

PIANO: Renowned pianist is touring through Northwest

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That evening during the performance, he saw a couple holding hands far off, walking along the water with their headphones on.

“I just liked imagining that I was connected to them,” he said.

He noted that many people today are accustomed to hearing classical music in film, where it is used specifically to prod their emotions while “there’s something visually happening.” Headphones offer a similar experience to Noack’s audiences.

“Because the landscape is changing, the music becomes a soundtrack to whatever they’re seeing... it heightens everybody’s senses,” he said. “What I hear from people is that they’re feeling more, seeing more vivid colors. It has that effect because it’s live and immediate, and blocks out other noises.”

Noack also appreciates that the headphones and landscape deflect the audience’s visual attention away from him. An impeccably dressed, charming 30-year-old, he seems at ease being the object of attention. However, he

said, “I’m not the most physically dramatic performer, so I love that people have the option to watch me or not.”

As the evening progressed, Noack responded to the changing weather, light, and mood. Toward the end, inspired by the wind, he played “Un Suspiro” (“A Sigh”) by Franz Liszt, arpeggios soaring up and down the keyboard while birds and dragonflies soared overhead.

After the performance, audience members were encouraged to scramble up onto the flatbed and experience the piano’s buttery action under their own fingers. The event’s friendly feel and outdoor environment made the instrument seem much less imposing than it might in a concert hall. Even children’s improvisations and halting renditions of “Für Elise” sounded warm and powerful.

The nine-foot 1912 Steinway has its own devoted roadie, piano technician/musician Cameron Edens. He tunes and maintains the Steinway for hours each time it is moved—which during this leg of the tour was every day. “In a Landscape” continues this month, heading from Central Oregon to the Wallowas and ending at Sacajawea Historical State Park in Washington on September 21.

RAPTORS: Participants can learn from longtime birders

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Society’s 15th Green Ridge Fall Raptor Survey will kick off the weekend of September 21-22, followed by September 28-29 and the first three weekends of October.

“Our goal is to catch peak migration, but the third weekend of October can be touch-and-go due to weather,” said naturalist and birder David Vick, who has been helping to run the raptor survey for over 15 years and has this to say: “We welcome all visitors and volunteers, as the more eyes to the sky the better to assist in spotting and tracking migrants.”

Due to changes in climate there have been many things happening within bird populations in this part of North America. Southern species are being observed in places they have never frequented before, and there is a good chance these changes will be seen among the migrating raptors.

There is no better time to observe these changes and learn who-is-who among migratory raptors than to rub shoulders with birders who have been watching and



PHOTO BY JIM ANDERSON

Sub-adult bald eagle.

counting them for years.

The public is invited to grab binoculars and scope and follow David Vick’s instructions: “Come up for an hour or stay the day but either way, the scenery and other species are sure to please — plus it’s a fun way to hone one’s skills in identifying raptors at distance.”

“Mornings often start slow, with numbers building up as the afternoon progresses and winds help the birds along. The last eight miles to the site are dirt roads, but can be easily navigated by any passenger car. Detailed information

and directions can be found on ECAS’s excellent website: WWW.ecaudubon.org under the ‘Projects’ tab. Hope to see you there!”

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