

Lesson from Hiroshima told through Sadako's story

By Kim Weiss

Assistant Entertainment Editor

On Aug. 6, 1945, the bombing of Hiroshima affected many people all over the world, including one particular little girl. Now, in remembrance of the 50th anniversary of the bombing, this girl's story has been released on a CD for everyone to hear.

Sadako and the Thousand Paper Cranes is the soundtrack to a half-hour film, based on the story written by Eleanor Coerr. On the first set of the CD, Liv Ullmann narrates this true story of Sadako Sasaki, a 12-year-old Japanese girl who developed leukemia, the "atomic bomb disease," 10 years after the bombing of Hiroshima. George Winston accompanies the narration with his acoustic guitar music. The second set consists of only Winston's guitar playing.

In the story, Sasaki becomes stricken with leukemia and stays in a hospital. While there, a close friend tries to cheer her up by reminding her of an old legend. The legend says if she folds a thousand paper cranes, the gods might grant her wish to be well again. So Sasaki begins to fold.

Unfortunately, Sasaki completed only 644 paper cranes before she died on Oct. 25, 1955. But her friends and classmates continued to fold for Sasaki and made



Sadako and the Thousand Paper Cranes

★★★★★

Coerr said on the CD cover, "I think if you tell people that 200,000 people died as a result of the bombing of Hiroshima, it doesn't have as much impact as the story of one girl." How true. This story is very touching; it gives the listener a deeper sense of the costs of the war.

In addition to touching the listener's heart, the soundtrack provides a positive way to teach children and other young people a lesson about the values of hope and peace and the consequences of warfare.

Ullmann does an excellent job of narrating and of reading the voices of Sadako, her family members and her friend. Winston adds an impressive sentiment with his music in the background. The listener

enough cranes so she would be buried with 1,000. Every year on Aug. 6, "Peace Day," people worldwide send millions of cranes to Hiroshima's Peace Park, where they are placed at the base of the Children's Monument. Nearby stands a statue of Sasaki in this park, holding a golden crane.

gains a sense of drama, melancholy, suspense, sadness and jubilation, all from Winston's music.

And after hearing the story on the CD, the second set (Winston's music alone) becomes very powerful to listen to, while imagining to which parts of the story the music corresponds. Winston makes the eight-string guitar (made specifically for this project) sing beautifully in his solo finger-style guitar playing, with slack key, traditional sounds unique to the Hawaiian Islands.

Sadako and the Thousand Paper Cranes tells the story of a young girl. But the story tells more than that; it reveals inspiration and hope, sharing the girl's wish for peace to the world. This soundtrack CD is a beautifully made piece of art, which serves to inform us how innocent a life can really be.

I recommend this CD to anyone who would like to learn more about Hiroshima's effects on the people. And when the day of the 50th anniversary arrives, make some paper cranes for those who are in need and remember the little girl's story.

EDITOR'S NOTE: George Winston performs at the Silva Concert Hall on Sept. 18 at 7:30 p.m. Reserved tickets are \$16.50 and can be purchased by calling the Hult Center at 687-5000.

Entertainment, farmers' market and art round out summer fun

Summer in the Eugene-Springfield vicinity brings out entertainment venues that this area won't see for another nine months. To remind readers of what's going on outside of the regular calendar features, here are some additional events worth noting:

■ The First Friday Gallery Walk, hosted by Fred Crafts, KUGN's critic-at-large, begins at the Soaring Wings Gallery, 760 Willamette St. The gallery walk offers an opportunity for participants to meet with the artists who are exhibiting their work. The walk begins at 5:30 p.m.

■ The play *Conversations with My Father* is presented Aug. 4-26 at the ACE Annex at 39 W. 10th Ave. and tells the story of three generations of a Jewish family living in the Lower East Side of New York City. Call 683-4368 for more information.

■ Entry forms are now available for the 1995 Springfield Mayor's Art Show, which takes place at the Emerald Empire Art Gallery at 421 North A St. from Aug. 26 to Sept. 30. There is a \$5 entry fee and all work must be original. Contact the gallery at 726-8595 for more information.

EVENTS UPDATE

■ The Corvallis Art Center seeks artists for the annual Willamette Valley Juried Exhibition. Entries are due Aug. 12 at the center, which is located at 700 S.W. Madison in Corvallis. A cash award of \$650 goes to the best entrant and there is no entry fee. Contact the center at 754-1551 for more information.

■ The Lane County Farmers' Market offers a "Shop with the Chefs" cooking demonstration at 11:30 a.m. on Saturday. The Lane County Farmers' Market is located at 76 W. Broadway and each week, growers bring in the freshest produce available in the area. Look for herbs, beans, berries and various types of eggplant which have come into season only recently.

■ A "Barn Bonanza Rummage Sale" at Dorris Ranch takes place on Aug. 5 from 8 a.m. until 4 p.m. This fund raiser includes filbert products from the Dorris Ranch store, great sale items and refreshments. The Dorris Ranch Barn is located at the intersection of South Second and Dorris streets in Springfield.

—Anne Moser-Kornfeld

Isaak's breakup inspires album

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Inside Chris Isaak's latest CD cover, he pens a letter to the ex-girlfriend who inspired the recording.

"Do you sleep with somebody else now? How is that? I tell myself not to think about that stuff but I do," part of it goes. "Hope you mourn an appropriate amount of time. At least five or six hours, I hope."

The handwritten missive matches the adjacent, moody black-and-white photograph of the retro-rock singer-songwriter.

"I thought it gave people a

way in on the record, gave them a way of knowing where I was coming from when I was writing this thing," Isaak said of his fifth album, *Forever Blue* (Reprise).

The album — which weaves vintage rock 'n' roll with country and '60s surf influences — opens up with a wrathful, thumping number, "Baby Did A Bad Bad Thing." Others follow, like the pleading "Don't Leave Me On My Own" and the almost panic-stricken "There She Goes."

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