



Central Oregon
MASTERSINGERS

For immediate release

Misa a Buenos Aires, or Buenos Aires Mass, Comes to Bend

The Misa a Buenos Aires, an intense, rhythmic mass based on the tango music of Argentina, will be performed at Bend's iconic Tower Theatre Saturday, April 6, at 2 pm and 7 pm, by the Central Oregon Mastersingers. It will feature bandoneon soloist Giovanni Parra, a two-time Latin Grammy nominee, the Salem String Quartet, and local mezzo-soprano Katrina Hays.

The Misatango, as it is called, will be sung in Latin by the Mastersingers, conducted by Christian Clark. Incorporating the traditional elements of a classical choral mass, its structure is enlivened by the music of the tango as written for the classical stage. Additional tango music from Argentina also will be performed by the Mastersingers, Central Oregon's premier choral ensemble.

Parra, a two-time Latin Grammy nominee in tango and folk categories, has performed as a bandoneon soloist and with tango orchestras across the Americas and Europe.

A bandoneon is a type of concertina renowned for its range and flexibility. Developed in Germany, it found its true home in Argentina, where it became the voice and soul of tango.

Composer Martín Palmeri composed the Misatango in 1995/1996. He was influenced by Astor Piazzolla's "new tango," which incorporates contemporary forms and musical developments of the tango.

Mezzo-soprano Katrina Hays has performed in more than 100 productions in both regional and local repertory theaters and has appeared often with the Central Oregon Mastersingers as a concert soloist. She lives in Bend, Oregon.

Mastersingers Artistic Director Christian Clark began playing piano at age 3 and singing in a choir at age 5. He holds a Bachelors of Music degree in Vocal Performance and a Masters of Music in Choral Conducting degree from Sam Houston State University in Texas. In addition to his duties with The Mastersingers, Clark is choir director at Nativity Lutheran Church in Bend and is a founding member of Bend Camerata.

Tickets for the Misatango are available through the Tower Theatre.

For additional information and for a complementary media review ticket to this event, please contact Laura Thompson at support@centraloregonmastersingers.org.

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Giovanni Parra
Bandoneon Soloist

Giovanne Parra, soloist for the Central Oregon Mastersingers' presentation of the Buenos Aires Mass, is a star throughout Latin America and Europe who is known for his virtuosity on the *bandoneon*, a type of concertina renowned for its range and flexibility. Developed in Germany, it found its true home in Argentina, where it became the voice and soul of tango.

He earned a degree in musical pedagogy – that is, the study of the methods and principles of music instruction – from the National Pedagogical University in Bogata, Colombia. While there, he studied classical accordion with accordion virtuoso Lacides Romero. In 2007 he settled in Buenos Aires to study bandoneon with Néstor Marconi, Marcos Madrigal, Horacio Romo and Federico Pereiro.

Parra also studied in master classes with teachers Daniel Binelli, Juan José Mosalini and Pablo Mainetti. He was part of the Tango School Orchestra Emilio Balcarce in Buenos Aires under the direction of maestro Néstor Marconi.

Parra has performed across Colombia and in Peru, Argentina, Chile, the United States, Spain and France, and has performed as a soloist with Colombia's National Symphony Orchestra, the Philharmonic Orchestra of Bogotá, the Youth Symphony Orchestra of Colombia, and the Orchestra of the Conservatory of Ibagué, Colombia. He also performed with the Sexteto Mayor, a six-member ensemble that is synonymous with traditional forms of the tango.

He is based in Bogotá and is a two-time Latin Grammy nominee for best tango album in 2015 and best folk album in 2017.

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Christian Clark
Artistic Director and Conductor
Central Oregon Mastersingers

Mastersingers artistic director and conductor Christian Clark has been a musician since age 3, when he began playing piano. He got his start in choral singing just a few years later, at age 5.

He holds a Bachelors of Music degree in Vocal Performance and a Masters of Music in Choral Conducting from Sam Houston State University in Texas.

As a graduate teaching assistant while at Sam Houston, Clark served as associate musical director and conductor of the Sam Houston Opera, and as assistant conductor of the SHSU Concert Choir and Chorale.

During the course of his academic work, Clark studied under several notable choral conductors, including primary teacher and mentor Allen Hightower; the late Paul Salamunovich, music director of the Los Angeles Master Chorale; and Music America's 2004 Conductor of the Year Joseph Flummerfelt, who was a student of choral greats Roger Wagner and Nadia Boulanger.

Clark, a tenor, also has performed internationally as a soloist.

In addition to his duties with The Mastersingers, Clark is choir director at Nativity Lutheran Church in Bend. Clark, with his wife and two children, is a resident of Bend.

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Katrina Hays
Mezzo-soprano

Mezzo-soprano Katrina Hays works professionally as an opera singer and actress and has performed in over 100 productions in both regional and local repertory theaters. Favorite roles include the Witch in *Into the Woods*, the title role in *Carmen*, Buttercup in *HMS Pinafore*, Hecuba in *The Trojan Women*, Kate in *The Taming of the Shrew*, and Rosalind in *As You Like It*. Theater companies include: Denver Center Theatre Company, Western Stage Company, Pacific Arts Center, Humboldt Light Opera Company, and the Key City Public Theatre. She studied with the great heldentenor Richard Cassilly.

She also is a writer and publishes poetry and essays in literary and travel journals. She and her partner, photographer Steven McBurnett, create collaborative artwork and were Artists in Residence at Crater Lake National Park.

Katrina has appeared often with the Central Oregon Mastersingers as a concert soloist, including performances of Handel's *Messiah*, J.S. Bach's *Magnificat*, and *We Have Spoken*, a cantata by the Mastersinger's founder and Director Emeritus, Clyde Thompson. She lives in Bend, Oregon.

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The Central Oregon Mastersingers

Now in its 14th season, and the second season under the direction of music director and conductor Christian Clark, the Central Oregon Mastersingers is Central Oregon's leading choral ensemble.

It comprised of many of the area's finest singers, all of whom share a common passion for the best in choral music.

The Mastersingers' repertoire spans the gamut of musical eras and styles, from the 12th to the 21st centuries, and from fresh arrangements of popular music to masterworks for chorus and orchestra.

The ensemble was founded by composer and conductor Clyde Thompson in 2005. Until his retirement from conducting duties in 2017, Thompson led the Mastersingers in performances of everything from Beethoven's beloved Ninth Symphony, to numerous Christmas concerts, to a performance titled "We Have Spoken: Voices of Native America."

More than 150 singers have participated in the choir during the past 14 years.

The choir has collaborated with the Sunriver Music Festival, Cascade Chorale, Central Oregon Symphony, Youth Choir of Central Oregon, Bells of Sunriver, Eugene Vocal Arts Ensemble, and several of the area's finest jazz musicians.

The Central Oregon Mastersingers is a 501(C)(3) nonprofit organization.

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The Reviews Are In!

Central Oregon Mastersingers continue to “wow” audiences

- “The concert this afternoon was just wonderful. The choir, the orchestra, and the pianist were exceptional! The music was beautiful; the different parts / instruments fit together perfectly. The duet between the oboe and the soprano during the Gloria moved me to tears. Great job!”
- “Loved, loved, loved the concert last night. The choir had wonderful diction, beautiful tone, glorious soloists and an orchestra that was the cream on top!”
- “WONDERFUL concert! So glad I was smart enough to get really good seats. The music was fabulous; the soloists were incredible; the chorus looked and sounded heavenly! Thank you for sharing this gift with our community.”
- “Thank you for such a professional, memorable, and artistically superb weekend of music.”
- “Just Bravo! Yesterday was the best the Mastersingers have ever sounded, to me. It was a wonderful concert, I thoroughly enjoyed it, and thank you for your efforts. Wonderful pieces I have never heard, what a nice program.” Regarding the October 2018 Concert.
- “It was an honor to play with the Mastersingers this weekend. I have always been in complete awe of the ensemble...its musicality and professionalism is just breathtaking.” Musician who accompanied Mastersingers at their 2018 Christmas Concert.