

## Applause for Bach

To the Editor: My compliments to an outstanding performance of the Mass in B minor by Johann Sebastian Bach. I attended the performance by Lynn Sjolund and the Rogue Valley Chorale Sunday afternoon, Nov. 24, and was very pleased with the performance and the reaction of the very large audience — an instantaneous standing ovation.

The finest traditions of musical artistry were demonstrated by the 80-voice adult choir, the small but excellent orchestra and the four equally matched and outstanding vocal soloists.

This religious work was finally completed shortly before Bach's death (1750) and was not performed in its entirety until several years later. The Latin text and the expert writing of Bach make this one of the truly outstanding musical creations of our culture. As I listened to the musicians, led by Mr. Sjolund, recreate this major work some 200 years later, I realized this endeavor has to represent one of man's highest intellectual activities — artistic or otherwise!

I also was pleased to note the participation of several area music teachers — from Medford, Grants Pass, Eagle Point, Central Point and Ashland! Nice to see them pursuing their performance skills and at the same time contributing to the cultural climate of the valley.

Again — my congratulations to these and all the other fine musicians that produced this outstanding performance. It is so nice to be able to hear a work of this magnitude in the Rogue River Valley. Thank you all!

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