

Oregon Mandolin Orchestra

Holiday Concert



with the

OMO Chamber Ensemble



Sunday, December 19
at 3:00 p.m.

St. Barnabas
Episcopal Church

2201 S Vermont St,
Portland, OR 97219.



A Message from Our Director



December, the time of the Winter Solstice. In the Pacific Northwest, it is marked by great contrasts: cold, dark, most often wet. And yet, my memories of this time of year often center around light and warmth. Thoughts of freshly baked cookies, shining Christmas trees, mugs of hot chocolate and crackling fires tend to push out thoughts of looming cold fronts and low-pressure systems blowing in from the Gulf of Alaska. But there is no way around the fact that light and dark are circling each other, so

today we celebrate both and the contrast they pose each other.

After a short and very diverse set from our chamber ensemble, the full orchestra takes the stage with the perennial favorite “The Christmas Song” and continues with an arrangement by an OMO member, Bob Puckette, who brings us Scott Joplin’s tender “Bethena, A Concert Waltz.” Hidden in the characteristically happy bounce and syncopation of ragtime is a current of tragedy – “Bethena” was his first composition since the death of his wife less than three months after their wedding.

We’re happy to next celebrate the life and work of American composer, mandolinist and friend of the orchestra, John Goodin, who passed away on Oct. 7. Over the years, the OMO has performed many of his pieces, and we commissioned “Oregonia” during the pandemic, debuting it on this stage in September. We’re happy to perform it again today in John’s honor. John was also a great fan of Baroque music, and we will offer up one of the greatest hits of the era: J. S. Bach’s “Jesu, Joy of Man’s Desiring.”

Finally, after that brief stop in the 1700’s, OMO will present the second and third movements (Nocturne, and March) from Gustav Holst’s “A Moorside Suite.” Although composed for brass ensemble, the music suits the range of the mandolin orchestra very well, and allows us to feature our instrument’s full range of textures and tones. Note the ringing, delicately overlapped melody that opens the Nocturne, as well as the March’s vigorous fanfares and shimmering interlude. What a marvel is the mandolin!

2020 was our first year without a holiday concert, and today we’ve tried to make up for lost time and celebrate the season in all its aspects. We hope you leave with a smile on your face, and come back to hear us this spring!

Christian McKee,
Musical Director



Program

Oregon Mandolin Orchestra Ensemble



Third String Quartet in G Major, K 156

Presto

..... W.A. Mozart (1756-91)

Milonga del Ángel..... A. Piazzolla (1921-92)
arr. Chuck Whitman

Oblivion..... A. Piazzolla (1921-92)
arr. Tobias Kischkel

Christmas Time Is Here..... Vince Guaraldi (1928-76) &
Lee Mendelson (1933-2019)
arr. Ralph Martin

String Quartet No. 1 in A Minor, Op. 41

Scherzo

..... Robert Schumann (1810-56)

Full Orchestra

The Christmas Song..... Robert Wells (1922-98)
& Mel Tormé (1925-99)

Bethena, A Concert Waltz..... Scott Joplin (1868-1917)
arr. Bob Puckette

Oregonia John Goodin (1951-2021)

Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring, BWV 147
..... J. S. Bach, (1685-1750)

A Moorside Suite

Nocturne

March

..... Gustav Holst (1874-1934)
arr. Michael J. Viljoen





Holiday Program Notes

Chamber Ensemble

Third String Quartet in G Major, K 156, Presto. Wolfgang A. Mozart, 1772. Mozart composed this piece at age 16, when touring Milan with his father. It is the first of seven Milanese string quartets he wrote.

Milonga del Ángel. Written by Argentine tango composer Astor Piazzolla in 1965. (arr. by Chuck Whitman) This piece evokes the perennial winter balance of darkness and light.

Oblivion. Astor Piazzolla, 1982. The haunting melody speaks to love in complex, modern times. The piece was featured in the 1984 Italian film, "Enrico IV" (Henry IV).

Christmas Time Is Here. This piece, by jazz pianist Vince Guaraldi and Lee Mendelson (arr. by Ralph Martin), was written for the 1965 TV special, "A Charlie Brown Christmas."

String Quartet No. 1 in A Minor, Op. 41, Scherzo. German composer Robert Schumann penned this piece in 1842 after winning a legal battle that saved his marriage. This is the second of four movements.

Full Orchestra

Moorside Suite, March and Nocturne. Two movements from the "Moorside Suite," by English composer Gustav Holst for the 1928 British National Brass Band Championships.

Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring. Johann Sebastian Bach, 1723. Part of Cantata No. 147 and one of the best-loved Baroque-era pieces, performed every Christmas by orchestras around the world.

Oregonia. Composed in 2020 by the late John Goodin, who was commissioned by the OMO to write a piece capturing Oregon's dynamic landscapes and the spirit of its people.

Bethena, A Concert Waltz. Composed by Scott Joplin in 1905, combining elements of a piano rag and a wistful waltz. Bethena was Joplin's first work after his wife's death in 1904.

The Christmas Song. Written by Mel Tormé and Robert Wells in 1945. Notably performed by Nat King Cole, whose rendition has become a holiday classic performed by many vocalists.



Your donation is Tax-Deductible!

The Oregon Mandolin Orchestra was established in 2010 to revive the tradition of community-based mandolin orchestras popular in the early 20th century. The all-volunteer Orchestra is registered with the IRS as a 501(c)(3) organization eligible to receive tax-deductible donations.

Your donations help the orchestra to purchase copyrighted sheet music from both classical and modern era composers, allowing us to meet our organizational mission: to provide unique performance and educational opportunities for music enthusiasts of all ages and levels of expertise.

Donations can be made by cash, check or PayPal. Checks or cash can be put in our donation box on table in the lobby, or mailed to:

Oregon Mandolin Orchestra
P.O. Box 1783
Portland, OR 97207



Make checks out to the “Oregon Mandolin Orchestra.” PayPal donation can be made by following the PayPal link on our website: oregonmandolinorchestra.org.



Friends of OMO

The orchestra is grateful for the support provided by Friends of the Oregon Mandolin Orchestra, a group of volunteers who help make our concerts possible. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Ed Rosney at edrosney@earthlink.net.

**Thank you for your
generous support!**