

La Grande performers unite for 29th annual Holiday Music Festival

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LA GRANDE — The Observer's 29th annual Holiday Music Festival, sponsored by Koza Family Dental Care, returns Dec. 4 and 5 to Eastern Oregon University's McKenzie Theatre.

The festival features community members and EOU ensembles playing a collection of classic holiday hits from all over the world in a gala style of short performances.

"It's a musical celebration of the holidays. It's various types of music, with a little something for everybody" said Peter Wordelman, professor of music and director of the EOU Chamber Choir. "This year it will be done in one act."

The festival will be performed at 7:30 p.m. on Dec. 4 and at 3 p.m. on Dec. 5 in McKenzie Theatre, which is in Loso Hall. The same performances are scheduled for both days. The theater will be filled to three-quarter capacity to allow for social distancing, and face coverings are required for all attendees.

Admission is \$10 for adults and \$8 for seniors and EOU students. Tickets are available at Red Cross Drug or online at www.eou.edu/music. Advanced ticket purchase is highly recommended.

In total, 120 performers from the EOU Chamber Choir, Grande Ronde Symphony Orchestra,

HOLIDAY MUSIC FESTIVAL

7:30 p.m. Dec. 4

3 p.m. Dec. 5

McKenzie Theater at Eastern Oregon University

\$10 adults, \$8 seniors and EOU students

Buy tickets at Red Cross Drug or www.eou.edu/music

45th Parallel Ensemble, African Drumming Group and EOU Fiddle Ensemble will play a mix of new music and classics.

"My favorite part is that we get to do it, it's the same answer you're getting from everybody. It's nice that we can do the festival since we missed the festival last year," Wordelman said.

The festival performance lasts just over one hour and will include a brief intermission.

"The community will say they've come to the festival for 20 years or 25 years or every single one of them. So it becomes part of their holiday season rituals that they traditionally come to this event, and so it has tremendous community support," Wordelman said.

About 16 students, four organizers and 12 movers work behind the scenes to keep the performance seamless.

The EOU Foundation has partnered with the production and is accepting donations. All money raised from donations and ticket sales will fund EOU music pro-



Eastern Oregon University/Contributed image

The 29th annual Holiday Music Festival returns to Eastern Oregon University's McKenzie Theatre on Dec. 4 and 5. This photo is from the 2019 festival.

grams and scholarships.

"All of the money that's raised at the festival goes into music funds in the EOU Foundation, and over the 30-year span, not only with this festival but otherwise, we've raised well over \$600,000," Wordelman said.

In addition to the support of The Observer and Koza Family Dental Care, Fitzgerald Flowers provides all stage decorations.

For more information contact Wordelman at 541-962-3352 or pwordelm@eou.edu.

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