

Press Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Anima Mundi Productions 2021 Concert Season to be Released as Festival of Free Videos

ASHLAND, OR — Anima Mundi Productions, an Ashland-based performing arts nonprofit dedicated to producing and presenting new musical works that address urgent societal challenges, has converted the entire second season of their Heart of Humanity concert series into a series of four concert-length videos which will be released **free to the public** in the coming months starting on April 18, 2021. These videos, which Anima Mundi is calling ***A Time For Life: A Spring Video Festival***, includes renowned performers such as **Grammy-winning soprano Esteli Gomez**, Portland-based professional choir **Cappella Romana**, and the elite LA-based **HEX Vocal Ensemble**, performing both new and classical works on environmental themes, as well as the **world premiere of a new oratorio about Oregonians' experiences of the COVID pandemic**.

About the Heart of Humanity Series

The Heart of Humanity concert series, currently in its second season, is dedicated to bringing world-class musicians to Ashland to give voice to marginalized people with compassion and depth and turning the concert hall into a space for renewed hope, communal healing and mutual understanding. This season is focused on themes of environmental stewardship.

Season 2: A Time for Life

According to a statement on Anima Mundi Productions' website:

The second season of our Heart of Humanity concert series celebrates the beauty of our natural world and inspires us to nurture the preciousness of all life on earth. As the relationship between humanity and our environment stands at a perilous crossroads, the regenerative power of the arts is more important than ever. Music, poetry, and the visual arts have the unique ability to reconnect us with our hearts, returning us to a state of peaceful equilibrium within ourselves and our community. Only then can we work together in common purpose to become better stewards of our planet.

A Special Encore Presentation of *The Canticle of the Black Madonna*

In addition to the release of three new videos, the festival will include free streaming of Anima Mundi Productions' 2014 opera, *The Canticle of the Black Madonna* by resident artists composer Ethan Gans-Morse and poet Tiziana DellaRovere. The opera, which tells the fictional story of an Army veteran struggling with PTSD during the 2010 Gulf Oil Spill, was called "A huge achievement... generous, carefully crafted and supremely compassionate" by The Oregonian and "One of the most exciting developments of the arts season" by Oregon ArtsWatch.

How and When to Watch

Viewers can access the videos upon their release on Anima Mundi Productions' website at **www.humanitytickets.com**. Each video will be released with a special ticketed launch event and will thereafter remain online for the duration of the festival with no ticket required:

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Concert 1: A Time for Life

Featuring Cappella Romana

Begins streaming with a special launch event on Sunday, April 18, 2021 at 5:30 pm Pacific

Special Event: The Canticle of the Black Madonna

Begins streaming with a special launch event on Sunday, May 30, 2021 at 5:30 pm Pacific

Concert 2: Sky and All

Soprano Estelí Gomez and Guitarist Colin Davin

Begins streaming with a special launch event on Sunday, June 13, 2021 at 5:30 pm Pacific

Concert 3: Six Feet Apart, Stories of Resilience and Transformation

Hex Ensemble

Begins streaming with a special launch event on Sunday, August 2, 2021 at 5:30 pm Pacific

More about *Six Feet Apart*, a new multimedia oratorio drawn from real-life stories

Anima Mundi Productions is proud to be partnering with the Southern Oregon Historical Society and to have received consultation from other area nonprofits in our effort to collect and make available to the public a diverse cross-section of Oregonians' experiences during the pandemic.

The stories collected for this project reflect the diversity of Oregonians' pandemic experiences. Composer Ethan Gans-Morse and poet Tiziana DellaRovere and their collaborators collected stories via Zoom and phone calls as well as online submissions throughout the fall of 2020, including from students at H.B. Lee Middle School in Portland.

Current and Former Poets Laureate and a Renowned Artist

The *Six Feet Apart* project has also received submissions from three particularly renowned Oregonians: current and former poets laureate Anis Mojgani and Kim Stafford have contributed their poetry to the project, and artist Betty LaDuke has contributed images from her *Pandemic Masks* series, which will appear at key moments in the oratorio video.

Public Archive

All of the stories collected will be made available to the public online this summer in a new website which will be curated by the Southern Oregon Historical Society:

www.sixfeetapartstories.com

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For further inquiries: please contact executive director Ethan Gans-Morse at 541-778-1211.