



Josh Redman

A SEASON OF SOUNDS

CONCERTS TO PLAN FOR THIS FALL. by Brett Campbell

Eugene Symphony

If I had to pick one word to sum up the ESO's season, it's colorful. The opening night concert this Thursday, Sept. 25, contains the prototype for colorful orchestration, Berlioz's *Fantastic Symphony*, which uses all sorts of then-strange techniques and instruments to conjure everything from a witch's orgy to an opium dream. It also includes contemporary music by one of today's most colorful — and compelling — composers, Aaron Kernis, including the West Coast premiere of his *Color Wheel*, along with *Musica Celestis*. It's great to see conductor Giancarlo Guerrero programming contemporary music; we'll see more in the spring.

The Oct. 23 concert features another 20th century masterpiece, Shostakovich's first (and best) violin concerto. An acclaimed Russian fiddler, Ilya Gringolts, will take on this passionate work that has attracted most of the great violin virtuosos. The concert also features the next installment in the orchestra's complete cycle of Beethoven's symphonies, the second, while the Nov. 20 concert features one of his finest and most colorful (that word again) works, the Sixth (Pastoral) Symphony.

Remember all those centaurs cavorting to its strains in *Fantasia*? You don't have to; the music alone beautifully evokes the moods of spring in the country. The concert also features one of the most soothing of 20th century choral works, the popular requiem of Maurice Durufle.

Finally, for Christmas, the symphony presents the beloved American opera, *Amahl and the Night Visitors*, a one-time staple of December television. Good thing, too, because in the face of deep budget cuts, the Eugene Opera has pared its schedule and abandoned its ambitious project to perform American operas, instead relying on crowd-pleasing warhorses like *Carmen* (Dec. 31, Jan. 2 and 4). Pity.

Amahl is one of several attractive holiday shows. On Dec. 7, the Oregon Mozart Players will accompany the Eugene Concert Choir in Bach's cantata *Gloria in Excelsis*. The ECC's

holiday concert includes musicians and dancers from other area groups performing David Fanshawe's song of peace, "Dona nobis pacem" from his *African Sanctus* and seasonal music, plus the usual wassail and other holiday accoutrements. And on Nov. 29 and 30, the Mozart Players celebrate Baroque concerto with two of Handel's masterpieces for organ and orchestra (including one often heard with a harp), one of Bach's immortal Brandenburgs, and Corelli's famous Christmas concerto.

Oregon Mozart Players

Like Guerrero, Glen Cortese, the exciting new conductor of the Mozart Players, appears to have a welcome commitment to contemporary music to complement the chamber orchestra's bread-and-butter classical repertoire (as did his predecessor Andrew Massey). OMP's first concert, on Oct. 4 and 5, includes a piece by the brilliant but underplayed Argentine composer Alberto Ginastera, whom many Eugeneans fell in love with when ESO conductor Miguel Harth-Bedoya programmed his rollicking Estancia ballet suite. The concert traces the history of the concerto form, starting with one of Handel's sublime opus 6 works, Haydn's *Sinfonia Concertante* (not nearly as familiar as Mozart's two works in this form, yet a delectable piece all the same), and the herald of the Romantic concerto, Beethoven's powerful third piano concerto, performed by Yuri Rozum. The OMP's second concert, Nov. 1 and 2, is one of the season's most attractive, featuring Igor Stravinsky's charming suite from "Pulcinella" (which deftly channels Italian Baroque music), music from operas by Rossini and Gluck, and, best of all, one of the loveliest pieces in all music, Maurice Ravel's magical *Mother Goose*.

U of O School of Music

The University of Oregon always offers the best art music schedule in Oregon, but most of this fall's programs haven't yet been deter-

mined. However, the always attractive Chamber Music Series gets off to a strong start on Thursday, Oct. 9 when Switzerland's Amati String Quartet plays music by Beethoven, Schubert and Janacek. On Oct. 12, the school's Beall Concert Hall hosts a tribute to Eugene Symphony founding conductor Larry Maves; the Oregon String Quartet will join many former students of the longtime UO violin professor, who died recently after a lifetime of contributions to this community.

On Monday, Oct. 13, the school's increasingly impressive early music program brings the Italian early music vocal ensemble La Venexiana, to sing madrigals at Beall. I've heard many hours of glorious music at Beall, and many of the most transcendent moments have come during the fabulous World Music Series — particularly when musicians from India are involved. So I'm eagerly anticipating the concert by sarodist Rajeev Taranath and tabla virtuoso Abhiman Kaushal on Friday, Oct. 17 at Beall. On Thursday, Nov. 6, harpist Laura Zaerr and soprano Ann Tedards bring music for Celtic harp, concert harp, and the world premiere of "Golden Apple of the Sun" by longtime UO composition prof Hal Owen.

On Tuesday, Nov. 11 Tedards joins another superb faculty artist, trumpeter Stephen Dunn along with pianist Mary Elizabeth Parker and the school's early music group, Collegium Musicum, in a faculty artist recital. On Thursday, Nov. 13 the Amelia Piano Trio (who just completed a week as artists in residence on NPR's "Performance Today" radio show) plays music by Dvorak, Beethoven, and two con-



Dianne Reeves

temporary composers: Shulamit Ran, and Joan Tower. This should be a good one!

On Sunday, Nov. 16, the Oregon String Quartet plays music by Haydn, Beethoven, and Livingston Gearhart, the father of OSQ violinist Fritz Gearhart. On Monday, Nov. 17, award-winning pianist Andre-Michel Schub plays Scarlatti, Grieg, Beethoven, and Schumann. And that's only a small portion of the fall lineup at the UO; we'll keep you informed about the other shows as programs become available. The same goes for Lane Community College, although we can tell you that the Lane piano faculty collaborate with music faculty from other Oregon colleges on Friday, Oct. 10.

The Shedd

The Shedd's fall schedule already kicked off with a memorable concert by Jason Moran and the Bandwagon, and its upcoming John Zorn Festival Oct 3-4, could be the new music event of the century so far (see this week's Music column). Its dazzling Now Hear This! Series continues with modern bluegrass legend Tim O'Brien and his band on Tuesday, Oct 7.

The current Americana explosion may make some fans sigh "Oh, Brother," but it's brought deserved wider recognition to superb roots-oriented musicians like O'Brien, the West Virginia-born mandolinist / singer / songwriter who was a mainstay of Hot Rize in the 1980s and whose songs have been covered by Garth Brooks, Kathy Mattea, Nickel Creek and those treasonous Dixie Chicks.

On Oct. 24, NHT! brings one of the great singer-songwriters, Randy Newman to the Shedd. Newman was a critics' favorite for decades until his novelty hit "Short People" and more recently his award-winning soundtrack music (following in the tradition of his uncle, the famed film composer Alfred Newman) for movies like *Toy Story* brought him the wider attention he's long deserved. His old song "Political Science" (you know: "Let's Drop the Big One Now") unfortunately has more relevance than ever. On Oct. 28, the Grammy-winning jazz singer Dianne Reeves continues the Ella Fitzgerald and Sarah Vaughan crossover tradition, appealing to both jazzers and pop listeners.

On Nov. 5, one of the most popular contemporary jazzmen, tenor saxophonist Joshua Redman, brings his Elastic Band to the Shedd. His joyful first records in the 1990s electrified the jazz world and won audiences nearing Marsalis proportions. Lately he's tried applying jazz techniques to more recent pop songs than the '30s through '50s classics that still dominate jazz, with mixed success. But he's certainly one of the foremost figures in contemporary jazz, and a real coup for the Shedd. On Nov. 5, the Shedd brings the exciting Cape Breton fiddler Natalie MacMaster back to Eugene. She's recently enlisted bluegrass stars like Bela Fleck, Jerry Douglas, Sam Bush and Edgar Meyer to find the common ground between the two musical cousins.

On Nov. 15, the Shedd hosts the dean of Texas singer-songwriters, Guy Clark. In a region that's produced more great songwriters than just about any other, even legends like Kris Kristofferson and Willie Nelson pay homage to Clark (author of "LA Freeway," "Homegrown Tomatoes,") for penetrating character studies and concise picture painting. Finally, OFAM's scaled-down classical orchestra, the American Symphonia, joins local piano legend Victor Steinhardt and his celebrated violinist brother, Arnold, for a Nov. 21 concert at the Shedd. **EW**

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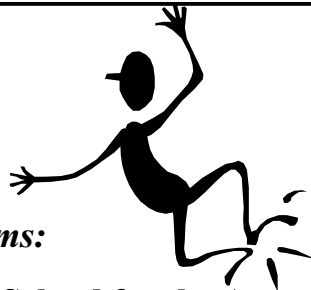
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