioneer Courthouse Square. Marchers from faith communities are encouraged to carry signs or banners that identify their congregation or faith group.

The Oregon Million Mom March is sponsored by the Oregon PTA, Oregonians Against Gun Violence, Episcopal Diocese of Oregon, Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon, Ceasefire Oregon, Community Action Forum, Salem-Keizer Strengthening Families Council, Oregon Nurse Association, District #1, and the National Council of Jewish Women, Portland, Oregon Section.

The goal of the Million Mom March is to keep guns out of the hands of children and out of the hands of criminals who can hurt children. For more information about the Million Mom March, please call 888-989-MOMS, or visit the Million Mom March Web site at www.millionmomsmarch.com. For more information about the May 13 interfaith worship service call Teri Ruch at Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon, (503) 221-1054, or Leslie Sackett of the Million Mom March, (503) 284-7141.

Cole Porter tribute to close 1999-2000 Symphony Pops series

CONTRIBUTED STORY
FOR THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Cole Porter, one of the most sophisticated creators of American popular song, will be paid tribute in the final Oregon Symphony Bank of America Pops concert of the 1999-2000 season, May 27 - 29, at the Arlene Schnitzer Concert Hall in the Portland Center for the Performing Arts. Associate Conductor Norman Leyden will conduct the program featuring award-winning vocalist Susannah Mars and the Leyden Singers. Oregon Symphony Pops concerts are sponsored by Bank of America.

Media support is provided by News/Talk 750 KXL, KPTV Oregon's 12 and MediaAmerica. "Words and music must be so inseparably wedded to each other that they are like one," Porter reportedly said. The prolific songwriter achieved this goal perhaps more successfully than any songwriter of his day, or since. The Pops program will feature Porter standards such as "Let's Do It," "You're the Top," "What is This Thing Called Love" and "Night and Day," as well as lesser-known gems such as "Rosalie," "Love for Sale" and "Always True to You in My Fashion." Susannah Mars, a Leyden Singer alumna and four-time winner of the Portland Drama Critics Award, will be the featured vocalist.

Performances are scheduled for Saturday and Monday, May 27 and 29, at 8 p.m. and Sunday, May 28, at 3 p.m. and 8 p.m. Tickets range in price from \$17 to \$54 and may be purchased at the Oregon Symphony Ticket

Office (923 S.W. Washington) Monday - Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. or charged by phone at (503) 228-1353 or (800) 228-7343. Tickets also may be purchased at all Ticketmaster outlets (790-ARTS) or through Ticketmaster On-line, via the Symphony's web site at www.orsymphony.org. Service fees may apply.

SUSANNAH MARS

One of the brightest stars of musical theatre and cabaret hailing from the Pacific Northwest, Susannah Mars was most recently seen at Artists Repertory Theatre in her one-woman show, "Mars on Life: There's More." During the past year, she also appeared in Portland Center Stage's "A Christmas Carol" and was Fanny Brice in The Musical Theatre Company's much-lauded production of "Funny Girl," for which she won the 1999 Portland Drama Critics Award. In the recent past, Ms. Mars was seen in "Chaps" at Artists Repertory Theatre, for which she won the 1998 Portland Drama Critics Award. She also opened the new Bullitt Cabaret at ACT in Seattle with her show "Mars on Life," and played Eva in "Evita" at the Coeur d'Alene Summer Theater, where she also was Meg in "Brigadoon." A prolific actress, Ms. Mars has performed the role of Connie Lee in Scott Warrender's "The January Book" at The Village Theatre in Seattle. She also appeared as Suzanne in "The Twilight of the Gods" at Triangle Theatre and was Reno Sweeney in The Musical Theatre Company's production of "Anything Goes," for which she won the 1996 Portland Drama Critics Award. She

was seen in "Das Barbecu" at A Contemporary Theatre and played Dr. Charlotte in "Falsettos" at the Group Theatre in Seattle. Ms. Mars appeared in Oregon Stage Company's production of "Closer Than Ever" and originated the role of Mary Reade in the world-premiere production of "A Pirate's Lullaby" at Artists Repertory Theatre. She also was delighted to play Trina in Triangle Theatre's production of "Falsettos," again being nominated for a Portland Drama Critics Award. Other favorite roles include Jill, Debbie, Betsy, and April in "The Heidi Chronicles," Lucy in "You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown," Ruth in "Blithe Spirit," and Sister Robert Anne in "Nunsense," for which she won the 1992 Portland Drama Critics Award.

Darwin Hobbs Vertical



CONTRIBUTED STORY
FOR THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Vertical. Webster dictionary defines it as being "at the zenith; upright, upward and straight." In the lexicon of Darwin Hobbs, whose newly released second album bears the same name, those adjectives fit to a point, but still only scratch the surface of the music and message of this extraordinary artist.

"With this record every song was written strategically to represent some aspect of our relationship to God and His relationship to us," said Darwin. "Often we spend so much time building our relationship with the people around us—our horizontal relationships—that we neglect our most crucial, vertical relationship with God. I wanted the music on this record to focus people on that." Having sung for several years with a roster of superstar acts that reads like a who's-who of modern gospel and pop music—including CeCe Winans, Michael McDonald, Carmen Donnie McClurkin, and Michael Card—Darwin emerged in 1999 with his solo debut, *Mercy*, as one of the music

industry's best-kept secrets. The secret of his one-in-a-generation voice—bold and beautiful, righteous, rocking and right—was not kept hidden for long. And with *Vertical*, the signature voice and singular sound of Darwin Hobbs are back in all their glory.

Although the enormity of Darwin's musical gift is glaringly obvious throughout the album, the message of *Vertical* place this project among the most striking pieces of Urban Praise & Worship music released in recent years. Songs like "Cast All Your Cares," "Crown Him" and the deeply moving "Praise Medley" are reflective of the passion and spiritual sentiment found in the music of such Gospel heavyweights as Fred Hammond, Donnie McClurkin and CeCe Winans.

Those artists continue to have a personal impact on the music and ministry vision of Darwin Hobbs. Hammond produced the majority of *Mercy*, and Darwin has shared both studio and stage with McClurkin and Winans. His regular association with artist of their caliber extends beyond the Gospel music marketplace.

Even greater happily married years; Traci to whom *Vertical* is dedicated—remains second only to the Almighty himself in Darwin's life. "She's not a musician, and she has nothing to do with the music business," Darwin explains, "and that's been one of my greatest blessings. She is not impressed at all with 'Darwin Hobbs, Recording Artist.' She keeps me honest and accountable, and real. And she's my constant source of love and encouragement. I can't even conceive of doing any of what I'm doing without her."

Darwin was born and raised in Cincinnati, where he'd discovered at age 10—on his first day in church choir—his phenomenal, God-given gift for singing. He sang constantly throughout his childhood and adolescence, in church and school, both as a soloist and in various ensembles. Frustrated as a young adult with life in the workday world, but uncertain how to even approach a career in music, Darwin had epiphany at mid-'90s CeCe Winans concert. Realizing he could serve the Lord he loved with music he loved led him to a friendship with Winans' manager, Roger Ryan. Impressed with Darwin's talent and enthusiasm, Ryan suggested Darwin and Traci relocate to Nashville, which they did in 1996. Within only a few weeks Darwin, to his amazement, found himself singing on major-label projects by an ever-widening array of established artists. As he marked his six-month anniversary in Music City, Darwin began receiving the first song of serious interest in him as a solo recording artist.

"Things have happened incredibly quickly," Darwin admits, "But we've managed to stay pretty level-headed about life. We felt a strong sense of reassurance from the Lord when we left home for Nashville, almost as if He was saying: 'OK, strap on your seatbelts, because you're getting ready to go on a serious ride! We've tried to keep him first in everything, and then to just keep up with Him and everywhere He's taken us. It really has been quite a ride.'"

With *Vertical* as the next stop in that ride, the musical journey of Darwin Hobbs promises to be phenomenal.

A value-based violence prevention initiative

CONTRIBUTED STORY
FOR THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

The Value Based Violence Prevention Initiative (VBVPI) is a 18 month Weed & Seed Initiative administered by the National Congress for Community Economic Development (NCCED) through its Neighborhood Restoration Program (NRP). The initiative's purpose is to encourage public safety strategies in addressing family-based crime prevention, to build safer and healthier communities for our children and families and to support current efforts of family related community-based organizations.

The VBVPI is a community collaborative of service providers and faith based organizations whose goal is to reduce crime committed by youth. The program works to prevent violence by providing healthy

alternatives for youth and strengthening children and their families. The Portland VBVPI is a partnership that complements the current efforts of Emmanuel Community General Services (a community service agency, established in 1988), Weed & Seed Steering Committee, Portland Weed & Seed Coordinator Dora Asana and the faith-based community which includes Victory Outreach, City Life Ministries: Youth for Christ and We're Here, We Care. The collaborative will serve 30 at risk youth in the North/Northeast Portland area throughout the year. The collaborative strongly believes that it takes the community to raise a child.

For further information, please contact La-Tisha Williams or Curtis Kimbrough at 503/281-0355 or Dora Asana, Portland Weed & Seed Coordinator.

You are Invited to be Our Guest!

Family of One Prayer Breakfast

Wednesday, May 10, 2000 • 7:30 - 9:30 am

Doubletree Hotel Lloyd Center

1000 NE Multnomah

complimentary parking and full breakfast

Keynote Speaker Clive O. Callender, M.D., F.A.C.S.

Howard University College of Medicine

Founder of National Minority Organ/Tissue Transplant Education Program (MOTTEP)

R.S.V.P. needed by May 5th, (503) 494-7888

Space limited to 300. Please no admittance without reservations.



A Coalition for African-American Organ & Tissue Donor Awareness and Kidney Disease Prevention

A Tisket A Tasket

The place for cards, gifts and baskets

Mothers Day Special

\$10.00 off any basket over \$40.00

Fresh Flowers

Balloons

Candles

Journals

Cards

Candies

Give the perfect gift for Mothers Day!

1305 NE Fremont
Portland, Or. 97212

284-7344

tisketgifts@yahoo.com

