



OREGON BACH FESTIVAL

March 12, 2013

Public Testimony in support, SB 319

Senator Lee Beyer, Chair
Senator Bruce Starr, Vice-Chair
Senator Chris Edwards
Senator Fred Girod
Senator Rod Monroe
Senator Chuck Thomsen

Dear Senator Beyer and members of the Senate Business and Transportation Committee,

Funding from the Oregon Cultural Trust allows the **Oregon Bach Festival**, based at the University of Oregon in Eugene, to bring world-class musicians to share their art with and provide educational opportunities for Oregonians during the 3-week summer festival and throughout the year. Not only are OCT funds directly supportive of OBF's efforts, but they are leveraged when referenced as matching funds as OBF applies for private foundation grants – thus doubling their direct impact. Additionally, studies tells us that the economic impact of the Oregon Bach Festival is upwards of \$6 million per year – again, more than double the program costs. Thus, in addition to the immense cultural value to the citizens of the State of Oregon and the international recognition of this Oregon-based Festival, we can infer \$4 of economic impact for every dollar funded by the Oregon Cultural Trust – a solid investment in Oregon communities.

As referenced in written testimony submitted by the University of Oregon, special Oregon Bach Festival projects supported by the Trust have included three years of funding (\$5000/year) for broadcast of 17 performances (including premieres and renowned artists) as part of American Public Media's *Performance Today* programs and the European Broadcasting Union's exchange program for music world-wide. Additionally, a current project (\$12,000) in collaboration with the Portland Baroque Orchestra is underway to bring opportunities to underserved communities. Through the Oregon Arts Commission, the Trust has contributed to ongoing funding for the Festival (\$12,000 annually); and to special cultural tourism outreach projects including a \$9000 contribution to OBF's initiative to reach diverse audiences in 2010, and the 2011 presentation of great works (\$6000) composed to celebrate historical heroines Joan of Arc, Dido and St. Cecilia.

On behalf of the communities of Oregon and music enthusiasts around the world who look to the Oregon Bach Festival for excellence, expertise and education, we are appreciative of the Oregon Cultural Trust and support it's continuation with the passage of SB319.

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