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Jacko, Radiohead & R.E.M.
Emerald webmaster Dave Depper shares
R.E.M.'s latest yogurt-friendly antics. PAGE 6

Thursday, November 15, 2001



Courtesy Photo

Van Cliburn silver co-medalist Antonio Pompa-Baldi will join the Eugene Symphony at 8 p.m. today at the Hult Center.

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Antonio Pompa-Baldi
brings his 22 years
of piano experience
to the Eugene Symphony

By Sue Ryan
Oregon Daily Emerald

Pianist Antonio Pompa-Baldi has been in love with classical music for most of his life.

"I started when I was four," Pompa-Baldi said. "I saw a pianist play somewhere and after that came home and banged out music on the table, then a toy piano, until my parents decided to take me to a teacher to study it formally."

The 26-year-old Van Cliburn silver co-medalist joins the Eugene Symphony today for an 8 p.m. performance featuring Prokofiev's Third Concerto at the Hult Center. He said he chose the concerto for its density and passion, both characteristics of his performance style through 22 years of playing the piano.

His endeavors led him to formal competitions, including the Van Cliburn contest in June 2001 in Fort Worth, Texas. Performers tied for both the gold and the silver medals for the first time in the history of the competition. Pompa-Baldi came away with one of the silver medals and a concert tour for two years, which brings him to the Willamette Valley this week.

On Monday night at the LaSells Stewart Center in Corvallis, he caressed the piano while playing and leaned forward to peer into its interior as if drawing the music out toward him during the 90-minute recital. He said he chose Mozart, Chopin, Liebermann, Poulenc and Rachmaninoff for his Monday performance for the variety of styles.

"They are completely different from each other," Pompa-Baldi said. "I like to have music I can plunge into."

He also plunged into life in a new

country by moving to the United States in 2000. The move was precipitated by his tour as the winner of the 1999 Cleveland Competition.

"In six months, I crossed the Atlantic Ocean 18 times. That's when I decided it was time to make the move," he said.

Pompa-Baldi relocated to Cleveland, Ohio, from his native city of Naples, Italy. He learned to speak English, began teaching at Cuyahoga Community College and took a position on the board of the Oberlin Conservatory. He said the adjustment to a different culture has not been a problem.

"I like it here. I don't miss Italy as a country, but I do miss my family who are still located there," he said.

The Van Cliburn competition will be his last one as Pompa-Baldi has decided to pursue his career as a concert pianist at a professional level.

"I don't want to compete anymore," he said. "It's mainly to get your career started and this has done that for me."

Pompa-Baldi said even though he has done well in such events, he dislikes that musicians end up rated by such competitions.

"I don't feel artists should be ranked," he said. "We all love music, and it should be reflected individually, not through being compared to others."

At tonight's Eugene concert, Pompa-Baldi will pair with Conductor Marc Taddei and New Zealand composer Gareth Farr. Tickets for University students cost \$10.

Sue Ryan is a community reporter for the Oregon Daily Emerald. She can be reached at sueryan@dailyemerald.com.

University Theatre performance series highlights 'New Voices'

■ Student-written plays 'Leaving Shallot' and 'Peephole' will debut this week at Arena Theatre

By Lisa Toth
Oregon Daily Emerald

In early February of this year, University student Alexander Pawlowski spent two school nights in a row wide awake. During this time, the theater arts major from Eugene was writing and revising a play.

Pawlowski said his "Leaving Shallot" is a modern romantic tale of two lost souls coming together for one night. And it's one of two plays presented in the University Theatre's second annual "New Voices" playwriting series.

The pair of new student-written plays begins Nov. 15 and runs Nov. 16 and 17. Performances of "Leaving Shallot" and the other play, "Peephole," will be held in the Arena Theatre in Villard Hall, 1109 Old Campus Ln., starting at 8 p.m. Both plays have been selected for submission to the Kennedy Center/American College Theatre Festival new play competition.

"Peephole" was composed by theater arts alumnus Ian Appel, who graduated in 2001 and currently teaches English at Oregon State University.

"Both plays are exceptional works for young writers," said director Craig Willis.

a doctoral candidate in the theater arts department. "Playwriting is perhaps the most difficult task in theater, and I think it's incredibly exciting to hear the voices of our own students on the stage."

Appel said he considers "Peephole" to be the first full-length one-act play he has written, and part of his path to finding his "sea legs" in playwriting. He encouraged people to attend because he said the script is relevant to how the media today fabricates images. The play, which he described as short and chaotic, is a serio-comic consideration of society's ability to be driven to insane acts by overactive media, and also questions contemporary spiritual fulfillment.

He said the play focuses on an end-of-the-world scenario, where the "media rules the roost, and everyone feeds off television."

"It's been fun getting into these characters' minds and figuring out how they'd react to each other," Appel said.

He added that he would like his play to make a lasting impression on the audience.

"What I'd hope resonates is a sense of both the comic absurdity and human tragedy of our media-saturated pop culture, how that affects our relationships with other people and how our relation-

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Courtesy Photo

Emily Howell, a first-year journalism major from Portland, plays Rhiannon, and Ian Hanley, a senior theater arts major also from Portland, takes on the role of Tony in 'Leaving Shallot,' showing at Arena Theatre as part of 'New Voices' Nov. 15-17.