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Calling All Singers: Enter the first ever “Oregon History Idol” competition for your chance to sing Oregon’s state song at the February 14th Blazer game.

Portland, OR – January 26, 2012 – Think you’ve got what it takes to be the first “Oregon History Idol?” Then sign up to enter a brand new singing contest presented by the Oregon Historical Society and the Portland Trail Blazers. The individual who is crowned “Oregon History Idol” will receive the once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to sing our state song, “Oregon, My Oregon,” at the Blazer game on Oregon’s birthday. The Blazers will be taking on the Washington Wizards on Tuesday, February 14 at 7 PM.

Interested contestants should come to the Oregon Historical Society (1200 SW Park Ave., Portland 97205) on Sunday, February 12, where we will be hosting an afternoon of tryouts. Registration is from 1:30 – 2 PM, and auditions will begin at 2 PM.

Each contestant will be asked to sing the first stanza of “Oregon, My Oregon,” and finalists will be selected for a final sing-off to see who will be crowned “Oregon History Idol,” and sing at center court of the Rose Garden Arena.

Contest details can be found at WWW.OHS.ORG. Please email communications@ohs.org with any questions about the contest.

Talented Oregonians - start working on your vocal exercises and get ready to show your state pride at the Oregon Historical Society on February 12.

About the Oregon Historical Society

The Society has served since 1898 as Oregon's primary research collection and museum about Oregon history. OHS has an extensive collection of historical pieces, including over 85,000 artifacts and 3 million photographs and films. It safeguards and presents Oregon's history through a museum, research library, traveling exhibits, school programs and website content.

About "Oregon, My Oregon"

From the Oregon History Project

Written by Kathy Tucker, 2002

In 1920, John A. Buchanan and Henry B. Murtagh won an Oregon state song contest state with their entry, *Oregon, My Oregon*. The Society of Oregon Composers, which sponsored the competition, then planned a campaign to promote the song around the state through performances of all-male and all-female quartets at schools, universities, and public gathering halls. The State Superintendent of Public Instruction also endorsed the song. In 1927, the Oregon State Legislature officially selected *Oregon, My Oregon* as the state song. Buchanan, an Astoria city judge, wrote the words and Murtagh, a professional musician, composed the music. Many Oregon youth learned the song in their grade school classes.

The lyrics of the song glorify Oregon as the "land of the empire builders" that was "conquered and held by free men." The song also refers to the state as a place of health and vigor that is "blest by the blood of martyrs."

"Oregon, My Oregon"

Land of the Empire Builders, Land of the Golden West;
Conquered and held by free men, Fairest and the best.
On-ward and upward ever, Forward and on, and on;
Hail to thee, Land of the Heroes, My Oregon.

Land of the rose and sunshine, Land of the summer's breeze;
Laden with health and vigor, Fresh from the Western seas.
Blest by the blood of martyrs, Land of the setting sun;
Hail thee, Land of Promise, My Oregon.