



COURTESY PHOTO

Miguel Harth-Bedoya will conduct the Eugene Symphony's season finale Saturday at the Hult.

Eugene Symphony closes season

By Rob Moseley
Oregon Daily Emerald

A performance of Camille Saint-Saëns' "Symphony No. 3 in C minor," the "Organ Symphony," will make up the bill of the Eugene Symphony's season finale at the Hult Center's Silva Hall on Saturday at 3 p.m.

Lawrence Clabby, organist at St. Mary's Catholic Church and a frequent performer with the symphony, will perform the piece on a Rogers digital organ that was brought in from Portland specifically for this concert. Miguel Harth-Bedoya will conduct.

Patricia Cusick, marketing director for the symphony, said this will be a unique experience for concert-goers to hear a rarely performed but much-loved piece of music.

"The main reason is the staging requirement," Cusick said. "Typically it's churches that have pipe organs, and they don't usually have staging for 80 musicians."

The piece, commissioned by London's Royal Philharmonic Society in 1886, has since become one of the most popular pieces in all of symphonic repertoire.

"It shows up on our listener request list with

amazing frequency," KWAX program director Caitrina Bolster said.

According to Cusick, Bolster said she "never expected to hear a live performance of this piece in her life, at least not in Eugene."

The "Organ Symphony" begins with the statement of the theme on celesta. The theme is repeated and restated in any number of variations throughout the orchestra during the piece before it concludes with a triumphant finale.

Saint-Saëns' symphony has become widely recognized as one of the truly fun pieces in the orchestral repertoire, according to Cusick.

"He was known as a feisty French composer," she said. "He liked flashy, kind of firework-y stuff."

Saturday's special matinee performance follows the initial performance Thursday night. The orchestra also performed Walter Piston's "Symphony No. 6" on Thursday. It will not be included in Saturday's hour-long program.

Ticket's for Saturday's concert are \$10 for general admission and \$5 for students and are available at the Hult Center box office or the EMU Ticket Office.

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Symphony marketing director

Concert: Celtic harp will be featured in show

Continued from Page 7A

formed together, but the University graduate has since moved to New York, and the Portland musician added his middle name to avoid confusion.

In December 1997, Helfand and Harrison performed before a sold-out 300-person Portland crowd. Helfand said he was impressed by the draw, but even more impressed when Harrison told him it was his 10th of 11 sold-out shows that week.

"I knew he was well-known, but I had no idea he was this renowned," Helfand said. "Since I played with Michael, I felt he could come down and do a really nice concert."

Harrison will play many solo songs, and Helfand will also join him on a Celtic harp and mandocello.

This concert is an addition to

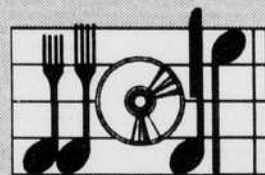
Temple Beth Israel's 50th anniversary celebration of the state of Israel. This concert fits nicely with the other activities and parties, Helfand said.

They will debut Helfand's latest song called "Scrolls of Compassion," and Harrison will improvise his part on piano.

"Musically, it's like this prayer, but without any words," Helfand said.

Harrison has also been successful making music for movies and commercials. Helfand works in special education for the 4J School District supervising students at their job sites.

Helfand, who has played the harp for 14 years and the guitar for 25 years, recently released his first solo album, "Callings From the Quiet Grove."



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Thursday May 21st 8pm - EMU Amphitheater

Speak out against violence against women

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- Starts at 8 p.m. Corner of 13th and University
- Local speakers and self-defense demonstration
- March ends downtown at the corner of 8th and Oak
- Visit the Clothesline project and info. display tables
- ASL Interpreted
- 9 p.m. Workshop in the Ben Linder Room with Jack Straton



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