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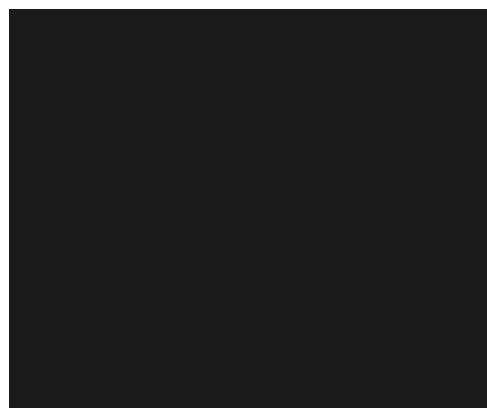
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Arts roundup: Council Oak Men's Chorale concerts, Kazuo Ishiguro in Tulsa and more

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Posted: Sunday, December 1, 2013 12:00 am | Updated: 8:37 am, Sun Dec 1, 2013.

By JAMES D. WATTS JR. World Scene Writer | 0 comments



An early incarnation of the Council Oak Men's Chorale is pictured with founder Rick Fortner (front). Fortner is one of the three former leaders of this ensemble who will return to take part in the chorale's concerts this week. Tulsa World file

The Council Oak Men's Chorale closes out its 15th season the way this organization began.

In 1997, Rick Fortner put together a small, all-male vocal group to perform as part of a World AIDS Day commemoration. The success of what was supposed to be a one-time performance was such that the Council Oak Men's Chorale was formed.

On Sunday, the group will take part in the World AIDS Day Commemoration Service, "Remembering the Past, Moving On, and Moving Forward," 6 p.m. at Fellowship Congregational Church, 2900 S. Harvard Ave. Admission to this performance is free.

The chorale will also be performing its annual holiday concerts this week, with shows at 8 p.m. Tuesday and Friday at the Lorton Performance Center, 550 S. Gary Ave.

The program, titled "Gabriel, Come Blow Your Horn," will feature holiday musical

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both classical and contemporary, including "All Through the Night," "Ave Maria (Biebl)," "God Rest Ye, Merry Gentlemen," "The Little Drummer Boy," "Holly Jolly Christmas," "Jingle Bells" and more.

The concert will also be something of a reunion, as the four people who have led the Council Oak Men's Chorale will conduct portions of the program. In addition to Fortner, they are Andre Martin, who took over the job in 2002; Elizabeth Curtis, whose tenure ran from 2006 to 2009; and current conductor Kim Childs.

Tickets are \$20, at the door or online at counciloak.org

Tulsa Library Trust to honor British novelist Kazuo Ishiguro

A woman recalling moments of her mutedly tragic life. An aging painter struggling to understand the changes that have affected his life and art. A butler so devoted to "service" that his own humanity has been blunted. A concert pianist caught up in dreamlike world. An amateur detective on the trail of the past in a surreal Shanghai. A group of young people who exist only for others' needs.

These are some of the striking, enigmatic characters created by the British novelist Kazuo Ishiguro. And the stories of these people told in novels such as "The Remains of the Day," "A Pale View of the Hills," "When We Were Orphans" and "Never Let Me Go" make up one of the more impressive bodies of work in contemporary English literature.

Ishiguro will be honored for his writing as the 2013 recipient of the Peggy V. Helmerich Distinguished Author Award, which will be presented at a black-tie gala Friday at Tulsa's Southern Hills Country Club. The award, sponsored by the Tulsa Library Trust, includes an engraved crystal book and a \$40,000 cash prize.

Ishiguro will also take part in a free public event, 10:30 a.m. Saturday at the Hardesty Regional Library's Connor's Cove, 8316 E. 93rd St. Ishiguro will talk about his life and work, answer questions, and sign copies of his books, which will be available for purchase.

918-549-7323, tulsalibrary.org

'The Nutcracker' from South Tulsa Children's Ballet

A decade ago, local dance teacher Pamela Farry-Haden established the South Tulsa Children's Ballet, wanting to create more opportunities for young dancers to perform in such classical ballets as "The Sleeping Beauty" and "The Nutcracker."

The organization's latest production of "The Nutcracker," featuring young dancers in all major roles, will be presented 2 and 7 p.m. Saturday, 2 p.m. Dec. 8, at the VanTrease PACE, 10300 E. 81st St. Tickets are \$15-\$25.

918-595-7777, myticketoffice.com

'The Best Christmas Pageant Ever'

The Herdman family a notorious brood of juvenile troublemakers show up at the local

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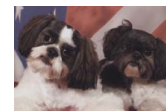
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church for the first time in their lives because they heard that the place served snacks. And it isn't long before the Herdmans are finding ways to take over a few other things around the sanctuary, such as the annual Christmas presentation.

Barbara Robinson first told the story of the Herdmans and the effect they had on Christmas and vice versa in her 1971 book "The Best Christmas Pageant Ever." Clark Theatre, the city's youth theatre program, has been performing this comedy annually for the past 27 years.

The 28th incarnation opens 7:30 p.m. Friday-Saturday, and continues with performances through Dec. 15.

Tickets are \$7-\$10. 918-746-5065.

'Every Christmas Story Ever Told ...'

Tradition is one thing but three actors have had enough of spouting ersatz Charles Dickens at Christmas time. So they set out, just the three of them, to put on a show that mashes together every Christmas story ever told, where Frosty the Snowman can meet with George Bailey from "It's A Wonderful Life," or the Grinch can see what "A Charlie Brown Christmas" is like.

Sapulpa Community Theatre is presenting "Every Christmas Story Ever Told (And Then Some)," with performances 7:30 p.m. Friday-Saturday and Dec. 13-14, 2 p.m. Dec. 8 and 15, at the theater, 124 S. Water St.

Tickets are \$5-\$10. 918-227-2169.

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