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## **ORPHEUS|PDX ANNOUNCES PARTNERSHIP WITH MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS SOCIETY OF PORTLAND**

**OrpheusPDX and the Multiple Sclerosis Society of Portland  
Collaborate on *Jacqueline* Opera Performance to Raise  
Awareness and Support**



[Download photos of \*Jacqueline\* by Dahlia Katz](#)

**May 28, 2025, Portland, OR** — OrpheusPDX, Portland’s newest professional opera company, is proud to announce a groundbreaking collaboration with the Multiple Sclerosis Society of Portland (MSSP), centered around performances of *Jacqueline*, an opera based on the life of legendary cellist Jacqueline du Prè, that explores themes of resilience, the human spirit, and the challenges of living with chronic illness.

*Jacqueline* follows the emotional journey of its titular character, whose life and career is dramatically altered by the onset of multiple sclerosis (MS). This opera speaks to the strength of individuals who face health battles, aligning with MSSP’s mission to support individuals living with MS in Oregon.

"At OrpheusPDX, we believe in the power of storytelling to foster empathy and bring attention to important causes," said **Christopher Mattaliano**, General and Artistic Director of **OrpheusPDX**. "Producing *Jacqueline* allows us to not only showcase the power of opera but also raise awareness in the community of the work done by MSSO and support individuals living with MS."

The performances will feature celebrated soprano Marnie Breckenridge and renowned cellist Matt Haimovitz, a protégé of du Pre. The collaboration will include pre-show talks, a post-performance Q&A with artists and audience members including guests from MSSO, and an opportunity to learn more about MS and the services MSSO provides.

"We are so happy to promote this inspiring partnership with OrpheusPDX," said **Tracy Neu**, Executive Director of the **Multiple Sclerosis Society of Portland**. "*Jacqueline* brings much-needed visibility to the experience of living with MS, and we're honored to be part of an event that uses the power of art to raise awareness and foster empathy in our community."

*Jacqueline* will be performed on August 23 at 7:30 pm and August 24 at 3 pm at Portland State University's Lincoln Performance Hall. Tickets are available for purchase at [orpheuspdx.org](http://orpheuspdx.org). OrpheusPDX is offering a discount of 50% to all members of MSSP. The collaboration between OrpheusPDX and MSSP underscores the power of the arts to inspire change and provide critical support for those affected by multiple sclerosis.

Following each performance, audience members are invited to attend a special post-show Q&A session with General and Artistic Director Christopher Mattaliano, featured performers, and members of the MSSO. Held just moments after the curtain falls, this informal gathering offers a unique opportunity to engage directly with the artists—ask questions, share your impressions, and gain behind-the-scenes insights into the life of a professional opera performer.

For more information about OrpheusPDX and *Jacqueline*, visit [orpheuspdx.org](http://orpheuspdx.org). To learn more about the Multiple Sclerosis Society of Portland, visit [msoregon.org](http://msoregon.org).

## **JACQUELINE**

Luna Pearl Woolf, Composer

Royce Vavrek, Librettist

Saturday, August 23, 2025, 7:30 pm

Sunday, August 24, 2025, 3:00 pm

Lincoln Hall, 1620 SW Park Ave., Portland, OR

Sung in English with English surtitles

*Jacqueline* is a new opera about legendary cellist Jacqueline du Pré. A musical maverick, du Pré captivated audiences with her passionate playing and radiant charisma. By the age of 20, she was performing with the world's finest orchestras. When she married conductor and pianist Daniel Barenboim, the dazzling couple became the Jackie and JFK of the classical world. Yet in 1971, du Pré began to lose feeling in her fingers. This opera portrays her journey with multiple sclerosis, illuminated by an emotional score that draws audiences into the soul of an artist whose music and spirit continue to resonate.

## **ORPHEUS|PDX**

Inspired by the legend of Orpheus and Eurydice, where Orpheus' singing is so beautiful that even the savage beasts of Hades are moved to tears, Portland's new opera company, OrpheusPDX, aspires to do the same—to touch the very soul of the community through the power of great music and singing. The powerful experience of live opera is enhanced by OrpheusPDX's venue, the intimate, 472-seat Lincoln Performance Hall Theater, where audiences can enjoy an enriching and personal experience with some of the best acoustics in the city. OrpheusPDX is committed to both honoring tradition and exploring new directions by presenting one opera from a well-loved Bel Canto composer and one from the body of great modern works that move and excite today's audiences—thus providing them with the best of both operatic worlds each season.

## **MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS SOCIETY OF PORTLAND**

In 1949, a woman battling the symptoms of Multiple Sclerosis couldn't attend her child's school play at Franklin High School. With neither a ramp nor wheelchair transportation, she was literally a prisoner in her own home. Her

plight came to the attention of the Columbia Lions Club. The members decided something had to be done to help the Portland-area community of people with MS. With their help and diligence, the Multiple Sclerosis Society of Portland, Oregon, Inc., was born. MSSP was created as an organization with just one mission: to improve the lives of individuals, and their families, affected by Multiple Sclerosis. To meet that mission and promise, MSSP has developed a host of unique client-oriented programs.

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