ABOUT MATTHEW HALLS

One of today’s leading young conductors, Matthew Halls was named Oregon Bach Festival Artistic Director Designate August 24, 2011 and became the Festival’s Artistic Director July 15, 2013.

The word “versatile” is often applied to musicians; in the case of the British conductor Matthew Halls, it is particularly well deserved. Although he first came to prominence as a keyboard player and early music conductor, Halls, still in his thirties, is now better known for his dynamic and intelligent work with major symphony orchestras and opera companies, and for his probing and vibrant interpretations of music of all periods.

In 2013, he made his Toronto Symphony debut, performing a critically acclaimed interpretation of Beethoven’s Ninth Symphony, a work he calls “the heart and soul of the modern symphonic tradition.” He first led Washington, D.C.’s National Symphony in 2011, with performances of Handel’s Messiah returning the following season to lead works by Ravel, Dutilleux and Vaughan Williams. Other recent and upcoming North American engagements include appearances with the Houston Symphony Orchestra, Colorado Symphony Orchestra, Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra, Ottawa’s National Arts Centre Orchestra, and the Seattle Symphony Orchestra, in repertoire from Bach and Handel to Mozart, Beethoven, Mendelssohn, Rachmaninov, Tippett and Kernis.

In July 2011 he appeared for the first time at the Oregon Bach Festival. Such was the impact of his performances here, he was immediately asked to succeed Helmuth Rilling as artistic director. He has since returned annually and has now assumed the leadership post.

European orchestras are equally eager to welcome Halls to their podiums, including the BBC Scottish Symphony, Bergen Philharmonic, Bremen Philharmonic, Frankfurt Radio Symphony, Iceland Symphony, Northern Sinfonia, RTE National Symphony, Tonkünstler Orchestra NÖ, and regular appearances in Austria and on tour with the Salzburg Mozarteum Orchestra. He is also invited to Australia to conduct the Melbourne Symphony and West Australian Symphony orchestras.

In the opera house, Halls has appeared with companies such as the Handelfestspiele Halle and the Salzburg Landestheater. His debut performances of Handel’s Rinaldo with Central City Opera Colorado were so well received that he was reinvited to conduct not only Handel’s Amadigi but also Puccini’s Madama Butterfly. His operatic repertoire covers Renaissance, Baroque and Classical works, but also extends to later works, with a particular focus on Britten. His associations with both the Netherlands Opera and Bayerische Staatsoper have included productions of Verdi’s Luisa Miller, Britten’s Peter Grimes and Bellini’s Norma. In spring 2014 he leads Handel’s Ariodante at the Aalto-Musiktheater Essen.

Halls is represented on disc with Handel’s Parnasso in Festa, winner of the Stanley Sadie Handel Recording Prize, released by Hyperion. On Linn Records, he has recorded a set of four Bach Harpsichord Concertos conducted from the keyboard, and Bach’s Easter and Ascension oratorios, as well as award-winning discs of Purcell’s Sonatas in Three and Four Parts.

Matthew Halls was educated at Oxford University and subsequently taught at the University for five years. Following his time in Oxford, he has held positions as Artistic Director of the King’s Consort and the Retrospect Ensemble, which he founded in 2009. Passionately committed to education and working with young musicians, he has taught regularly at summer schools and courses.

For more listings of reviews, recordings and concert dates, please see hazardchase.co.uk

The Artistic Director position is endowed by J. Peter and Mary Ann Moore.

Photo by Eric Richmond

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Hear My Prayer, O Lord (1682)

Henry Purcell (1659-1695)

Hear my prayer, O Lord, and let my crying come unto thee. (Psalm 102:1)

Miserere (2009)

James MacMillan (b.1959)

Kathleen Murphy-Geiss, soprano
Corie Brown, alto
Riley Forrest, tenor
James Brown, bass

Music for the Funeral of Queen Mary (1694)

Henry Purcell

The Queen’s Funeral March

Man that is Born of a Woman

Man that is born of a woman, hath but a short time to live, and is full of misery. He cometh up, and is cut down, like a flower. He fleeth as it were a shadow, and ne’er continueth in one stay. (Job 14:1)

In the Midst of Life

In the midst of life we are in death. Of whom may we seek for succour, but of thee, O Lord, who for our sins art justly displeased? Yet O Lord most mighty, O holy and most merciful Saviour, deliver us not into the bitter pains of eternal death. (Book of Common Prayer, 1662)

Thou Knowest, Lord

Thou knowest, Lord, the secrets of our hearts, shut not thy merciful ears unto our prayer, but spare us, Lord most holy. O God most mighty, O holy and most merciful Saviour, thou most worthy Judge eternal, suffer us not, at our last hour, for any pains of death to fall from thee. Amen. (Book of Common Prayer, 1662)

Canzona

Brit Englund, Alexis Gamica, trumpet
Nick Ivers, Stephen Young, trombone
Crystal Chu, drum
Julia Brown, organ

University Singers

Sharon J. Paul, conductor
Christopher S. Olin, conductor
Hung-Yun Chu, rehearsal pianist

SOPRANO
Sarah Derhali
Bridget Dolan
Lauren Duplessie
Mikaela Jaquette
Emma Knox Hershey
Hailey Kristiansen
Veronica Lindquist
Serena Lodes
Susannah Manton
Alyssa McClintick
Alexa McCuen
McKenzie Messer
Maya Osuga
Rachel Petty
Alishia Piper
Kelsey Speich
Mengzhumei Yang
Chelsea Young
Yulin Zhou

TENOR
Christopher Almasie
Cole Blume
Casey Brees
Jake Buhlmann
Bradley Burdick
Colin Corbett
Kevin Dempsey
Ransom Hovekamp
Austin Mahar
Blair Westbrook

BASS
Jeffrey Boen
Tristan Bredeweg
Kelvin Close-Kung
Zeke Fetrow
Zachary Fitzgerald
Kodiak Hast
Zachary Horn
Gus Kerzic
Issac Lance
Evan Lianopoulos
Ian Magill
Alec Malnati
Nelson Martin
Tim McCoy

Chamber Choir

Sharon J. Paul, conductor

SOPRANO
Heather Bachelder
Anna Breuer
Nikki Forrest
Noelle Goodenberger
Madsen McBride
Kathleen Murphy-Geiss
Carolyn Quick

ALTO
Kathrina Allen
Maklyn Baley
Corie Brown
Rebecca Chen
Siera Kaup
Sarah Martin
Leanne Merrill
Glenna Unfred

TENOR
Ethan Alvarez
Anna Breuer
Riley Forrest
Ray Jackson
Kyle Ludwig
JP Rossiter
Jack Strother-Galle

BASS
Matt Blumenstein
James Brown
Dylan Bunten
Colin Cossi
Tom Dasso
Gabriel Elder
Zeke Fetrow
Jasper Freedom
Kevin Wyatt-Stone

Oregon Wind Ensemble

Rodney Dorse, conductor

OBOE
Laura Goben
Megan Zochert

CLARINET
Courtney Sams
Chelsea Oden

TROMBONE
Kaden Christensen
Mateo Palfreman

HORN
Amos Helfner
Aryn Bess
Erik Oder
Shae Wirth
Jarek Bartels

TRUMPET
Brit Englund
Alexis Gamica

OBOE
Laura Goben
Megan Zochert

CLARINET
Courtney Sams
Chelsea Oden

TROMBONE
Kaden Christensen
Mateo Palfreman

HORN
Amos Helfner
Aryn Bess
Erik Oder
Shae Wirth
Jarek Bartels
A Child's Prayer (1996)
(Dedicated to the victims of the Dunblane tragedy in Scotland, March 1996)

Welcome Jesus,
Deep in my soul forever stay,
Joy and love my heart are filling
On this glad Communion day. (Traditional)

Heather Bachelder, Noelle Goodenberger, soprano
Chamber Choir

Mass No. 2 in E minor (1885)  
Anton Bruckner (1824-1896)

Kyrie
Gloria
Credo
Sanctus
Benedictus
Agnus Dei

University Singers
Chamber Choir
Wind Ensemble

About the Somd
The University of Oregon is a world-class teaching and research institution and Oregon's flagship public university. The UO School of Music and Dance presents more than 250 concerts and events during the academic year featuring scholars, guest artists, faculty artists, and student ensembles. The incredible wealth of concert material ranges from contemporary dance to African dance, early and classical music to contemporary music, world music, and jazz.

About the OBF
The Oregon Bach Festival is a landmark program of the University of Oregon, presenting the masterworks of J.S. Bach to audiences in Eugene, Portland, and throughout the State of Oregon for more than four decades. Its annual summer event originally started as a modest collaboration between German Conductor and Organist, Helmuth Rilling and once Associate Dean of the University of Oregon School of Music and Dance, Royce Saltzman. OBF is now an international festival of worldwide repute, led by Maestro Matthew Halls (Artistic Director). In addition to traditional choral-orchestral masterworks, the festival also presents internationally renowned artists such as Yo-Yo Ma, Midori, Pink Martini and Joshua Bell; offers educational programs in the format of lectures, symposiums and master classes; children's and family programming; and, free community programs. Writers from The Times of London, the Los Angeles Times, and the Wall Street Journal have praised the Festival for its "pioneering approach to programming", describing it as "virtually without equal in America" and "one of the world's leading music festivals." oregonbachfestival.com
Miserere mei Deus,
Have mercy upon me, O God,
secundum magnam misericordiam tuam.
according to your great loving kindness.
Et secundum multitudinem miserationum tuarum
And according to the multitude of your mercies,
dele iniquitatem meam.
delete me from your sin.
Quoniam inutilitatem meam ego cognosco:
For I acknowledge my transgression;
ne secundum justitiam tuam:
and be vindicated when you are judged.
Quoniam conceptus sum:
and done evil in your sight:
Tibi soli peccavi,
To you only have I sinned,
et peccatum meum contra me est semper.
and my sin is ever before me
Quoniam inituitatem meam ego cognosco:
and acknowledge my transgression:
e tibi aperies:
e I will proclaim your praise.
Domine labia mea aperies:
e my mouth shall proclaim your praise.
O Lord, you will open my lips:
e and my tongue shall extol your justice.
Domine, labia mea aperies: et
et spiritum meum aqua
you will not be afraid.
e spiritum meum aqua:
I would indeed have given it:
si voluisses sacrificium,
and my heart is ready to proclaim:
si secundum justitiam tuam:
and according to your great glory.
Et secundum multitudinem miserationum tuarum
And according to the multitude of your mercies,
tibi aperies:
and do not despise.
Deus, non despicies.
I have made known to me.
manifestasti mihi.
de the obscure and hidden elements of your wisdom.
quoniam condescendisti:
and grant kindness to me.
Benigne fac, Domine,
and have mercy upon me.
Domine, grant kindness to me.
Tu qui tollis peccata mundi,
and if you be converted.
et impii ad te convertentur.
Quemadmodum 
and do not love bloodshed.
e mortem non amaveris.
Amen.
Amen.

CREDO
Credo in unum Deum,
I believe in one God,
Patrem omnipotentem,
The Father Almighty,
factorem coelorum et terrae,
maker of heaven and earth,
visibilium omnium, et invisibilium,
and all things visible and invisible.
Et in unum Dominum Jesum Christum,
and in one Lord Jesus Christ,
Filium Dei unigenitum,
the only begotten Son of God.
Et rex caelestis
and supreme King.
rei secundum voluntatem suam.
and according to his will.
Et in unum Spiritum Sanctum,
and in one Holy Spirit.
et in Spiritum Sanctum.
and the Holy Spirit.
Filioque
and the only begotten Son of God.
Corpus Christi,
the body of Christ.
et in unum Sanctum.
and in one Holy Spirit.

KYRIE
Kyrie eleison,
Lord have mercy,
Christe eleison,
Christ have mercy,
Kyrie eleison.
Lord have mercy.

GLORIA
Gloria in excelsis Deo.
Glory to God in the highest.
Et in terra pax
and on earth peace.
Et in sedes
and in heaven.
Gloria in gloria Dei Patris.
Glory to God in the highest.

TRANSLATION THE MASS | Roman Catholic Mass Ordinary, trans. by Ron Jeffers

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