

**SONORE CHAMBER CHOIR TO SING FINNISH MUSIC PROGRAMS
MARCH 24-31 IN PORTLAND, WEST LINN, ASTORIA, ROSBURG and SEATTLE**

Portland, Oregon, March 1, 2013 – Northwest choral music fans will have the rare opportunity March 24-31 to hear programs written exclusively by Finnish composers and sung in Finnish by the 15-member Chamber Choir Sonore. English translation of lyrics will be provided on program handouts.

Sponsored by the Finlandia Foundation Columbia-Pacific Chapter, this is the first U.S. tour of Sonore, hailing from the town of Äänekoski in central Finland. Sonore is the Latin word that in English became sonorous, or a deep, rich sound. Tickets are available at the door of each venue, and the suggested donation is \$5.

Sunday, March 24, 2013, 3pm, Spiritual and Secular Program
Messiah Lutheran Church, 7434 N Charleston Ave, Portland, OR, 97203

Tuesday, March 26, 2013, 7pm, Spiritual Program
First Christian Church, 1314 SW Park Ave, Portland, OR, 97201

Wednesday, March 27, 2013, 6pm, Secular Program
West Linn Unity Center, 20255 Willamette Drive, West Linn, OR, 97068

Thursday, March 28, 2013, 7pm, Spiritual Program
Peace Lutheran Church, 565 12th St, Astoria, OR, 97103

Friday, March 29, 2013, 7pm, Spiritual Program
Valley Bible Church, 4723 SR 4 West, Rosburg, WA, 98643

Sunday, March 31, 2013, noon, Spiritual and Secular Program
Finnish Lutheran Church, 8504 13th Ave NW, Seattle, WA, 98117

In addition to “classical” Finnish composers, such as Jean Sibelius and Fredrik Pacius, Sonore’s secular program highlights the work of contemporary composers, inspired and influenced by Finnish folk tales and melodies, jazz, and popular music. Common themes and lyrics are nature, love and homeland. Among the modern composers: Heikki Valpola, Asko Vilen, Heikki Sarmanto, Chisu, and Kaj Chydenius.

The spiritual program also combines traditional music and modern re-interpretations, revolving around the themes of prayer and gratitude. Among the composers: Kari Tikka, Miia Makaroff, Oscar Merikanto, Heino Kaski, and Lasse Heikkilä.

The choir members began singing together in 1991, and took the name “Sonore” the following year. In recent years, new singers have joined the founding members. “We work very hard at making our music fly into the hearts of our listeners,” said choir director Malla Kärkkäinen. Tiina Kuusisto is the choir’s president.

"This is truly a rare chance to hear beautiful Finnish choral music, sung in its original language," said Greg Jacob, president of the Finlandia Foundation Columbia-Pacific Chapter. "Because Finnish is not spoken anywhere but Finland and so very different from other languages, this wonderful music doesn't get the exposure that it deserves."

For more information: contact Katariina Lehtonen at the Finlandia Foundation Columbia-Pacific Chapter, harrskog@comcast.net, (503) 697-2936.

Photo caption (emailed as separate attachment): *Sonore Chamber Choir from Finland will perform in Portland, West Linn, Astoria, Rosburg and Seattle March 24-31, 2013. The series of concerts is sponsored by the Finlandia Foundation Columbia-Pacific Chapter.*