

QUEEN

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her interactions with her fellow castmates.

“One challenge for me was playing a character so close to who I was in high school,” Abeyla said. “Sometimes you can get so close to your character you don’t feel like you’re acting.”

Another actress who gets lost in her character is sophomore English student Olivia Fleming, portraying the bohemian Ozzy Osborne. Her soprano range is highlighted in several songs and is not easily forgotten as it mixes with the belted notes of rock music.

Not all the cast members are students. Kenn Wheeler joins the cast as Buddy, a bohemian.

“I think it is important for directors to get back onstage once in a while rather than just teaching them from the audience offstage,” Wheeler said.

Other student involvement is backstage, with lights, sounds and projections run by students. A student who is a member of the band provides the instrumental music during the show. The show has a cast of 21 performers, with the ensemble playing multiple



Sabrina Thompson/The Observer

roles, from fellow bohemians to the brainwashed public controlled by Killer Queen. Like the villain, the show is full of references to lyrics and song titles — like “I want to break free,” “somebody to love” and “under pressure.”

The show will go on Nov. 14-16 at 7 p.m. with a final performance at 2 p.m. Nov. 17. General admission is \$15; seniors, veterans and active military are \$10; and EOU students get in free with ID. For tickets visit the box office or call 541-962-3757.

“I hope the audience enjoys it,” Heather said of the show. “I hope they think about how we don’t want to lose live performance, and that we never get to the point where live music and instruments are outlawed.”

FROM THE COVER >>>

A little ‘Unfinished Business’

Grande Ronde Symphony Orchestra performs in La Grande and Baker City

LA GRANDE — The Grande Ronde Symphony Orchestra will begin its 72nd season with some “Unfinished Business.” Under the direction of Zachary Banks, the orchestra will perform two concerts featuring violinist Viet Block.

The first performance will take place at 7 p.m. Nov. 20 in McKenzie Theater on the EOU campus in La Grande. The second concert will be held at St. Francis de Sales Cathedral in Baker City, beginning at 1 p.m. Nov. 23.

Tickets are \$12 for adults, \$8 for seniors, \$2 for EOU students, \$1 8th-12th grade students, and younger than 8th grade are free.

Tickets may be purchased in advance at www.granderondesymphony.org, Direct Music Source (1206 Adams Ave., La Grande)



Submitted photo

Zachary Banks directs.

or Betty’s Books (1813 Main St., Baker City). Tickets will also be sold at the door.

According to Maestro Banks, “We came up with the theme by giving a nod to the music selections, along with the follow-up to the Grande Ronde Symphony ‘Concerto Aria Competition.’”

Viet Block was the winner of the Open category, and as such was asked to perform the winning



Submitted photo

Mark Emerson (shown here) plays percussion with the Grande Ronde Symphony Orchestra.

concerto during the fall season-opening concert.

“So we had that business to finish up and it seemed appropriate to add in Schubert’s ‘Unfinished Symphony’ to complete the theme,” Banks said.

Block will be performing Violin Concerto No. 1 in G minor by Max Bruch (1838-1920). She currently resides, teaches and performs in Pendleton.

Block is the assistant concertmaster of the Oregon East Symphony and regularly substitutes with the Boise Philharmonic, the Yakima Symphony Orchestra and the Grande Ronde Symphony.

“The Bruch violin concerto is simply beautiful but challenging for the violinist and the orchestra,” Banks said.

“The virtuosic violin techniques required are quite impressive and lead the listener through an emotional journey.”

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