



HCR 21—Honoring the achievements of Helmuth Rilling
HCR 22—Honoring the achievements of Royce Saltzman

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON RULES

John Evans, President & Executive Director, Oregon Bach Festival
Dave Frosaker, Board Chair, Oregon Bach Festival

April 3, 2013

Chair Garrett, Vice-Chairs Hicks and Hoyle, and Committee Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to express our support for HCR 21 and HCR 22, which honor the accomplishments of two pioneers in Oregon's cultural life: Helmuth Rilling and Royce Saltzman.

We are here representing the Oregon Bach Festival, an event that Rilling and Saltzman together built into the institution it is today.

This recognition is timely. The Los Angeles Times has written that the Oregon Bach Festival is "*a musical enterprise virtually without equal in America.*" This summer's festival marks the end of an era. Maestro Rilling, who turns 80 on May 29, steps down as artistic director after 44 years of leadership.

Internationally acclaimed, the Oregon Bach Festival presents more than 60 events over a three-week period. It annually draws as many as 35,000 audience members and more than 500 musicians. Its current annual budget sits at just over \$2.8 million, and it has an economic impact of \$6 million annually. When Rilling and Saltzman founded the festival in 1970, it consisted of one concert with a budget of \$2,500.

Rilling and Saltzman's work on the Bach Festival has been recognized both nationally and internationally including in the *Times of London*, the *Wall Street Journal*, the *New York Times*, *Washington Post*, *Los Angeles Times*, *Newsweek*, and National Public Radio. For his efforts, Rilling was named an American Academy of Arts and Sciences Fellow and Foreign Honorary Member, joining the company of such luminaries as Kofi Annan, Walter Cronkite, Alfred Lord Tennyson and Albert Camus. He has also received the Order of Merit of the Federal Republic of Germany.

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HELMUTH RILLING
Artistic Director & Conductor

JOHN EVANS
President & Executive Director



The maestro is a native of Stuttgart, Germany. He and his family come to Eugene for the festival for three weeks every summer. The educational programs Rilling started here have been a model for his Bach academies in Asia, South America, and throughout Europe.

Saltzman, who served as associate dean of the University of Oregon School of Music and Dance for 12 years, has also received the Order of Merit of the Federal Republic of Germany, an award given for achievements in the political, economic, social, or intellectual sphere. From 1985 to 1993, he was president of the International Federation for Choral Music. Saltzman stepped aside from the administrative leadership of the Bach Festival in 2007, but he continues to serve as an ambassador and advocate in his role as director emeritus.

We ask that you take these accomplishments and the impact of the Bach Festival on Oregon's cultural life and economy into consideration and vote in favor of HCR 21 and HCR 22.

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