

For Immediate Release: Oct 10, 2009
RE: Press Release
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POETRY WITH JAZZ CONCERT: October 23, 2009 at 7:30 pm at Columbia Center for the Arts “SENTIMENTAL JOURNEY” a Concert with Poetry and Jazz, presented by **LAWSON FUSAO INADA**, Oregon’s Poet Laureate, with award-winning, Portland-based jazz artists, **Larry Nobori** on alto sax and clarinet, **Rick Homer**, whose father wrote the famous standard, on trumpet and melophone, **Andre St. James**, acoustic bass, vocalist, **Nola Bogle**, and internationally acclaimed, musician/composer, pianist, **Gordon Lee**.

The program explores the theme of finding new ways home for the internment camps of WWII, and how Inada’s memories of hearing jazz in the camps has influenced his life and writing ever since. The theme that runs throughout is about having resilience while dealing with profound loss, and finding hope for a better future.

Inspired by his love of jazz, **Mr. Inada’s** compelling verses, intertwined with the improvisations in the music weave a parallel, “*Sentimental Journey*” between the music, and lives redirected by circumstance. The program is both evocative and humorous, blending the rhythms and emotions of jazz, with Inada’s poignant, playful and memorable words.

Inada has won two poetry fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts and was awarded a Guggenheim Fellowship for poetry in 2004. He is a winner of the Pushcart Prize for poetry, a Governor’s Arts Award and the Oregon Book Award. In addition to being an emeritus professor of writing at Southern Oregon University, he is Steinbeck Chair at the National Steinbeck Center in Salinas, California. **Inada’s** *Legends From Camp*, won the National Book Award in 1992.

Tickets are \$10 and available online at www.columbiaarts.org and at Columbia Arts 215 Cascade Ave. Hood River and Waucoma Bookstore. For more information visit our website at www.columbiaarts.org or call Catherine Butler 541-387-8877 ext 117. Columbia Arts is located at 215 Cascade Ave, downtown Hood River. Columbia Arts is a non-profit organization whose mission is to promote an arts rich environment in the Columbia Gorge.

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