

## Central Oregon Symphony's free spring concerts feature guest pianist

*by Bend\_Weekly\_News\_Sources*

BEND, Ore. -- The Central Oregon Symphony, directed by Michael Gesme, will present its spring concerts at 7:30 p.m. on Saturday, May 9; Monday, May 11; and at 2 p.m. on Sunday, May 10, in the Bend High School Auditorium. Doors will open 45 minutes before the performances. Although offered free of charge, tickets are required.

Treat your favorite mother to a special concert featuring works by Beethoven, Prokofiev and Dvorak. The concert will open with Beethoven's "Overture to the Creatures of Prometheus," a work drawn from a ballet score that recounts the story of the demigod Prometheus, who molds humans from clay and intellectually endows them with gifts of art and science. The fast pace, sudden tonal shifts and harmonic tension are characteristic of Beethoven's style.

Guest artist Alexander Ghindin is a past winner of the Tchaikovsky Piano Competition and was most recently awarded first prize in the 2007 Cleveland International Piano Competition. He has been praised by critics around the world for his phenomenal technique, poise and ability to make the piano truly sing. "Gramophone" magazine commented about Ghindin: "Every piece is played with inimitable scale, profoundness, and dignity. Not only in its grandeur, but also the thoughtful attention to fingertips, the strength of pianism attacking every single note, and the battle-tank-like tremendous power, deserves attention." Ghindin will perform Sergei Prokofiev's most frequently performed piano works, his dramatic "Piano Concerto No. 3."

During the second half of the concert, the symphony will perform Antonin Dvorak's "Symphony No. 7," which many consider his greatest single symphonic achievement. It is a nationalistic symphony that espouses the highest degree of musical seriousness and refinement while still evoking Czech culture at every turn.

The Central Oregon Symphony is an all-volunteer ensemble whose talented members dedicate a significant amount of their time to rehearsing and performing with the symphony.

Affiliated with Central Oregon Community College and supported almost exclusively by individual donations from local community members, the ensemble is committed to making free symphonic concerts available to all members of the community. Thanks to the contributions of season ticket holders, no one is turned away at the door.

For information regarding season tickets, scheduling, and volunteering for the concert season, contact executive director Hilda Beltran Wagner by calling 541-317-3941 or by e-mail.

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