

Oregon Mozart Players' fourth concert to feature Stravinsky, Vivaldi

Vivaldi's Four Seasons

The Oregon Mozart Players will present their fourth concert of the season on Saturday, Jan. 10, at 8:30 pm in the Hult Center's Soreng Theatre. The concert will be repeated the next day, Sunday, Jan. 11, at the University of Oregon's Beall Hall at 2:30 pm. The concert will feature two of the Players' violinists, serving both as soloists and conductors. William Hunt will perform *Spring* and *Summer* from Antonio Vivaldi's *The Four Seasons*, and Sharon Smith will perform *Autumn* and *Winter*. Also on the program will be Stravinsky's *Dances Concertantes*, conducted by Music Director Robert Hurwitz.

"Harmony Vs. Invention"

The *Four Seasons* are the most famous concerti from a set of 12 violin concertos which Vivaldi labeled *The Contest Between Harmony and Invention*. These concertos, and many others, were written for some of Vivaldi's students. Vivaldi taught music at a girls' school in Venice, the Seminario Musicale dell' Ospitale della

Pieta, in addition to composing and performing as a violinist. Each of the *Seasons* is described in a sonnet of Vivaldi's own creation, and the music very accurately reflects the verbal descriptions, which Vivaldi wrote into the score, line by line, at the appropriate points. Despite numerous bird calls, winds, rainstorms, hunting scenes, etc. described in the music, Vivaldi was able to maintain the strict formal structure characteristic of his other concertos in these unusual and charming works.

William Hunt has served as Concertmaster of the Mozart Players since the orchestra's founding. A native of Eugene, he studied violin with Lawrence Maves and chamber music with Robert Hladky at the University of Oregon, where he received his Bachelor's degree. Hunt later earned his Master's degree in violin performance from North Texas State University, studying with James Lerch. He is currently a member of the faculties of North Eugene High School and Lane Community College, and performs with the Oregon String Quartet.



Sharon Smith is a founding member of the Oregon Mozart Players and will be a featured violinist in their January 10th concert.

Sharon Smith, Soloist

Sharon Smith, a native of Portland, is a member of the Eugene Symphony and the Oregon Bach Festival Orchestra. A founding member of the Oregon Mozart Players, she has often performed with the Players as

a soloist. She holds both Bachelor's and Master's degrees in violin performance from the University of Oregon. Ms. Smith is an active and highly successful teacher who has given many string workshops and has served as an adjudicator for contests throughout the state. Her students have won both state and national competitions.

Stravinsky's Dances Concertantes

The *Dances Concertantes*, by Igor Stravinsky, was written in Hollywood during 1941-42, and Stravinsky conducted the premiere in 1942. The composition was written as abstract ballet music with no connection to any specific imagery, subject matter, or actual dance. The work begins with a bustling introductory march, next comes a *Pas d'Action*, which is in rondo form. The third movement consists of a theme and set of character variations, while the fourth is an *Andante* with both contrasting and recurring episodes. The finale is a restatement of the opening march.

Throughout the work there are reminiscences of *L'Histoire du Soldat* and of Stravinsky's earlier suites for small orchestra, with their slapstick polkas, waltzes and gavottes, but the orchestra is more lightly handled and the ironic twists less biting.

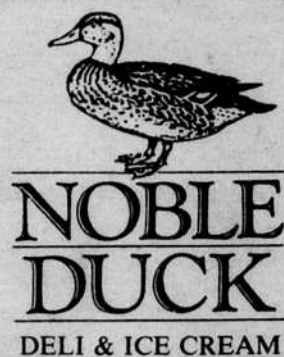
This concert is made possible in part by a grant from the Oregon Arts Commission and the National Endowment for the Arts, and by a purchase by the City of Eugene Room Tax Fund.

Tickets for the Soreng Theatre concert, at \$9.50, \$7.50 and \$6.00, are available from the Hult Center Box Office (687-5000). Tickets for the Beall Hall concert, at \$3 students, \$6 adults, and \$1.50 for children, are available at the EMU Main Desk Ticket Office (686-4363), the LCC Box Office (726-2202), and the Hult Center Box Office.

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