



COURTESY PHOTO

Kokkonen became the first recipient of the Henryk Szeryn Foundation Award in 1992.

Hult: Choir, Mozart Players perform

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tra and the Baltimore Symphony.

Tickets for the concert range in price from \$12 to \$36, but they're \$10 for students and youth. Tickets are available at the Hult Center and the EMU Ticket Office. The show begins at 8 p.m., and Harth-Bedoya will give an informal conductor's talk beginning at 7:15 p.m.

But the orchestra's concert won't be the only musical sounds drifting out of the Hult Center in the coming week. The Eugene Concert Choir and the Oregon Mozart Players will give their third concert of the season tomorrow at 7:30 p.m. They'll perform Haydn's "Mass in Time of War," one of his most popular works.

Composed in 1796, "Mass in Time of War" is about the imminent threat of war as Napoleon's troops advanced on Haydn's native Austria. The piece was considered the most spectacular and innovative of the six masses Haydn composed.

Several members of the Eugene Concert Choir will also join the Eugene Vocal Arts Ensemble in per-

forming Bach's "Lobet den Herrn" and Brahms' "Schaffe in mir Gott," as well as some Brahms folk songs.

Diane Retallack will conduct the performance. Tickets range in price from \$8 to \$21, and they're available at the Hult Center Ticket Office.

Giving a free performance at noon on Thursday, March 19 at the Hult Center will be the Eugene Peace Choir, which will perform songs about peace, justice and the environment as part of the Hult Center's SHOCASE Concert Series.

The Eugene Peace Choir formed in 1984 "by a small group of friends who shared a love for music and for peace," according to a press release. The capella group has performed at festivals, churches outdoor markets and events throughout the state, singing songs about empowerment through music.

The SHOCASE Concert Series is a free, informal series held each Thursday that highlights local and touring artists.

For more information about any of these events, call the Hult Center Ticket Office at 682-5000.

Hult Center Events

The coming week promises to be a busy one at the Hult Center

March 13: The Eugene Concert Choir and the Oregon Mozart Players will perform Haydn's "Mass in Time of War" at 7:30 p.m. Tickets range in price from \$8 to \$21.

March 19: The Eugene Peace Choir will give a free performance at noon. They will perform songs about peace, justice and the environment as part of the Hult Center's SHOCASE Concert Series.

March 19: The Eugene Symphony will perform Osvaldo Golijov's "Last Round," a violin concerto composed by Igor Stravinsky, and Jean Sibelius' Symphony No. 1 in E minor. Internationally acclaimed violinist Elissa Lee Kokkonen will perform Stravinsky's violin concerto. Tickets are \$10 for students.

Absolute Improv!: 'I'm not intimidated'

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"Improv is an essentially collaborative art form, so even though we'll be competing with Yale, we also want to work with them," he said.

The competition

Chandler Melvin, a University senior and a member of Absolute Improv!, said he's not worried about going up against Yale's troupe, which comes from a prestigious acting program.

"I'm not intimidated at all," Melvin said. "[The Exit Players] work under different conditions than we do. Certainly, what's funny on the East Coast may not be as funny on the West Coast. But what I'm going to be looking for is some universal comedy; some things that we both find funny."

The teammates

All of the 18 members of Absolute Improv! are also heavily involved in the University's theater program. Most have performed extensively in both Robinson Theatre and Pocket Playhouse productions.

Honey, Melvin and Bernasconi all agree, however,

that scripted dramatic acting is vastly different from improvisational comedy.

"Improv is a totally unique art form," Honey said. "You have to get up there and trust people, and trust yourself."

Melvin agreed. "It's so important that you establish a rapport with the people you're working with," he said. "To be spontaneous, you have to know what you each think is funny, and then use that in your act. We're all friends [in Absolute Improv!], so we'll sit around at parties and think of jokes. We really know what makes each other laugh."

Honey said improvisation relies a lot more heavily on audience participation and reaction rather than on introspection and character development.

"With drama, you start to really delve into your character and focus internally," he said. "But improv is a lot more audience-oriented. You want to make sure the audience is having a good time."

Tonight's improv competition will begin at 8 p.m. at the Actors Cabaret, located at 10th and Willamette. Tickets are \$6, and drinks and dessert will be served.

The Exit Players: Yalies' favorite games

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ment will be paramount. The teams will take turns performing from a long list of eligible games, and after each round, the audience will select the better performance with applause. In the end, the score will be tallied and the improv champion declared.

To come away with their No. 1 ranking intact, the Exit Players will have to execute their signature games to perfection. In "Director's Cut," the troupe spoofs method acting by allowing the audience to be the voice of their difficult director. The crowd will orchestrate the characters in the

scene, providing motivations, conflicts and hidden interests.

"Writing Styles" is another Exit Players' favorite in which the audience picks a famous author and invents a book title. The Exit Players must then create a literary classic on the spot.

It is the audience's entanglement in those games that often translates into crowd-pleasing shows.

"The audience was so involved that it was almost like a mutual performance," said Franze of one Exit Players event at Yale.

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