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BIG MOUTH SOCIETY PRESENTS THE PORTLAND PREMIERE OF THE GONZALEZ CANTATA
Politics, Corruption, Disgrace. Business As Usual.

Two performances only:
Saturday, October 13th, 7:30pm
Sunday, October 14th, 2:00pm

Mercy Corps Action Center
28 SW 1st Ave., Portland, OR 97204
Ticket pricing: Pay-as-you-can
Tickets on sale now at www.big-mouth.org

PORTLAND, OR, Sept. 10, 2018 — Just in time for election season, Big Mouth Society presents The Gonzales Cantata, a beautiful, inspiring and hilarious neo-baroque cantata that is based on the Senate Judiciary Committee hearings of former Attorney General Alberto Gonzales and predicts aspects of today’s political environment. Created by Australian-American composer Melissa Dunphy and with a sound reminiscent of PDQ Bach and Phil Kline, the cantata’s libretto is taken directly from transcripts of the Senate hearings and Gonzales’ resignation speech. Genders of the soloists have been reversed in relation to the characters they portray – sopranos sing Gonzales, Sen. Arlen Specter and Sen. Patrick Leahy, an alto Sen. Orrin Hatch, and a tenor Sen. Dianne Feinstein. The cantata is scored for a choir with soloists, string orchestra and harpsichord.

The Philadelphia Fringe Festival premiere of The Gonzales Cantata was featured in several national media outlets: RACHEL MADDOW [TRANSCRIPT], FOX NEWS, HUFFPO, NRO, WSJ, CHICAGO TRIBUNE, TPM, THE ATLANTIC, HARPERS, WQXR, OMNIA (UPENN), SEQUENZA 21.

Why reverse genders?
Composer Melissa Dunphy was shocked to discover that only one person on the 19-member Senate Judiciary Committee was a woman. Being an ardent feminist, she decided to highlight this imbalance by setting The Gonzales Cantata for a mostly female choir and reversing the genders of the soloists. This Big Mouth Society performance includes a cast of musicians from diverse and colorful communities.
About the cast:
Big Mouth Society is excited to present a stellar lineup of soloists and ensemble with singers and instrumentalists from Curious Voices, and students from Willamette University and Reed College.

The title role will be portrayed by international opera singer Maggie Finnegan, an avid performer and creator in contemporary music, and frequent performer with The Broken Consort.

Chairman Patrick Leahy will be portrayed by soprano Maria Karlin, a Portland favorite who sings in a multitude of leading ensembles, including Cappella, Resonance, Federale, and more.

Other senators will be sung by a great cast of Portland singers.

The chorus will be comprised of members of Big Mouth Society studio choirs and students from Reed College and Willamette University. It will also be accompanied by a professional string quartet and harpsichord player. The production will be curated and directed by award-winning composer and singer Emily Lau.

THE GONZALES CANTATA
Composed by Melissa Dunphy and Directed by Emily Lau
Presented by Big Mouth Society at Mercy Corps Action Center, 28 SW 1st Ave., Portland, OR 97204
Ticket pricing: Pay-as-you-can
Tickets on sale now at www.big-mouth.org
Saturday, October 13th at 7:30pm and Sunday, October 14th at 2:00pm

About Big Mouth Society:
Big Mouth Society is a Portland-based non-profit arts organization dedicated to community building and furthering political and social discourse through music and the arts. Big Mouth Society hosts choirs and other ensembles for community musicians, organizes informal salon gatherings with music performances and conversation, and produces cutting-edge works created and performed by world-class artists. The Gonzales Cantata is Big Mouth Society’s biggest presentation to date, and follows last spring’s daring Sirens, Interrupted! concerts, which touched on themes of joy, oppression and sexual assault. This season, Big Mouth Society will offer tickets to the general public on a pay-as-you-can basis, for example, payment equivalent to an hourly wage.

Together, we have power. Together, we can change the course. Come, laugh, and be inspired!

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