



NEWS RELEASE FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – June 26, 2009

For more information, contact:

Susan Sheoships, Education Coordinator

E-Mail: tci.education@tamastslíkt.org

TEL (541)966-9748

TAMÁSTSLIKT CULTURAL INSTITUTE

CONFEDERATED TRIBES OF THE UMATILLA INDIAN RESERVATION

72789 Hwy 331

Pendleton, OR 97801

www.tamastslíkt.org

ETHNOMUSICOLOGIST TO LECTURE AT TAMÁSTSLIKT

(Mission, OR) Dr. Chad Hamill, Ethnomusicologist and Assistant Professor at Northern Arizona University, will lecture at Tamástslíkt Cultural Institute, Pendleton, Oregon, at 1:00 pm, July 25, 2009. His presentation is entitled, *Spiritual Symbiosis: The Jesuit, the Medicine Man, and the Power of Song*. It is a free public lecture.

Having been immersed in Native American song and ceremony over the past thirteen years, Chad Hamill, a descendant of the Spokane Tribe, has more recently brought his experience into the study of traditional music of the Columbia Plateau. He tells the story of the ongoing relationships between the Jesuit fathers and Spokani spiritual leaders. Dr. Hamill's dissertation, "Songs from Spirit: Power and Prayer in the Columbia Plateau" focused on the traditional Plateau song, its development and history. Dr. Hamill was fortunate to have the guidance of a number of longhouse leaders during fieldwork and research and his talk is aimed at honoring them and the tradition they carry. However, he stresses that he does not bring to the public forum any discussion of things that belong in the longhouse and among the initiated. For example, the stickgame was an important part of tribal life in which singers and songs could overpower one another.

Hamill has taught college-level courses in indigenous music since 1998 at California Institute of the Arts, Naropa University, and the University of Colorado-Boulder, while presenting papers at numerous national and international conferences, including the Society for Ethnomusicology and the Cultural Diversity in Music Education symposium. Hamill is also a performer in the classical vocal tradition of northern India, studying and performing in the United States and India.

Contact Tamástslíkt Cultural Institute at (541)966-9748 or visit www.tamastslíkt.org for more information. Tamástslíkt Cultural Institute is owned and operated by the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation. Tamástslíkt is located at the very end of the main driveway of the Wildhorse Resort & Casino, 10 minutes east of Pendleton, Oregon. Tamástslíkt can be reached via Exit 216 off Interstate I-84 or by following the "Mission-LaGrande" sign south off Highway 11. In addition to the museum and interpretive center, Tamástslíkt operates a museum store, café, and meeting room rentals.