

Oregon East Symphony returns with a bang

Theme for the Nov. 7 concert is 'Blow It Up, Start Again'

Oregon East Symphony/Contributed image
The Oregon East Symphony returns to the stage Nov. 7 in Pendleton.



By Jennifer Colton
Go! Magazine

PENDLETON — Oregon East Symphony is returning with a bang.

The 2021-22 concert season launches Sunday, Nov. 7 with "Blow It Up, Start Again," a concert Executive Director J.D. Kindle describes as "explosive."

"People should be prepared to be blown away," he said. "The title work for this concert is just really exciting. Jonathan Newman is a contemporary composer from Chicago who is doing a lot of interesting things. Explosive is the best way to describe it."

Continuing the explosive theme, the titular work, by Newman, is inspired by Guy

Fawkes and the failed Gunpowder Plot to blow up the English Parliament, and the concert will debut just two days after Guy Fawkes Day. "Blow It Up, Start Again" also marks the first live performance of the full symphony since the COVID-19 pandemic began, and the concert will feature a larger-than-usual ensemble as more than 60 musicians take the stage, including woodwinds, a harp and a large percussion section.

Four youth players will also join the symphony as part of the "Raising the Bar" program. Kindle said the four are highly talented and it is exciting to give them the performance opportunity.

In addition to "Blow It Up, Start Again," the concert will feature Paul Hindemith's

"Symphonic Metamorphosis," Richard Strauss' "Der Rosenkavalier Suite," and Carl Maria von Weber's "Overture" and "March" from "Turandot."

"Blow It Up, Start Again" will also test a new feature for the Oregon East Symphony: free seating.

Through the support of the Pendleton Foundation Trust, free concert passes are available from multiple businesses and organizations in Pendleton. Those passes will be used for free admission — first-come, first-served — at the concert. Kindle said the model has worked well for the Central Oregon Symphony, and they hope it will have a similar effect in Eastern Oregon.

"We thought it would be really fun to try this concept, and we hope this will bring new audience members into the Vert," he said, adding some people may have been hesitant to purchase tickets in case they did not enjoy the type of music.

"This is a perfect opportunity to find out if this is something you might like," he said.

In addition to the free general seating, balcony and reserved floor seats are available for purchase online or by contacting the Symphony office. Reserved seats are \$25 for adults, \$20 for seniors, \$15 for students or \$65 for a family (two adults and children of the same household).

Face coverings are required for all audience members.

"The past couple of years have been alienating and divisive for everybody," Kindle said. "Bringing people together in the same room and experiencing something together, I think there's a real unifying element that concerts bring. We're looking forward to being a little part of the glue that makes this community stick together."

"Blow It Up, Start Again!" begins at 2:30 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 7, at the Vert Auditorium, 470 SW Dorion Ave. in Pendleton. Find more information and a list of complimentary ticket locations at oregoneastsymphony.org.

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