



## PRESS RELEASE

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### *Oregon Chorale April Show To Highlight Lewis & Clark's Impact on Oregon*

*The 50-member Oregon Chorale is preparing for five April performances of a hilarious original musical comedy written by the Chorale's own USA Today Best Selling Author Linda Needham. The show celebrates the bicentennial of the Lewis & Clark Expedition and Portland's Great 1905 Lewis & Clark Centennial Exposition.*

**Hillsboro, Oregon** – The Oregon Chorale will perform an original musical comedy, “*The Great Lewis & Clark Extravaganza of 1905 or Paddle Your Own Canoe*,” on April 9, 10, 16 & 17, 2005 in Hillsboro. This fun and historically educational performance celebrates the Lewis & Clark Expedition and Portland's 1905 “Lewis & Clark Centennial Exposition,” which both had a profound impact on Oregon's history and culture.

In addition to a rousing roller-coaster of a script written by Oregon Chorale member and USA Today best selling author Linda Needham, *Paddle Your Own Canoe* will also be historically accurate as a result of the assistance of historical cultural interpretation consultant Jeffrey Uecker (formerly with the Oregon Historical Society), and Chinook Indian Tribe member & Oregon Chorale member Carol Shepard (a direct descendant of Chinook Indian Chief Comcomly who met Lewis & Clark at the mouth of the Columbia in 1805). The show's music will include historically authentic “Gilded-Aged Oldies” arranged for the show by Oregon Chorale member Terry Blackburn.

“As a production of one of the state's finest choral ensembles, this performance will be an influential tool for communicating the Lewis and Clark Exposition's impact on Oregon culture,” says show creator/writer Linda Needham.

This musical play is set in 1905 at the time of the Centennial of Lewis and Clark's expedition. At this time, Portland, Oregon was on the brink of becoming the great commercial center of the west. To celebrate this Centennial and the possibilities of the great Northwest, a Portland Exposition was organized, and opened by telegram from President Roosevelt. The plot of *Paddle Your Own Canoe* involves a would-be politician, his beleaguered wife, suffragettes, a secret agent, Lewis & Clark, a rag-tag Corp of Discovery, and a host of others who are celebrating the Lewis & Clark Centennial.

*Paddle Your Own Canoe* performances will take place April 9, 10 & 16<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm, and April 17 at 2:00 pm and 7:00 pm at the Hillsboro High School Auditorium, 3285 SE Rood Bridge Rd, Hillsboro, OR 97123. Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$10 for seniors and students; however, the April 10 performance is free for all students 12<sup>th</sup> Grade and below (reservations are required). Tickets may be purchased or reserved at Mark's Hallmark at the Sunset Esplanade on TV Highway in Hillsboro (503-648-3620), or reserved online at [www.oregonchorale.org](http://www.oregonchorale.org). If not purchasing tickets in advance, reservations are strongly recommended.

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In addition to the April *Paddle Your Own Canoe* shows, the Oregon Chorale has a special 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary concert planned for June 11 & 12, 2005. “*A Salute to the King’s Singers*” will feature the Chorale and select ensembles from Hillsboro’s four high schools paying tribute to the King’s Singers’ commitment to blend, balance, and harmony.

The Oregon Chorale is celebrating its 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, and is a non-profit adult symphonic choir consisting of 50 talented and dedicated residents of Northwestern Oregon. The Chorale performs three concerts per year, makes various special appearances, and has conducted four international tours. The group has two CD’s available: “A Glimpse of Snow and Evergreen” (December 2003), and “The Glory of the Father” (2001). Chorale members perform purely for their love of music and are from various professions, from schoolteachers to software engineers to novelists to doctors. The Oregon Chorale is directed by Bernd R. Kuehn. For more information please visit [www.oregonchorale.org](http://www.oregonchorale.org).

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