

Chamber Orchestra to Perform Dec. 1 at Centralia College

Posted: Friday, November 14, 2014 1:01 pm

By The Chronicle

The Pacific Northwest Chamber Orchestra will open its 12th season with its annual holiday-themed "Family Concert" at 7:30 p.m. Monday, Dec. 1, at Centralia College's Corbet Theatre.

Conductor/Music Director David Judd, a member of the Washington Music Educators Hall of Fame, is back for his fifth season at the helm of the orchestra. The musical selections will include Victor Herbert's "March of the Toys," Leroy Anderson's "Christmas Festival" and traditional Christmas carol "O Holy Night" by Adolphe Adam, along with Mozart's "Symphony in G" and Tchaikovsky's "1812 Overture."

The popular Instrument Petting Zoo, in which kids are given the chance to try out musical instruments during intermission, is also on the agenda. The Fords Prairie Grange returns for another season of providing free refreshments during the break.

"We're extremely happy the Grange has agreed to come back this season," PNCO board member Bruce Baskin said. "We worried that they might have too many outside commitments to continue, so we searched among local restaurants and coffee shops for a possible replacement but none were willing to step up. It's lucky for the orchestra that the Grange is community-minded enough to do this."

The orchestra is also hosting a free concert for local school students Wednesday morning at Corbet Theatre. The program will include music that will be featured at the Family Concert. According to Judd and other PNCO board members, the response from schools is such that each of the facility's 505 seats will be filled.

"It's a two-edged sword," says Baskin. "On the one hand, we hate turning anyone away because they replied to invitations too late to reserve seats. On the other hand, it's heartening to see this kind of demand for an event that exposes young people to live classical music ... being there while it's played is a totally different experience from listening to it on the Internet or an mp3 player."

Since being formed in 2003, the PNCO has become a template of sorts for other community orchestras around the state by bringing local musicians together for free concerts to the public despite an annual budget of only \$12,000.

"We really owe our existence to both Centralia College and the individuals whose donations keep us going," Baskin said. "Very little support comes from the business community and none from tax dollars or grants. It's the people of the Twin Cities who've kept us out of debt."