

MUSIC

Dean Kramer keys up for benefit performance

Kristina Kuckartz
For the Oregon Daily Emerald

Dean Kramer, a University associate professor, will not be keeping his hands to himself on Tuesday when he performs the "Ten Most Difficult Solo Piano Pieces" at 8 p.m. in Beall Hall.

From the sounds of angry demons to the trickling of a waterfall, Kramer will explore a variety of musical styles and programmatic material.

Kramer's program is not only technically difficult but will contain selections that have likely never been performed in Eugene or in one concert before. Because of his exceptional virtuoso technique and performance background, Kramer is well suited to pieces such as the "Paganini Varia-



KRAMER

tions, Book One" by Brahms and Liszt's "Hungarian Rhapsody No. 6."

"Dean Kramer is a passionate performer," said Hyeja Chong, a University graduate student. "He is able to bring out the character of each composer with intensity and a sense of spontaneity."

He is also an excellent instructor, said Oliver Poida, who studies with Kramer. "Professor Kramer has a depth to his teaching that allows him to identify with every student uniquely and use different teaching methods to solve individual problems."

Before coming to the University in 1983, Kramer taught at the Oberlin Conservatory and at the Aspen Music Festival. He studied piano at Oberlin and Juilliard. Kramer was also one of the last students of famed pianist Vladimir Horowitz.

Tickets are available at the door. General admission is \$5. Students and senior citizens tickets are \$3. Proceeds will benefit the Chamber Music Series.

Dave Matthews Band has a hit

CHARLOTTESVILLE, Va. (AP) — Steve Tarp remembers when Dave Matthews, a waiter at Miller's Bar, climbed onto a small stage in the dark-paneled tavern with three jazz musicians and a bassist and tried to rock 'n' roll.



Under the Table and Dreaming
Dave Matthews Band

★★★★

It was 1990, and the new Dave Matthews Band didn't exactly bring down the house. "They had gotten together real informally, and Dave had just been messing around solo," said Tarp, who still works at the popular downtown hangout where local musicians can get their start. "You know, they just sounded kind of rough."

The Dave Matthews Band has smoothed out considerably since then. Its second album in two years, "Under the Table and Dreaming," hit No. 34 on Billboard magazine's best-selling album charts the first week of release in September. One of the songs on it, "What Would You Say," is playing on MTV. The group has a lucrative new recording deal with RCA, and life is one long road trip of full-house concerts.

In its year-end issue, Rolling Stone magazine picked the album as "one of the most ambitious releases of '94" and said the group has "chops to kill."

Heady stuff for Matthews, a 27-year-old South African expatriate whose wide vocal range has been compared to Sting and Robert Plant but who still thinks his skills are "pretty shabby."

"All I did was assemble my dream group of musicians — people I'd been listening to locally for years," Matthews said in a recent interview. "So I try not to get too caught up in what other people are saying about us."

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