



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## Salem Siblings Featured at Upcoming Concert

### *The Duo Attend Virtual School for Flexible Schedule*

Scio, OR (April 19, 2010) -- Music lovers are in for a treat on Sunday April 25<sup>th</sup> at Salem's historic Ellsinore Theater. **The brother-sister team of Zachary and Ariana Parks will perform George Gershwin's "Rhapsody in Blue" on two pianos.**

This dynamic duo is among the featured acts at the Rising Stars concert sponsored by the Salem Community Concert Association. **The show starts at 3 PM on the 25<sup>th</sup> at the Ellsinore located at 170 High St SE in Salem.**

Both of these special musicians attend [Oregon Connections Academy](#) (ORCA), the state's largest online public charter school. "ORCA has allowed the flexibility and time that they need to continue to grow in their musical abilities and take full advantage of the opportunities that arise," said Zachary and Ariana's mother Shelly Parks. The family lives in Salem.

Zachary is a junior in high school and Ariana is in ninth grade at Oregon Connections Academy. Both learned to play the piano around the age of five. They have won numerous awards at the Oregon State Junior Bach Festival and as a team they have received several medals at the Oregon State Ensemble Festival.

"Zachary is an inspiring student," said Stephanie Imig, a high school English Teacher at ORCA. "He is motivated, curious, and strives for the highest standards. He continually looks for ways to improve, and delves deeply into the course material. His academic work captures the true spirit of inquiry."

"Ariana is a very proactive and personable student," explained Jim Keehn, who teaches middle and high school math at Oregon Connections Academy. "She attends LiveLessons and open office sessions and never hesitates to contact me if she has questions. She is a delight to have in class."

"I love being able to not only touch the people listening, but experience the thrill of playing at the same time," said Zachary. Ariana added, "music is my life. I hear music, see music and feel music."

## **About Oregon Connections Academy**

Oregon Connections Academy is a charter school that serves students in Oregon state-wide in grades K-12. It opened in August 2005 after being authorized by the Scio School District 95C and is accredited by the Northwest Association of Colleges and Schools. The school is a non-profit institution that is governed by an independent volunteer board of directors. The school is operated under contract to Connections Academy, a leading national provider of high-quality, highly accountable virtual public schools in fourteen states operated in partnership with charter schools, school districts, and state departments of education. Connections Academy schools deliver top quality, personalized education for students that combines certified teachers, a proven curriculum, technology tools, and community experiences to create a supportive and successful environment for children who want an individualized approach to education. In Connections Academy's Personalized Performance Learning® approach, students use daily lesson plans and curriculum materials provided by Connections Academy.

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