

Yuletide Pops program at Oregon Symphony

Come celebrate the holiday season Broadway-style with music, theater and dance as the Oregon Symphony welcomes back Yuletide Celebration, a Bank of America Pops family concert featuring traditional symphonic holiday music paired with theatrical production numbers on Dec. 19 through 22 at the Arlene Schnitzer Concert Hall.


The third annual Yuletide Celebration features a lineup filled with festive stage décor, new eye-catching productions, an extraordinary, national cast of actors, singers and dancers, as well as local talent, sumptuous costumes and dazzling sets. This year's concerts are co-hosted by Broadway talent Benjamin Brecher, who appeared with the Symphony in last season's Celtic Celebration, and vocalist Cara John-

ston; it also features the return of tap dancer Stephanie Cadman, who has thrilled Symphony audiences with her flashing feet for the last two years.

Concert-goers who attended last year's Yuletide Celebration will enjoy the return of the chorus line of tap-dancing Santas performed by dancers from the celebrated dance programs at Jefferson High School and "The Three Yuletide Tenors." This year's show also features exciting new numbers, including "Christmas Toons," a retelling of favorite Christmas stories in cartoon format. The Symphony, led by conductor Orcenith Smith, will perform arrangements created specifically for Yuletide Celebration, including holiday favorites "It's the Most Wonderful Time of the Year," "The Christmas Song," "Angels We Have Heard on High" and



Rietta Behnke's bears were just one of many delightful and interesting handmade items available at the Vernonia Christmas Bazaar earlier this month. The gym at Washington Grade School was full of shoppers looking for unique gifts.



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In addition, a chorus of eight singers directed by Portland Opera's chorusmaster, Carol Lucas, will lend their voices to the Yuletide cast as they sing a little bit of everything from the Bach-Gounod "Ave Maria" to Cole Porter. Saxophone player Patrick Lamb, a rising Oregon talent, will perform favorite holiday selections.

The Westminster Presbyterian Church Concert Bell Choir, directed by David Greger, will be ringing in seasonal favorites in the Prelude programs that are held in the lobby of the Arlene Schnitzer Concert Hall prior to each concert. Their program includes arrangements of "Silent Night," "O Holy Night" and the "Arab Dance" from "The Nutcracker."

In what is becoming an annual holiday tradition, the Symphony is once again partnering with Northwest NewsChannel 8 in support of their annual holi-

day toy drive; on-air KGW television personalities are scheduled to make appearances at each concert. Donations of new, unwrapped toys for the Northwest NewsChannel 8 Toy Drive are accepted at the Symphony's ticket office and non-perishable food for the Oregon Food Bank are accepted at all Oregon Symphony Holiday concerts.

Performances are scheduled for Friday, Dec. 19 at 8:00 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 20 at 3:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m., Sunday, Dec. 21 at 3:00 p.m. and 7:00

p.m. and Monday, Dec. 22 at 8:00 p.m. in the Arlene Schnitzer Concert Hall. Tickets range in price from \$23 to \$65 and may be purchased at the Oregon Symphony Ticket Office (923 S.W. Washington), Monday through Saturday, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. or charged by phone at (503) 228-1353 or (800) 228-7343. Tickets also may be purchased at all Ticketmaster outlets (503-790-ARTS) or through Ticketmaster Online, via the Symphony's Web site at www.orsymphony.org. Service fees may apply.

