

Eugene Concert Choir

presents

Songs of the Earth

With Reverence for the Earth and all Things on it

A Cantata celebrating Native Peoples

EVENT:

Songs of the Earth with **Eugene Youth Symphony**, award winning recording artist **Jan Michael Looking Wolf** and Native American Drum and Dancing by **Jóhonnaaéí'**

DATES:

Saturday, January 27 at 8 PM

Sunday, January 28 at 2:30 PM

LOCATION:

Soreng Theater, Hult Center for the Performing Arts

PERFORMANCE TICKETS:

\$11-\$29 through the Hult Center, (541) 682-5000 or www.hultcenter.org

Note: A free Native American Drum and Dance Educational Outreach Workshop with the Jóhonnaaéí' Drum and Dancers will take place Saturday, Jan 27 at 1PM in Studio One. Free and open to the public, all ages are welcome. See below for more information.

EVENT SUMMARY:

The Eugene Concert Choir, a 90-voice lush masterworks choir will present *Songs of the Earth* - a cantata for Native American flute, drum, strings, narrator and chorus by Oregon composer Hal Eastburn. Conducted by Artistic Director Diane Retallack, the program includes poetry, songs, chanting, legends and guest Native American drumming and dancing. The **Eugene Youth Symphony Orchestra** and NAMMY award winning recording artist **Jan Michael Looking Wolf** will join the choir for two performances, Saturday, January 27 at 8 PM and Sunday, January 28 at 2:30 PM in the Hult Center's Soreng Theater.

FREE PUBLIC EDUCATIONAL OUTREACH WORKSHOP:

In addition to the concert performances, a Native American Drum and Dance Educational Outreach Workshop with the Jóhonnaaéí' Drum and Dancers, led by Navajo Indian Chet Clarke will be Saturday, January 27 at 1 – 3 PM, Studio One, Hult Center, FREE – all ages welcome. Why Native Americans sing, the reasons to dance, and the stories and songs of Native peoples will be shared. The outreach presentation will include: Music, Traditions and Culture, Language, Story Telling, and Demonstration and Instruction of Dances including Traditional and Fancy dances.

PERFORMANCE DETAILS

About the Work

Songs of the Earth is a cantata for Native American flute, drum, strings, chorus and narration. Written by Oregon composer Hal Eastburn, the cantata utilizes the poetry and songs of native peoples, including the Lakota, Navajo, Yokuts, Inuit, and Aboriginal tribes. A Teton Sioux chant opens the work as a processional. The chant, hanta yo (clear the way) is a traditional chant of the Lakota Tribe that was used to begin many sacred ceremonies. The cantata includes a Grande Pueblo song celebrating a newborn birth and seeking the blessing of the earth mother; a Yokuts Indian prayer; Navajo legends, a traditional Eskimo song; a quotation (or poem) from Chief Dan George celebrating the sky, sea, and beauty of the earth; and other prayers such as M.J. Slim Hooley's:

I have come to terms with the future.
From this day onward I will walk easy on the earth.
Plant trees, Kill no living things.
Live in harmony with all creatures.
I will restore the earth where I am.
Use no more of its resources that I need.
And listen, listen to what it is telling me.

The narration will be spoken by Eugene Concert Choir member **L. Fisher** (he is Mojave and Hopi). **Jan Michael Looking Wolf**, a nationally known eight-time Native American Flute recording artist will be the soloist. He is a Kalapuya Tribal Member with a mix of Celtic heritage, and has earned multiple national awards for his recordings.

Composer Hal Eastburn successfully incorporates the unique cultural elements, instrumentation, and the sensitivity and heartfelt poems of Native peoples with harmonies and dynamics for choir that make the stories come to life and the music sing. Alternating between choral sections, flute and narration interludes, and instrumentation – the work is tonal yet haunting, spiritual and beautiful, and interweaves traditional and contemporary sounds. It's a wonderful blend of native resonance and new music.

Opening the concert will be a guest appearance by **Jóhonaaéi' Drum and Dancers**. Led by Navaho Indian Chet Clarke, the ensemble will present excerpts of traditional drum music and native dances. Comprised of various tribes, performers represent the Navajo, Klamath, Cherokee, and Assiniboine Sioux Indians. The presentation of the Jóhonaaéi' Drum and Dancers is very unique. The opportunity to experience authentic Native American music and dance is limited. Ceremonial and sacred, Jóhonaaéi' will provide portions of what traditionally is hours in length and presented only in private or Pow Wow settings.

About the Guest Artists

Hal Eastburn (composer) is conductor of the Oregon State University Meistersingers, a fifty voice male choir and associate conductor of the Corvallis Repertory Singers, a chamber choir of regional music teachers and musicians. He has music degrees from Minot State University and Colorado State University. Eastburn is an established composer, clinician and adjudicator. He currently serves as the American Choral Directors Association President for the state of Oregon.

Jan Michael Looking Wolf, a nationally known eight-time Native American Flute recording artist, offers an inspiring flute performance from the heart. He is a Kalapuya Tribal Member with a mix of Celtic heritage, and has earned multiple national awards for his prior recordings. With some highlights that include IMA 2006 Best New Age Artist Finalist for his CD, A New Day which earned him a third consecutive nomination as Best Native Flute Recording by the ISMA. Jan Michael's other recognitions include two Native Music Award Nominations (2004, 2006) and Best Spiritual Recording Finalist of 2006. His native flute music is based on the principle of One Heart, which recognizes that all people and cultures are of equal value. While not on the road performing, he instructs Native American Flute and Music courses at Oregon State University.

Native Flute music CDs, DVDs, and flutes will be available in the lobby. Jan Michael Looking Wolf will be there for autographs after the concert. For more information and his schedule, visit www.lookingwolf.com

The Eugene Youth Symphony is a full symphonic orchestra that presents some of the greater Eugene/Springfield area's finest student musicians in exciting concerts featuring outstanding soloists and demanding orchestral music. The maximum age for an EYS member is twenty-one years of age. **Richard Long**, Youth Symphony conductor is Head of Performing Arts Department at South Eugene High School and is the Program Director for Arts Umbrella. He is a member of the Eugene Symphony and was awarded the Arts and Letters Award by the Eugene Arts Foundation in 1988.

Jóhonnaaéi' Drum and Dancers

Led by Navajo Indian Chet Clarke, Jóhonnaaéi' means "Sun" in the Navajo language. Chet Clarke and Jóhonnaaéi' present the music, traditions, culture, language, storytelling, and the dances that are the basis of their cultural heritage. Why Native Americans sing, the reasons to dance, and the stories and songs of Native peoples are shared through Jóhonnaaéi' performances.