

## Columbia Chorale

The Columbia Chorale performed their final concert of the season, "In Memoriam, on Sunday, May 25<sup>th</sup> at 3:00pm at the First United Methodist Church in St. Helens. This concert, their 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Memorial Day Weekend Concert, highlighted American music throughout the years, and was performed in honor of veterans.

The Columbia Chorale of St. Helens, Oregon, was founded in the Fall of 2001 and has spent the past thirteen years building connections with their audiences, their community and with other organizations. Through their work, they have compiled an impressive list of accomplishments including premiering new music, performing in Columbia County as well as in neighboring towns and communities, singing at Carnegie Hall in New York City and creating an outreach and education program for area youth to encourage their singing. The Columbia Chorale is a charitable organization and their work benefits the arts, culture and humanities with their primary focus being on singing and chorale programs. In 2013 they were awarded a Columbia County Cultural Coalition Grant to assist with adding additional concert dates to their program schedule.

The Columbia Chorale's current season -- its thirteenth -- has featured three programs to date. The first was their Christmas "3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Sing Your Own Messiah" concert held on December 19<sup>th</sup>, 2013, at the First Methodist Church in St. Helens. This concert supported the Columbia Pacific Food Bank, with donations being accepted. This concert was followed by their 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Holiday Concert held on December 21<sup>st</sup>, 2013. "Requiem" was their third concert of the season, held at the beginning of March 2014.

Located in St. Helens, Oregon, the Columbia Chorale is led by AJ Wong, a California native. In addition to their regularly scheduled performances, the Columbia Chorale is available for private events and can also provide mentors to local youth who enjoy singing. If you would like more information on the Columbia Chorale, you can contact them via email: [ccosinging@gmail.com](mailto:ccosinging@gmail.com), through regular mail: PO Box 1309, St. Helens, Oregon 97051, or by phone: 503.556.3800. They also have a website: <https://sites.google.com/site/columbiachoraleoforegon/>, and a Facebook page.

Submitted by: Andrew Demko, CCCC Board Member