

**For Immediate Release**

**Contact: Carol Howard 503-244-9900 ext. 2097**

[carol\\_howard@opb.org](mailto:carol_howard@opb.org)

**An OPB Original Production**

**OREGON ART BEAT Begins Sixth Season With Exclusive Behind-The-Scenes  
Look at an Oregon Symphony Rehearsal With New Director Carlos Kalmar**

Oregon Public Broadcasting's Emmy-award winning show, OREGON ART BEAT, returns for a sixth season September 23 at 8pm on the stations of Oregon Public Broadcasting. Jeff Douglas and KC Cowan host a new season of profiles on Oregon artists from all across the state.

The season premiere features a profile on the Oregon Symphony's new conductor, Carlos Kalmar. OREGON ART BEAT producer Jessica Martin was given unprecedented access to Kalmar during rehearsals with the symphony. They were working on Gustav Mahler's Symphony No. 2 in C minor "Resurrection." This is a monumental work that Kalmar says he has always wanted to conduct. He describes the piece as "a huge undertaking" but one of the great musical experiences.

"It was fascinating to see the true process that goes into bringing to life a major symphonic work," says Martin. "To our knowledge, no television crew has ever been allowed to tape how intimately the conductor works with the musicians – how he uses his voice, his hands and even his body to pull out the exact musical emotion he's looking for." We hope our story can capture some of what Kalmar and the orchestra do to transform the notes on the score into an emotional musical experience for the audience."

Also featured on the premiere show is artist Amanda Blake. She used to have to waitress to make ends meet, but now her work is starting to get some attention, her sales are increasing and she's able to paint full time. Her imagery comes from some pretty unusual place.

"Throughout the season we'll present a great variety of stories, as usual," said Douglas, who also is the show's executive director. "Our producers have been traveling the state looking for talented and unusual artists to showcase.

"People often ask us how we choose our subjects for the show, but we're not in any danger of running out of ideas," Douglas said. "Not only do recommendations continue to come in nearly every day, but I don't think a single one of our producers has ever gone out to meet one artist without coming back with at least one more name for a possible story!"

Among the artists viewers will see this upcoming season are painter Ann Ruttan, singer Cindy Lou Banks, Maiolica pottery painter Connie Kiener and Gyotaku artist Annie O'Mohondro.

“These are all artists I was privileged to profile,” said ART BEAT co-host and producer, KC Cowan. “One of the things I love about my job is that it gives me the opportunity to meet so many artists working in so many different areas. I’ve learned so much about art since working on ART BEAT!”

“And we love exposing our viewers to all this knowledge,” she added. “We pride ourselves on bringing our viewers real diversity. In a single show you might see a classically trained musician, an up-and-coming painter and someone who builds furniture – each with a fascinating story.”

Other new segments from around Oregon this season will include a profile on multi-talented artist Dan Chen of Eugene; sculptor Peny Wallace of Mosier and glass artist Peter McCrain of Bingen.

OREGON ART BEAT, Oregon Public Broadcasting's local arts series, is in its sixth season. In the Mountain Time Zone of Eastern Oregon, the program airs at 8pm Thursdays and repeats at 6pm on Sundays. OREGON ART BEAT also airs over the stations of KSYS in Southern Oregon. This program airs one week behind OPB's schedule. More information is available online at [opb.org/artbeat](http://opb.org/artbeat).

Oregon Public Broadcasting is a statewide network of community-supported learning resources including OPB Television, an affiliate of the Public Broadcasting Service (PBS) and OPB Radio, presenting local news coverage and the programs of National Public Radio (NPR) and Public Radio International (PRI). The OPB Web site is [opg.org](http://opg.org).