



*Oregon Adventist*  
**MEN'S CHORUS**

5575 Fruitland Road Northeast  
Salem, Oregon 97301

## Fact Sheet

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April 7, 2006

For information about OAMC: [www.oamc.org](http://www.oamc.org) and <http://www.oamc.org/newsroom/>  
Sam Vigil Jr. at 503.251.6266 x7101 (day),  
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- The Oregon Adventist Men's Chorus (OAMC) is a group of Christian men who join in worship, praise, and public sharing of their faith through music.
- This year's concert is the 12th annual festival concert; the first was in 1995.
- This year's concerts will be held on **Saturday, May 6, 2006, at 3:30 and 7:30 p.m.** at Sunnyside Seventh-day Adventist Church, 10501 SE Market St., Portland
- The concerts are free; because of limited seating, tickets must be reserved by calling (503) 841-8492 or by visiting the OAMC web site at [www.oamc.org](http://www.oamc.org).
- The group presents sacred music concerts that include music of the masters, hymns, gospel and spirituals.
- Some 200 men are expected to sing in this year's event. Members come from more than 65 churches mainly in Oregon and Washington.
- **World-renowned choral conductor Dr. Anton Armstrong, of St. Olaf College in Northfield, Minn., this year (2006) will guest conduct most of the concert.**  
[http://www.stolaf.edu/depts/music/stolaf\\_choir/conductor.html](http://www.stolaf.edu/depts/music/stolaf_choir/conductor.html)
- Earlier this year he was awarded the Robert Foster Cherry Award for Great Teaching, the single largest award given to an individual for great teaching, by Baylor University.  
<http://www.baylor.edu/pr/news.php?action=story&story=38383>
- Armstrong is known for his work with youth and children's choruses. He began his tenure as conductor of the **Oregon Bach Festival** Youth Choral Academy in June 1998.
- In addition to the festival chorus, Dr. Armstrong has requested an ensemble of about 40 voices to prepare and perform a few more challenging pieces
- **Two new arrangements commissioned** for this concert will have their **world premier** during this year's concerts. **Dr. Robert Scholz**, Professor Emeritus of Music at St. Olaf College, who retired last year, renowned for his arranging work, created the arrangements.
- The commissioned pieces are arrangements of: "Into My Heart," and, "O Come to My Heart, Lord Jesus," by Emily Elliott and Timothy Richard Matthews.
- **The accompanist this year is Kraig Scott, DMA, professor of organ, harpsichord, and music history at Walla Walla College, College Place, Wash.**  
<http://www.wwc.edu/academics/departments/music/faculty/scott.php>

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- Two to five ensembles ranging from eight to about 20 men join the festival chorus each year; the concert includes performances by the ensembles.
- The men rehearse for about two and a half months prior to the festivals in small groups and on their own, frequently with recorded rehearsal tracks on CD.
- The complete group does not assemble until the final rehearsal before a concert.
- Singers are truck drivers, physicians, contractors, teachers, students, auto mechanics, computer engineers, photographers, among other professions.
- Expenses are met entirely from donations and sales of recordings. A widening group of supporters donates much time and energy to the organizational aspects.
- The chorus was first formed with about 20 men in 1994 to perform for Easter worship services at East Salem Seventh-day Adventist Church.
- Lou Wildman, a retired physician and former high school and church choir director, was asked to direct the first group.
- That first Easter season was followed by a request to provide the finale for the summer camp meeting of the Oregon Conference of Seventh-day Adventists. Feeling that their voices would be lost in the campground's huge tent, they sent out a word of invitation for other men to join them in rehearsal — and were immensely surprised when 112 responded.
- Inspiration led to a festival concert the following spring, anticipated to be a one-time event.
- Officially named the Oregon Adventist Men's Chorus in 1996.
- Lou Wildman of Salem is the musical conductor; David Schmidt of Oregon City is the president. The administrative team is headed by Giselle Hepker, Executive Director, of Walla Walla, Wash.
- The chorus has performed in Oregon and Washington, and other parts of the world.
- In 2000, nearly 100 members sang in Toronto's SkyDome for over 50,000 people from around the world who were attending the Quinquennial Session of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists.
- They've performed with the 150-year-old Vienna Male Chorus Society, for whom Schubert, Strauss, Brahms, and Bruckner composed, at the International Choral Festival in Gladstone, Oregon.
- In 2001, 37 chorus members and seven instrumentalists traveled to East Africa to sing for evangelistic meetings in Mwanza, Tanzania, which were broadcast on worldwide television.
- In 2001, 75 singers and nine instrumentalists performed for the Adventist-laymen's Services and Industries (ASI) National Convention in Sacramento, Calif., which was broadcast on worldwide television.

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