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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**TIM JANIS CELEBRATE AMERICA ACROSS MONTANA PBS SPECIAL – THURSDAY, MARCH 8, 2018 – 7:00 PM**

BIGFORK HIGH SCHOOL JOINS RENOWN COMPOSER/PRODUCER TIM JANIS AND 12 OTHER MONTANA HIGH SCHOOL CHOIRS – **THURSDAY, MARCH 8, 2018 AT 7:00 PM on MONTANA PBS - KSUM-TV/and KUFM-TV** FOR TIM JANIS’ 7th **“CELEBRATE AMERICA ACROSS MONTANA”** PBS SPECIAL. IT STREAMS ONLINE WORLDWIDE AT THE SAME TIME. CATCH IT AGAIN ON SUNDAY, MARCH 11 AT 5:30 PM AND FRIDAY, MARCH 16 AT 10:30 AM.

Bigfork High School joins Tim Janis in Celebrate America for the second year! Bigfork High School again joins the ranks of over 42,000 of our nation’s most outstanding young performers who have participated in this unique public television project. The Bigfork High School Choir will perform in Celebrate America on Thursday, March 8, 2018 at 7:00 PM on Montana PBS KSUM-TV and KUFM-TV. It also streams online worldwide on March 8th at 7:00 PM so family friends and fans across the world can watch. See it again on Sunday, March 11th at 5:30 pm and Friday, March 16th at 10:30 am.

“Celebrate America” is a national program designed to give our nation’s youth a life enhancing opportunity by showcasing their choirs on Public Television” says Janis. The production and filming of this event is made possible through both the hard work and dedication of Montana PBS, music educators and Tim Janis.

“Contributing to community through the arts has always been a big part of Public Television’s contribution to the community,” says Janis.

"As I have come back to Montana for the seventh time with "Celebrate America" I am once again inspired by the incredible talent and commitment of both the music students and music educators. I also have to add that Montana PBS is extremely dedicated to the community it serves – and that, along with its members, makes this wonderful opportunity available,” said Janis.

In the fall of 2017, 13 high school choirs were selected to participate in the televised series “Celebrate America” from around the area. Bigfork High School elected to perform the ever popular “Be Thou My Vision” under the direction of **Skyberg Thorensen** in the Celebrate America program.

The choirs were taped in January 2018 at the KUSM-MontanaPBS studio in Bozeman.

Arriving well-prepared and very professional, each choir came into the studio at prearranged times to record their performance.

“Wow! We had an incredibly fun Celebrate America 2018 event last weekend!  It was terrific having 13 different high schools visit and record LIVE in the studio over two days with Tim Janis.  All of us at MontanaPBS were honored to have so many young, talented musicians share their voices with us,” said Erika Matsuda of MontanaPBS.

Janis says, “Public Television is an invaluable resource for staying connected to local programs and the community. Montana PBS programming helps to bring the community together.”

Tim Janis is respected and well known for the work he defines as “Music of Hope.” His career has extraordinary and inspiring highlights which include producing and supporting many philanthropic projects with artists such as Sir Paul McCartney, Billy Joel, Ray Charles, Andre Previn, and The New York Philharmonic. Janis has also produced fund raising programs for PBS along with George Clooney and James Earl Jones; and 12 annual Carnegie Hall benefit Christmas concerts for causes such as Kate Winslet’s Golden Hat Foundation which helps those living with Autism and Sarah McLachlan’s School of Music for youth and seniors that face barriers in their access to music education.

Tim Janis, Bigfork High School and Montana PBS invite you to listen, watch and "Celebrate America" on Thursday, March 8th at 7:00 PM on Montana PBS. The program streams online at the same time. Catch it again on Sunday, March 11th at 5:30 pm and Friday, March 16th at 10:30 pm.

During the broadcast, the choir that inspires the most PBS memberships or pledges will receive a prize. DVDS and CDs of the broadcast will be offered as pledge gifts during the broadcast.

Highlights and video clips from past Celebrate America broadcasts and additional information can be found at [www.timjanis.com](http://www.timjanis.com/) and on Tim Janis’ Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/officialtimjanis>

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**Contacts/Links/More Information**

Direct link with high resolution images of all participating choirs.

[http://www.montanapbs.org/CelebrateAmericaAcrossMontana/701/pressroom/](http://www.montanapbs.org/celebrateamericaacrossmontana/701/pressroom/)

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Tim Janis Music of Hope/Celebrate America

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**Featured Choirs in the 2018 Program:**

**Anaconda** High School under the direction of Kimberly Lorengo, singing “Garten Mothers Lullaby,” **Big Fork** High School under the direction of Skyberg Thorensen, singing “Be Thou My Vision**,” Choteau** High Schoolunder the direction of Lorran Depner, singing “Move Mountains,” **Corvallis** High School under the direction of Nancy Brown, singing “Amazing Grace,” **Frenchtown** High School under the direction of Brendan McGlynn, singing “The Storm is Passing Over.” **Great Falls Central Catholic** High School under the direction of Karlene Schraner, singing “We Shall Overcome**,” Hamilton** High School under the direction of Peggy Bucheit, singing “Hark, I Hear the Harps Eternal,” **Hardin** High School under the direction of Maggie Ratliff, singing “Shenandoah**,” Manhattan** High School under the direction of Becky Frank singing “Prayer of the Children,” **Mt. Ellis** Academy under the direction of Leisel Rogers, singing “On Eagles Wings,” **Powell** High School under the direction of Karen Herrin, singing “America the Beautiful**,” Power** High School under the direction of Stacy Yeldell, singing “In the Bleak Midwinter,”and **Sacajawea** Middle School under the direction ofCharlotte Colliver, singing “Bugle Boy.”

**Upcoming Air Dates:**

* Thursday, 03/08 at 6:59pm
* Saturday, 03/10 at 12:30am
* Sunday, 03/11 at 5:30pm
* Friday, 03/16 at 10:30am
* MTPBS website <http://www.montanapbs.org/CelebrateAmericaAcrossMontana/>