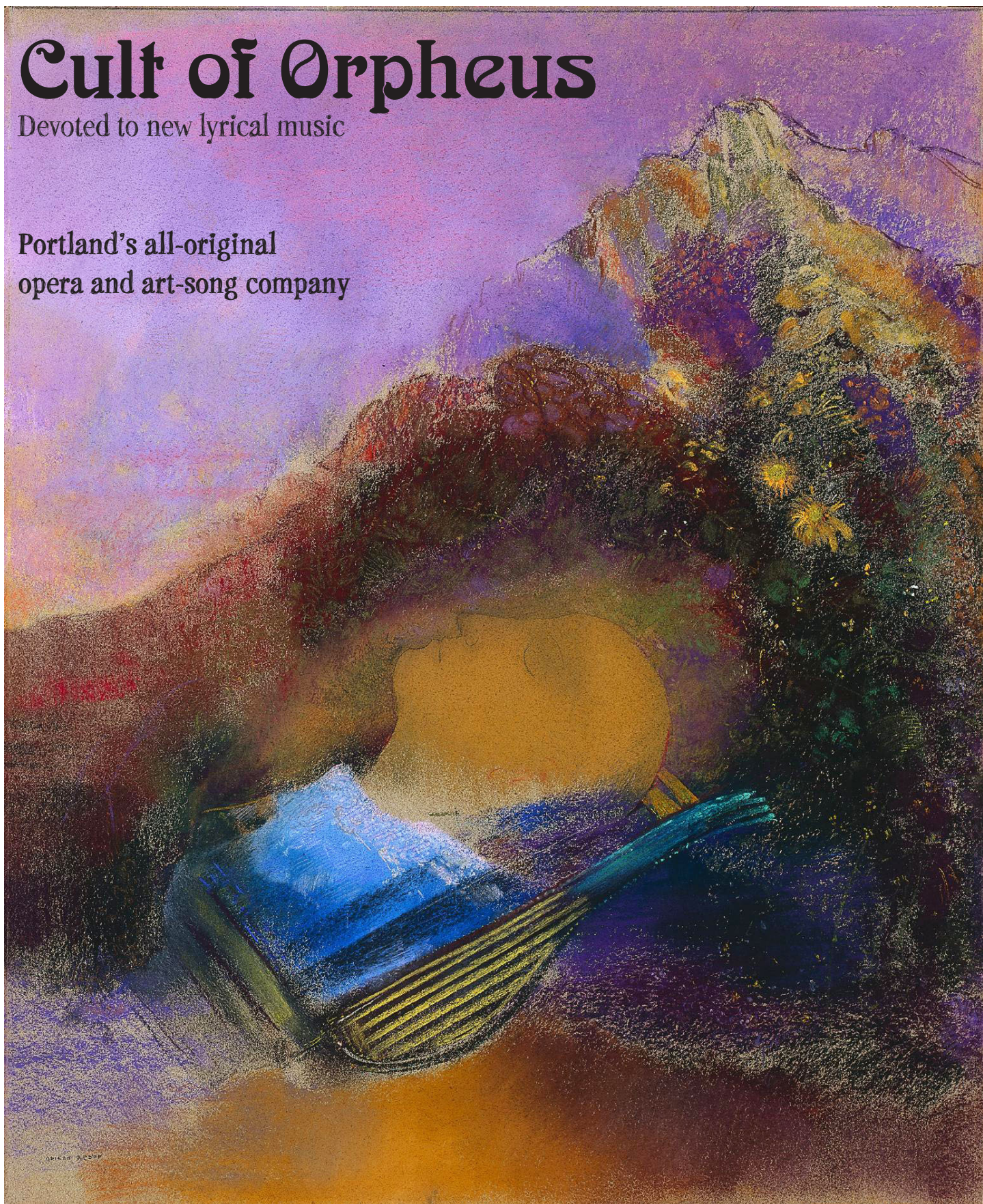


Cult of Orpheus

Devoted to new lyrical music

Portland's all-original
opera and art-song company



2018 Season and Company Information

2018: Fifth anniversary season

Salon d'Amour: private party, February 10

Wine, appetizers, and original art-songs on themes of love are mingled in this private fundraiser. Guests will meet members of the troupe including the composer, and enjoy intimate performances of musical settings of classic poetry by the ancient Roman poet Catullus, English romantic poet Elizabeth Barrett Browning, and early-twentieth-century American free spirit Edna St. Vincent Millay, plus other treats.



Recording: *Sacred Works I*, March/April; CD release concert June 23

The first full-length Cult of Orpheus album will feature vocal music settings of works representing an eclectic sense of the sacred: songs from *The Dhammapada* (early Buddhist scripture), a vocal-quartet and string-quartet setting of *The Emerald Tablet* (early Hermetica), four poems from the book *Love's Alchemy* featuring Sufi poetry by Rumi and others, and two poems from the *Sonnets to Orpheus* by symbolist poet Rainer Maria Rilke.

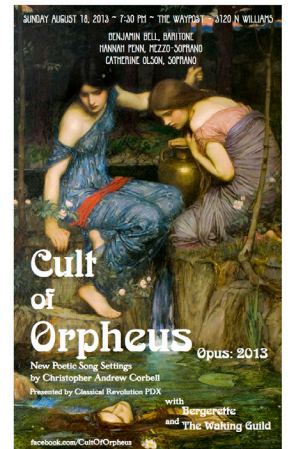


Workshop performance: *Antigone and Haimon*, May preview

Christopher Corbell's original libretto and score revisits the ancient Greek tragedy of Sophocles, examining modes of resistance to a misogynist, xenophobic tyrant. The idealist Antigone and reformist Haimon meet in a scene not found in the original. Their passionate perspectives and ultimate impasse convey a story of gender and politics — one that speaks powerfully to present and future. Our workshop sing-through will be open to subscribers, press, and collaborators; full staged production will be pursued in 2019.

Cult of Orpheus Fifth Anniversary Concert: August 25

Since our debut concert in 2013, Cult of Orpheus has produced dozens of new art-song cycles and vocal compositions, numerous concerts, two fully staged opera runs, and an array of original sheet music offerings. This two-act concert at the Alberta Rose Theater will feature a selection of the best moments from our first half-decade, from art-songs to opera excerpts, as well as original chamber music. The concert will feature the 2018 troupe and ensemble as well as special guest performers.



Happy Hour, Volume 1: a dive-bar opera (world premiere) - October

This underground opera features bartender, cocktail server, and two customers exchanging jokes, barbs, and stories to pass the time and illuminate our times. Accompanied by a small ensemble and performed in some of Portland's favorite dive bars, it's at once a tribute to barfly life and an exploration of the possibilities of opera presented without pretension.



Recording: *Viva's Holiday: An Opera in One Act*, November; release concert in December

Our flagship one-act opera was written in collaboration with author/stripper/spokesperson Liv Osthus, known to Portland audiences as Viva Las Vegas. This "touching, intimate family drama" (*Oregon ArtsWatch*) about individualism and family tension during the holidays received positive notices in *Artslandia*, *Portland Mercury*, *Willamette Week*, *All Classical FM's Northwest Previews*, and *Oregon ArtsWatch*.

This year we are creating a commercial-quality recording of the music for four singers and twelve-piece orchestra, with a *Viva on Vinyl* fundraiser in late October, recording sessions in November, and a release concert in December. This local favorite is sure to return to Portland stages in future seasons.

The Troupe



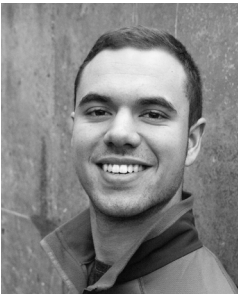
soprano Jocelyn Claire Thomas

Praised for her haunting sound and musical intelligence, Thomas is a frequent performer in opera, concert, and recital. Notable roles include “Susanna” in *Le nozze di Figaro*, “Rosina” in *Il barbiere di Siviglia*, “Musetta” in *La Bohème*, “Despina” in *Così fan tutte*, “Pamina” in *Die Zauberflöte*, “Gretel” in *Hansel and Gretel*, “Adele” in *Die Fledermaus*, and “Amy March” in *Little Women*. Mrs. Thomas has appeared with Tacoma Opera, Eugene Opera, Opera Bend, Brava Opera Theatre, The Astoria Music Festival, Bravo Northwest, Opera Theater Oregon, Portland Concert Opera, The Beaverton Symphony, and Portland Summerfest. She holds a B.M. from the Oberlin Conservatory, a M.M. from the Peabody Conservatory, and a G.P.D., from the Peabody Conservatory. Jocelyn is based in Portland, Oregon where she maintains a private studio in voice, piano, and flute.



mezzo-soprano Sadie Gregg

Commended by the Boston Musical Intelligencer as “a mezzo-soprano with a rich, flexible instrument,” and as “a standout” by the Boston Classical Review, Gregg is equally at home with opera, musical theater, and concert repertoire. Recent performances include *Kátya Kabánova Previews* (Varvara/Kabanicha) with Seattle Opera, *Symphony No. 3* (Alto Soloist) with the Oregon Mahler Festival, *Baroque Ball Gala* with Portland Opera, *Ich habe genug* with Tualatin Valley Symphony, *The Emerald Tablet* with Cult of Orpheus and *The Child’s Frightful Fantasy* with Ping & Woof Opera. Upcoming performances include *Big Night*, *Faust* and *Orfeo et Euridice* with Portland Opera. Previous roles included award nominations for Ottavia in *L’incornazione de Poppea* and the title role in *La Cenerentola*. Gregg is a managing diva of Opera on Tap (Portland) and as *Vox Prima* manages vocal talent and coordination for Cult of Orpheus.



tenor Ray Jackson

An exciting young tenor known for his purity of tone and musical sensitivity, Jackson has recently appeared in *L’enfant et les Sortilèges* with Necessity Arts Collective, and in Handel’s *Messiah* at St. John the Baptist Episcopal, where he is a Musical Artist in Residence. Ray also sings with Portland Symphonic Choir, and has performed with the Oregon Bach Festival, the University of Oregon Chamber Choir, the UO Opera Ensemble, and Vox Resonat. He holds a B.M. in Vocal Performance from the University of Oregon, where he studied with Dr. Ann Tedards and Eric Mentzel.



baritone Dan Gibbs

Dan Gibbs studied Music/Vocal Performance at Southern Oregon University under Dr. Paul French, and also studied with Ellie Holt-Murray, Laurie Ann Hunter, Willene Gunn, and Rod Gilfry. Dan has been a featured soloist with the SOU Chamber and Concert Choirs, the SOU Symphonic Band, the Britt Festival Symphony Orchestra, the Southern Oregon Repertory Singers, and the Siskiyou Singers. Stage roles include Armed Man No.2 in *Die Zauberflöte* (USC Thornton Opera), featured soloist with the Symphony of the Vines, Mayor and Ensemble in *Johnny Johnson* (SOU), and Monsieur Presto in *The Breasts of Tiresias* (Brava! Opera Theater). Dan was a quarter-finalist in the Jim Collier Young Artist Competition in Ashland in 2013. He is currently cantor and in-residence vocal instructor at St. Bartholomew’s Episcopal Church in Beaverton, and a member of the Oregon Chorale in Hillsboro.

Composer / Librettist / Producer



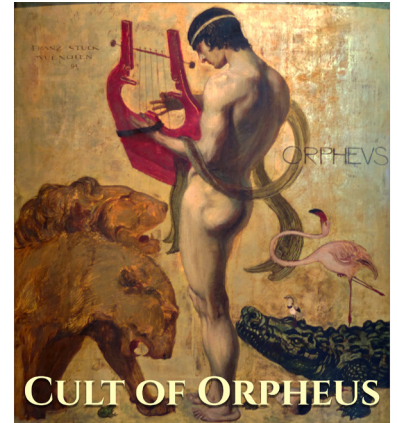
Christopher Corbell founded Cult of Orpheus in 2013 as a vehicle for creating new lyrical opera and art-song in Portland, Oregon. A mostly self-taught outsider composer with experiences as busker, singer-songwriter and indie bandleader, Corbell has been a champion of intersectional artistic community-building, leading the iconoclastic group Classical Revolution PDX for two years and actively questioning the caste systems and cultural biases that prevail in much of the fine arts world. Described as “one of Oregon’s most vital creative artists” (*Oregon ArtsWatch*), Corbell’s mission is devoted to shared meaning and poetic beauty in the creative fusion of music and words. He holds that “it is possible to appropriate the tools created by past aristocracies for revolutionary utterances and radical, transcendental egalitarianism.”

Make music with us.

This year is a major milestone for **Cult of Orpheus**, as we create our first recordings, premiere a new opera and workshop another, launch a podcast, and establish ourselves as an organization with a staff and a long-term shared vision.

We want this vision to include you! Art flourishes as a round-trip between artists and their community, and we invite you to our table.

There are many ways to engage:



• Local Business Sponsor

From product/service donations for our fundraisers to significant financial support that demonstrates your love of original local culture, we want to build a relationship with you and make our fans your customers.

• Project Underwriter

Some projects have a special appeal to certain individuals and businesses. Please take a look at our planned season, and if there is a specific project you would like to help succeed we are happy to share production details and include your name and logo in the production's digital and printed materials.

• Recording Project Investor

We have high expectations for the success of our planned recordings, but good recordings require investment. Donations are always welcome! We are also open to Executive Producer investment that will entitle you to a stake in revenue from the recorded product.

• Sponsor a Troupe Member

Our artists have devoted so much time and energy to becoming masters of their craft — show your support with an individual sponsorship! Your gift will ensure that an artist is well-compensated and help support their mission to premiere new lyrical art. Your gift may also be made tax-deductible through our non-profit fiscal sponsor.

• Subscriber (sustaining monthly gift)

Nothing will build our capacity better than sustaining monthly gifts from individuals like you. Even a small monthly gift can cover an important recurring expense and help sustain us. You can choose to make a monthly gift tax-deductible through our non-profit fiscal sponsor, or make it a subscription for perks like exclusive digital media, private events with the troupe and ensemble, and tickets to our productions.

• Community-building

We welcome your energy and your engagement. You can support us by volunteering for productions, by bringing others to our events, by following and sharing our social media posts, and just by letting us know what works!

Website:
cultoforpheus.org

Fractured Atlas link (non-profit donations):
tinyurl.com/cultoforpheus-donate

Email:
music@cultoforpheus.org