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## **Oregon youth selected to participate in the 55<sup>th</sup> Presidential Inauguration in Washington D.C.**

The Presidential Inaugural Committee has invited Ring of Fire, a handbell choir based in Hillsboro, Ore. to perform on a float in the 55<sup>th</sup> Inaugural Parade in Washington D.C. on January 20, 2005. Parade participants come from 45 states and will perform for thousands lining Pennsylvania Avenue. The 2-hour traveling performance culminates with a passing of the Presidential viewing area where they will play for President Bush and other US dignitaries.

Ring of Fire is honored to be the only musical group from Washington or Oregon selected to participate in the Inaugural festivities.

In addition to the parade performance, Ring of Fire have been selected to share their unique music at a special Inaugural Candlelight dinner attended by the President and First Lady in the National Building Museum's Great Hall. The Hall was completed in 1887 with impressive Italian Renaissance design and has some of the tallest interior Corinthian columns in the world.

### ***Media Day***

Ring of Fire musicians will be available on **Monday, January 17** for interviews and footage of the group preparing for this great honor at an all day rehearsal and polishing/packing session at the *Glen and Viola Walters Hillsboro Cultural Arts Center*. There will be a small informal send-off performance at 5 pm from the Cultural Arts Center for sponsors, media, and area guests.

### ***About Ring of Fire***

Ring of Fire is a group of thirteen musicians ages 14 -17 who attend various schools in the metro area, including Century High School and Tualatin Valley Junior Academy in Hillsboro, and Portland Adventist Academy in Portland. The group is an independent self-funded organization based in Hillsboro and directed by its founder, Jason Wells.

Four years ago Ring of Fire was selected to represent Oregon while participating in the Inaugural events as a stationary act along the parade route. The scene of 13 youth playing their hearts out on 63 handbells against a backdrop of thousands prompted a national attention with an article in the Wall Street Journal. Ring of Fire was also honored to play at the Inaugural Ball in the Ronald Reagan Federal Building.

It was just 9 months after those performances that ROF found themselves again on the east coast, yet this time under such far different circumstances. Just after 9-11 they traveled to New York City where they played in special services in St. Patrick's Cathedral and with the US Army Orchestra in Washington DC near the Pentagon.

Since its beginning 8 years ago, Ring of Fire has performed in 33 states, 6 countries, and with many national artists and musical organizations including the Oregon Symphony and recently with the Boston Pops in Symphony Hall.

Ring of Fire's name comes from both the geography of the Northwest from which they proudly come and from the unique fiery brand of handbell ringing they bring to the art.

*For more information, please visit the following sites:*

An official list of the 55<sup>th</sup> Inaugural Parade participants can be found on the 2005 Presidential Inaugural website:

<http://www.inaugural05.com>

Media Day at the Hillsboro Cultural Arts Center – Monday, January 17, 2005 from 11 am – 6 pm:

<http://www.ci.hillsboro.or.us/WCAC/History.aspx>

Photos and Graphics can be downloaded from the Ring of Fire Press Kit

<http://www.rof.org/press>

Ring of Fire's Inaugural Trip Schedule:

<http://www.rof.org/news/inauguration05>

Thanks for your help in sharing this exciting news!

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