

Eugene Symphony to observe Mount St. Helens' anniversary



courtesy of Eugene Symphony

Kristen Halay will be featured on the flute in 'Nature' this Thursday with the Eugene Symphony.

■ The symphony will premiere 'Nature,' a musical depiction of a volcano's eruption

By Eric Pfeiffer
Oregon Daily Emerald

Now you can relive the excitement of the Mount St. Helens eruption without choking on the smoke.

This Thursday, the Eugene Symphony will premiere "Nature," a tribute to the 20th anniversary of the famed Mount St. Helens eruption.

"Nature" will feature guest conductor Takao Kanayama in a multi-part performance that explores an array of emotions and interactions associated with the volcano's monumental eruption.

The symphony will also feature Kristen Halay on flute. Halay has been playing the flute since age eight. She is

currently the principle flute player for the Eugene Symphony, Oregon Mozart Players, Eugene Opera, and the Oregon Festival of American Music, according to the Eugene Symphony Web site.

Seattle composer Alan Hovhaness will recreate the events surrounding the eruption, featuring his own music as well as movements produced by other composers.

Other compositions featured include Beethoven's "Pastorale," which opens the concert. Hovhaness' symphony "Mount St. Helens," and a flute concerto by Japanese composer Toru Takemitsu are also featured. Halay is featured soloist.

The symphony's second movement, "Spirit Lake," attempts to capture the beauty of the mountain's lake with "gently vibrating, liquid-sounding bells and expressive melodies for English horn and other solo

winds," according to the Eugene Symphony Web site.

After the more intense movements are completed, the dawn hymn returns in what Hovhaness describes as "a hymn of praise to the youthful power and grandeur of the Cascades, the volcanic energy renewing the vitality of our beautiful planet, the life-giving power that builds mountains, rising majestically, piercing the clouds of heaven."

Guest conductor Kanayama and featured soloist Halay will host an informal talk and performance highlights after the show.

"Nature" premieres at 8 p.m. today at the Hult Center's Silva Concert Hall. Tickets are \$12-36 and \$10 for students and youth concert goers.

Tickets are available at Hult Center Box Office, 682-5000, and at the EMU Ticket Outlet.

Locals spring in to play one show



courtesy of Mare Wakefield

Mare Wakefield and her band have received critical acclaim for their second CD, 'Factory.' The band will perform Friday at Sam Bond's Garage.

■ The Mare Wakefield Band released its second recording and will be in town Friday for its only spring show

By Eric Pfeiffer
Oregon Daily Emerald

Local musician and outspoken artist Mare Wakefield will be performing with her band this Friday at Sam Bond's Garage. The Mare Wakefield Band recently released their second recording "Factory" to critical acclaim. Their appearance at Sam Bond's Garage will be the band's only local appearance this spring.

For those unfamiliar with the band's sound, the Mare Wakefield Band can best be described as acoustic rock with a sociopolitical flare.

"The first thing you'll notice at a Mare show is her laid-back style and down-to-earth stage presence," said a press release from Seedling Productions.

Now, a laid-back approach is not something entirely unique to the Eugene scene, but Wakefield offers a diverse array of sounds on her new release, "Factory." The album is a introspective departure for Wakefield and the band but still provides much entertainment for her audience.

"If Wakefield's lyrics don't bring a smile to your face, then the rhythm will definitely set your foot tapping to the beat," said Rory Leweling, a reporter for the Daily Barometer in Corvallis. "Factory" opens with "Be the One," a funk-infused song that finds Wakefield lamenting on previous relationships. Many of the songs are rhythm based, including the next song, "Fighting." From there, the album moves into a country mode, with the track "New Boy," which recounts Mare telling her mom about a

new boyfriend. "Comfort" is a blues-driven track with mysterious lyrics that are left to the listener's interpretation.

The Mare Wakefield Band doesn't shy away from combining influences on this album either. "Compound" is a mixture of both country and reggae sounds, which can invoke multiple images and feelings in the minds of listeners. There are more emotionally driven tracks as well, such as "Sewing Machine," a touching piece about Wakefield's grandmother. The album ends with more country influence, including the album's closing track, "Ghost of John Denver." As one might expect, "Ghost" is a heart-felt tribute to the late folk master.

Recently, music critics have lavished the band with critical praise, including Rocket reporter Scott Lewis who wrote, "Wakefield has a clear, energetic and confident voice that bounces off the band's thick walls quite well and even holds humor."

Beyond Wakefield, the band consists of other local, talented musicians. Drummer David Burrow received his bachelor's degree from the University School of Music. Since graduating, he has performed with artists such as Dizzy Gillespie, Peter Erskine and Ben Wilfe.

Bass player Ari Lindgren was born and raised in New York City. Lindgren joined Mare Wakefield in 1998. Other guest musicians on the album include local artists Chris Funk, Laura Kemp and the band Honeybuck-et.

Those interested in hearing the band before their performance can pick up their new album or catch them on local music stations KWVA and KLCC. Also, the Mare Wakefield Band will be performing this Friday, April 14, at Sam Bond's Garage, 407 Blair Blvd. The show starts at 9:30 p.m. Tickets are \$4.

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