



June, 2023

Eugene Masonic Cemetery Association eNewsletter



"Last Sunday" Open House



We'll be hosting our monthly "Last Sunday" Open House this coming Sunday, June 25, in Hope Abbey Mausoleum. The doors will be open for visitors from 1 to 4 p.m., and there will be two knowledgeable Board members present to answer questions about the mausoleum and the cemetery.

Park on city streets because there is no general public parking on the cemetery grounds. Hope Abbey is the large concrete structure at the end of E. 26th Avenue.

Music at the Eugene Masonic Cemetery



We're ready with a schedule of live music at the Eugene Masonic Cemetery. Your favorites: *Music to Die For* and the outdoor *Music On the Square*. You'll find full information on both programs listed below.

Hope Abbey Mystery Solved

A recurring question among members of the Masonic Cemetery Association has been the disparity between the death dates of some of the inhabitants of Hope Abbey, and the date of dedication of the mausoleum itself.

Hope Abbey was dedicated on Decoration Day (the precursor of Memorial Day) in 1914. However, some of the niches are marked with dates of demise going back to 1910, four years prior to the mausoleum's dedication. How could this be?

Diving into the history of construction of Hope Abbey provides the answer. The earliest mention of the Abbey occurs in the Eugene Daily Guard of October 5, 1912. At that point, the mausoleum has been planned and a site selected. A description of the interior plan is included, though no mention of the Egyptian Revival style is included—perhaps exterior decoration was a later thought?

Following this initial mention, the construction went forward at a steady pace. Mausoleum space was heavily marketed in the Guard, and remarks on the "sanitary" and "dignified" interment in mausoleums instead of in the ground were many and from various sources including Abraham Lincoln, who is quoted in an advertisement. One remark even goes so far as to suggest that ground interment should cease and that all people should be encrypted above ground! Of course, this didn't happen here, although it continues to be a common practice in low lying, swampy areas of the world. [Read more here.](#)

Music To Die For



Music To Die For Concert Series 2023

July 9: **Clefs of Insanity**: a cappella ensemble
August 13: **David Gross**: guitar and vocal, with featured guests
September 10: UO Oregon Collegium Musicum, Gamba Consort
October 8: **The Ineffable Bassoon Trio** (enough said)

—Clefs of Insanity—

Their offerings include works by composers living—Ola Gjeilo, Richard Burchard, and our own Blake Hodgetts—and dead—Faure, Duruflie and Ralph Vaughan Williams—a resurrected favorite from seasons past by Lauridsen, a pop classic rejuvenated by Pentatonix, and a song of resistance which has invigorated populist movements for seventy years, more recently in the trenches in Ukraine.

Concerts begin at 2 p.m. and finish about 3 p.m. Hope Abbey will remain open for visitors until 4 p.m., so plan on staying after the concert if you wish. Please park on city streets because there is no general public parking on the cemetery grounds.

Music on the Square



The musical offerings by the Eugene Masonic Cemetery Association are expanding. We've experimented with presenting live music in the Public Square at the top of the hill in past summer seasons. These worked so well that we've programmed a full season of outdoor music. Thanks to Board Member Sheri Pyron, we have a delightful summer series of *Music on the Square*. Please note that these outdoor programs are separate

from the *Music To Die For* performances held in Hope Abbey. These outdoor concerts will begin at 6 p.m.

As always, both *Music On The Square* and *Music To Die For* are free, but donations are gladly accepted for cemetery maintenance.

Here's what's coming up.

Music on The Square Concert Series 2023

July 2: **Swing Shift** A jazz oriented big band (**Begins at 5 p.m.**)
August 6: **Kef Balkan Band** Balkan dance band
September: **24 Blugene Brass**

Most concerts begin at 6 p.m., Rain or Shine. **Please note that because of a scheduling conflict, the Swing Shift performance will begin at 5 p.m.**

Bring a chair and a picnic supper if you wish.

—Swing Shift—

The Swing Shift Jazz Orchestra is a 17-piece big band that plays a wide variety of traditional and progressive big band jazz. Throughout its nearly 44-year history, SSJO has been entertaining audiences in the Eugene-Springfield area and Oregon.

Please park on city streets because there is no general public parking on the cemetery grounds.

John Bredesen, eNewsletter Editor
Eugene Masonic Cemetery Association

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Mission Statement

To restore, rehabilitate, maintain, interpret and operate the historic Eugene Masonic Cemetery and Hope Abbey Mausoleum as a cultural and natural resource for the community.

The cemetery is operated for the public benefit,
but it is private property.
(A 501(c)(3) non-profit organization)



Eugene Masonic Cemetery
ASSOCIATION

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