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SPOTLIGHT

Quartet, ballet top weekend calendar

By H.C. Hutto
Entertainment Editor

In addition to The Mozart Players, several other arts related activities are scheduled this weekend.

Quatuor Via Nova, an acclaimed French string quartet, will perform in concert Sunday at 8 p.m. in Beall Concert Hall. This quartet has won several prestigious international prizes and have appeared at the Julliard Quartet.

The concert is being presented as part of the University's chamber music series. The assistant manager of the series, Rebecca Carey, said that the quartet lives up to their billing.

"It says on our publicity that Quatuor Via Nova's interpretation of their music is as fresh as it is intense, and that's very true," Carey said.

Carey said that the chamber music series is very careful to select musicians of the highest caliber.

"We always make sure we either listen to the musicians in person or hear their records before we schedule them to appear in one of our concerts," she said.

The chamber quartet is composed of Jean Mouillere, first violin; Jean-Tierre Sabouret, second violin; Claude Naveau, viola; and Jean-Marie Gamard, cello.

The first piece scheduled to be performed by Quatuor Via Nova is a serenade for string quartet composed by Nero Wolff. The second piece is quartet in E minor, opus 12, composed by Gabriel Faure.

After an intermission, the quartet start the second half of the concert by performing Beethoven's Quartet number 12 in E flat major, opus 121.

Tickets for the concert are \$5 and \$3 and are available from the Hult Center box office and at

the door of the evening.

Also scheduled this weekend is the Eugene Ballet company's performance of Petrushka. The ballet, composed by Igor Stravinsky, is about a puppet with a human heart. The ballet evolved initially from a musical idea. Stravinsky, having just completed the ballet Firebird, had wanted to create a non-balletic piece for piano and orchestra. But as he conceived the piece — originally as one instrument, a piano, struggling against all the other instruments in the orchestra — he changed the composition so as to musically describe a struggle between a puppet and an orchestra.

Petrushka is one of the more popular ballets in the modern repertory. The original choreography was created by Michel Fokine for Nijinsky.

This year the production will share the bill with a new piece by the Eugene Ballet Company's resident choreographer, Toni Pimble, entitled G-Song, as well as a suite of dances from Raymond, choreographed by guest choreographer, Kathleen Smith.

Petrushka was first performed by the Eugene Ballet Company in March 1984. In that production Doug Zalad-Mackie played the title role. He will re-create the role in this production and Drilon will dance the role of the ballerina.

Marc Hughes, who last appeared with the Eugene Ballet Company as the Prince in the production of Cinderella, will dance the moor in Petrushka.

Petrushka marks the beginning of the Eugene Ballet Company's ninth season.

The ballet will be performed at 8 p.m. Saturday in the Hult Center, Silva Hall, and at 2 p.m. Sunday.

Tickets for the ballet are available at the Hult Center box office and all outlets. Prices range from \$5.75 to \$19.75.



Violinists Lisa Bieber and Marilyn Tyler of the Oregon Mozart Players will perform Vivaldi's Concerto in A Minor at Beall Hall on Saturday. The concerto is the most famous work from a set of concerti which Vivaldi called "The Spirit of Harmony."

A musical democracy

The Mozart Players make beautiful music together

By H. C. Hutto
Entertainment Editor

The Oregon Mozart Players are an example of participatory democracy — a form of government that is uncommon in the musical world.

Each musician — or player, as they are called — votes on all decisions. This makes the Oregon Mozart Players a virtually self-governing organization.

One might wonder whether or not such egalitarian methods can work in the art known for brilliant autocratic composers and directors. The fact is, it has.

The Mozart Players have endured for seven years, have always turned a profit financially, and have consistently performed successful concerts. The latter can be verified when the players present their second concert of the year at 8:30 p.m. Saturday at the Hult Center's Soreng Theatre. The Mozart Players will repeat the concert at 2:30 p.m. Sunday at Beall Concert Hall.

"The chamber orchestra was put together seven years ago," Robert Hurwitz, the players' music director and a professor of music at the University, said.

"At that time it was felt that Eugene had everything but a chamber orchestra. The idea to form such a group was so timely, in fact, that only three weeks passed from the first organizational meeting until the first concert," Hurwitz said.

From that auspicious beginning, the Mozart Players have continued to grow in size and reputation.

"A chamber orchestra is like a full-sized orchestra in that all the instruments are represented," Hurwitz said. "It's just a smaller version."

Depending on the piece being played, the Mozart Players range in size from 20 to 31 members, he said. Most of the players are University alumni, and a few are students enrolled at the University.

Hurwitz said he believes the cooperative organization of the Mozart Players, with each member participating in the group's decisions, is the prime reason for the player's survival.

"One of the most obvious advantages in our organization is that the musicians play for less of a fee than they would in

other, more traditionally organized orchestras, in return for having more control," he said.

A musician in the Mozart Players receives only two-thirds of the fee that he or she would earn as a performer for the Eugene Symphony, according to Hurwitz. But the musicians — most of whom do play with the Eugene Symphony — willingly surrender a higher fee for the chance to be more involved in the decision-making process.

A second reason for the Mozart Players relative longevity is due to the generosity and dedication of the audience members.

"People have been very liberal in helping the players survive," Hurwitz said. "We're embarking on a plan to seek more business support in the future, a necessary step if we want to continue to grow."

This company, of all the arts organizations in Eugene, are in "the enviable position of never being in the red," he said.

In keeping with the players desire for independence, Hurwitz, who also is the group's conductor, said they are looking for more pieces to play without the need for a conductor.

"Our third piece during the concert, the Rossini sonata, will, in all likelihood, be performed without a conductor," he said.

Three other pieces are scheduled to be performed Saturday. The opening piece will be a serenade by Mozart, featuring a wind octet.

The second is Vivaldi's concerto for two violins in A minor, featuring two soloists, Lisa Bieber and Marilyn Tyler.

The final piece is Haydn's symphony, number 85. Hurwitz said the players selected the symphony because it is one of Haydn's more neglected ones.

The Haydn symphony is one of a set of six "Paris" symphonies commissioned by a French musical society and was a favorite of Queen Marie Antoinette.

"All four pieces are very cheerful and joyous in nature," Hurwitz said. "There's not a sad moment in the concert."

Tickets for the performance are \$10.50, \$8.50 and \$6.50, and are available at the EMU Main Desk, the Hult Center or at the door.

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Oregon Mozart Players



Robert Hurwitz, Music Director

Sunday, October 11, 1987

Mozart: Serenade in E Flat, K. 375
Vivaldi: Concerto in A Minor for two violins
(Soloists: Lisa Bieber & Marilyn Tyler)
Rossini: Sonata #3 in C for strings
Haydn: Symphony #85 in B Flat "La Reine"

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