

NEWS RELEASE
APRIL 20, 2005

The Corvallis Community Band will perform at the Mondays @ Monteith Concert Series in Albany at 7 PM on Monday, July 18, 2005, playing a program ranging from traditional band marches and transcriptions to Broadway musical comedy selections and original band works.

The Corvallis Community Band has been a Corvallis summer institution for 25 years, playing weekly concerts every Tuesday all summer long in Central Park. Summer concerts are informal, with area musicians invited to join in any week they wish. The band also performs more formal concerts during the academic year, usually including a holiday season concert at First Presbyterian Church and a winter concert at La Sells Stewart Center on the OSU campus. The band is also the guest band for the Oregon State University commencement each June and plays to a large crowd each July 4 prior to the fireworks display at Corvallis' Riverfront Park. Smaller subsets of the band play for community events such as the annual Corvallis Holiday Parade in downtown Corvallis.

The conductor for this concert will be the band's longtime director, Steve Matthes. Steve, who is a chemist in his "day job," is a dedicated performer as well as a fine director. He plays clarinet in the well-known Black Swan Classic Jazz Band, gives solo recitals, and performs in other events in the region. Under his direction the band has grown to a 60-member ensemble during the academic year. At some of the summer concerts, with ad hoc musicians joining the regular members, the band has swelled to as many as a hundred players. Band member David Wallace, director emeritus of bands at Western Oregon University, serves the band as assistant director and will conduct a selection on the program.

Lisa Taylor will be the clarinet soloist for the July 18 concert. Lisa is a graduate of the music program at Oregon State University and completed her master's degree in clarinet performance at the University of Oregon. She studied privately as a high school student with Steve Matthes. At OSU she studied with Dr. David Eiseman and at the U of O with Wayne Bennett. At the U of O she was honored as first runner-up in the 2000 University Concerts Competition, playing the Nielsen clarinet concerto. She is currently free-lancing in the region and has performed with the Eugene Symphony and the Oregon Mozart Players as well as with chamber ensembles in the area. The set of variations on "Carnival of Venice," arranged by legendary French clarinetist Paul Jeanjean, is a triumphant demonstration of her skill on her instrument.

Mezzo soprano Gale Hazel and baritone Paul Pritchard will be featured in the band's performance of the Robert Russell Bennett arrangement of selections from Gershwin's "Porgy and Bess." Gale is a versatile performer in a number of genres. Her musical comedy credits include role in, among other, "My Fair Lady," "The Music Man," and "Oliver," as well as ensemble work in "Red, Hot, and Cole"—a Cole Porter revue, and "Sondheim Tonight," featuring the music of Stephen Sondheim. She has been featured in operas and oratorios, including Mozart's "requiem," Bach's "Magnificat," and Handel's

“Messiah,” Verdi’s “Rigoletto,” Leonard Bernstein’s “Trouble in Tahiti,” and Puccini’s “Gianni Schicchi.” She has performed with the Black Swan Classic Jazz Band and the Corvallis Repertory Singers and has been featured soloist with the OSU-Corvallis Symphony, the OSU Symphonic Band, and the Linn-Benton Concert Band. She performed the mezzo-soprano solos in a special American/Soviet concert of Mozart’s “Grand Mass,” with the Moscow State Philharmonic and Chorus while touring with the Corvallis First Presbyterian Chancel Choir in the Soviet Union.

Paul Pritchard is familiar to regional audiences for his solo and ensemble work with a variety of vocal ensembles and musical productions. He is a member of the Corvallis Repertory Singers and is soloist at First Christian Church in Albany and has also performed with the LBCC Chorale. His musical production credits include, among others, "Man of La Mancha" at OSU, "Camelot" at ACT, and "My Fair Lady" at LBCC. He often performs the national anthem for OSU athletic events. He and Gail Hazel have sung duet versions of a number of Broadway musicals with the Corvallis Community Band in previous summers.

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