

# Columbia Chorale to present Messiah Innovative guitarist sets program at Pacific Univ.

Two performances of George Friedrich Handel's "Messiah" will be presented by the Columbia Chorale of Oregon (CCO), December 7-8, in Olmscheid Auditorium, on the campus of St Helens High School, 2375 Gable Road, under the direction of Ryan Heller. "Messiah," with its well-known "Hallelujah" chorus, has endured as a favorite of performers and audiences alike for over 250 years. Performances will be at 7:30 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 7, and at 3:00 p.m. on

Sunday, Dec. 8. Ticket prices are \$10 for adults, \$5 for students and senior citizens. Tickets are available at Bertucci's Chocolates, 1560 Columbia Blvd., St. Helens, Time and Time Again Gifts, 51528 Columbia River Highway, Scappoose, from CCO members, or at the door at performance time. Olmscheid Auditorium is wheelchair accessible.

The Columbia Chorale of Oregon, Columbia County's only classically oriented vocal music group, is a 501(c)(3) non-profit community chorale centered in St. Helens.

Keola Beamer, one of the most innovative and influential slack key guitarists of the modern era, will play Hawaiian favorites, as well as traditional holiday songs, on Friday, December 6, at 7:30 p.m., in McCready Hall on Pacific University's campus in Forest Grove. Keolamaikalani Breckenridge Desha Beamer grew up in Kamuela on the Big Island of Hawaii. He recognized early in life that words have limitations. "That's why I turned to music," he said, "I longed for a better way to convey what was in my heart."

Beamer's family was well equipped to nurture his musical interests. One of Hawaii's best known musical clans, the Beamers trace their roots back to the 15th century. His family is the primary influence for his music and he consciously seeks to maintain its legacy.

Hawaiian society has always placed a high value on sound, which has led to a strong commitment to preserving traditional musical forms and an equally powerful interest in the music of other cultures. Reflecting this duality, Beamer has crafted his style with elements of the ancient and the modern, the indigenous and the introduced. On the one hand, he actively champions Hawaiian forms that predate contact with Europeans. On the other hand, he is one of the first slack key masters to experiment with electronic effects, multi-track recording, complex chord progressions, and even innovative guitar construction.

Tickets are \$20 and are available at the University Box Office at 503-352-2918 or through Safeway Fastixx at 503-224-8499.

## Program by Jazz Band and Choir

The Jazz Band and Jazz Choir will perform at McCready Hall in the Taylor-Meade Performing Arts Center at Pacific University on Saturday, November 23, at 7:30 p.m.

The Jazz Band will perform the music of the greatest jazz luminaries, including Duke Ellington, Count Basie, Stan Kenton and Woody Herman. Jazz Choir selections will include music as recorded by Vox One and Manhattan Transfer, and special guest John Stowell will demonstrate why he has been named one of the top jazz guitarists in the Northwest.

Tickets are \$5 for adults and \$3 for students and seniors, and are available at the box office by calling 503-352-2918.

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