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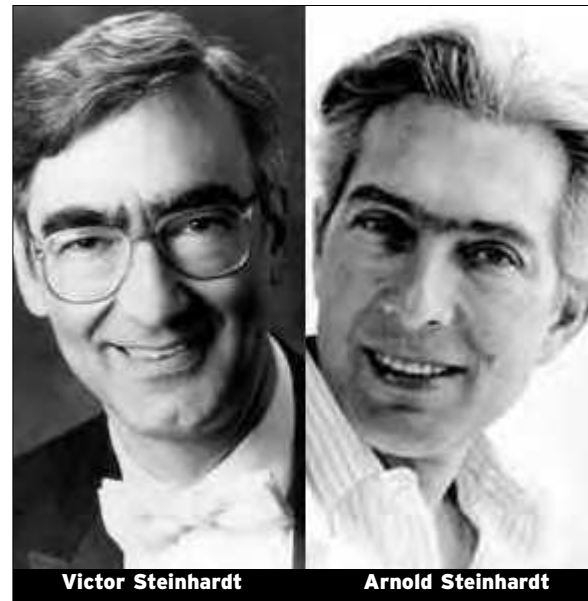
Shedd, UO bring American art music to town.

One of the attractions of the Shedd, the new downtown venue for the Oregon Festival of American Music, is how it makes possible events that would never have worked in OFAM's previous Hult Center haunts, which were too large and/or expensive to host concerts featuring local artists, specialized tastes, or smaller-scale forces.

Case in point: last year's tribute to Portland composer Tomas Svoboda. And on Friday, Nov. 21, OFAM's American Symphonia series features one of Oregon's finest musicians, longtime UO faculty pianist **Victor Steinhardt**, along with his brother **Arnold**, the well-known leader of the acclaimed Guarneri String Quartet for four decades, in a splendid program of American chamber music. The menu ranges from 19th-century music by Amy Beach through Aaron Copland's early "Nocturne," mid-century works by Robert Russell Bennett ("Hexapoda: Five Studies in Jitteroptera") and Lukas Foss ("Three American Pieces"), and Leonard Bernstein (the violin sonata of 1939) and even Victor Steinhardt's own, delightful "Sonata Boogie." The relative unfamiliarity of this music would probably make this show a lonely one at the Hult, but that shouldn't stop any fan of American music from enjoying these two superb musicians in the intimate acoustics of the Shedd.

For more cutting-edge American music, check out the **Hundredth Monkey Ensemble** concert on Tuesday, Nov. 25 at the UO's Beall Hall, where this thoughtful contemporary music ensemble performs a pair of atmospheric modern works: "Dark Wind" by the great Alaskan composer John Luther Adams for percussion, bass clarinet, and piano; and "Penasco Blanco" by Peter Garland for percussion and piano. UO harp professor **Laura Zaerr** will perform in her own "Celtic Concerto" for Celtic harp, oboe, flute, and strings at the **University Symphony's** concert on Sunday, Nov. 23, while the **Campus Orchestra** will play a piece by its conductor, Franklin Alvarez, on Dec. 3.

Best of all, on Monday, Dec. 1, the always-provocative **Oregon Percussion Ensemble** celebrates a major event: the release of its CD featuring the works of one of America's leading percussion composers, Meyer Kupferman. The concert and CD feature Kupferman's *Percussion Symphony: On Tibet and Tiananmen Square*, written in protest of Chinese repression. The program also features another world premiere: "Extended Play," which composer Allen Strange (who'll be present) describes as "a sonic Frankenstein of the music of Erik Satie;" "Shaken, Not Stirred" based on a famous fictional spy, by the pop-culture maven Daugherty, Michael Daugherty (whose playful work has referenced UFOs, Superman, Jackie O and other icons), and UO Music School dean Brad Foley on sax in a diverti-



Victor Steinhardt

Arnold Steinhardt

OPE's fun concerts are recommended for adventurous listeners who don't usually frequent "classical" venues.

mento with marimba master Sean Wagoner. OPE's fun concerts are especially recommended for adventurous listeners who don't usually frequent "classical" venues.

This month's big orchestral concert is, of course, the **Eugene Symphony's** Nov. 20 show at the Hult Center's Silva Hall, featuring two of the most beloved classical music works. Beethoven's hymn to nature, the pastoral *Symphony #6*, is as beautifully bucolic as many of his other works are dramatic, although the gentleness of bird calls and bubbling country creeks briefly gives way to a spring storm. And, in the tradition of earlier works by Brahms and Faure, Maurice Durufle's radiant *1947 Requiem* has brought comfort and solace to millions, and its lush chorus and organ parts make it a colorful complement to Beethoven's idyllic imagery.

The organ plays a central role in the next **Oregon Mozart Players** concerts Nov. 29 and 30. **John Jantzi** will play the First Christian Church's organ in two of Handel's amiable organ concerti, including Op. 4, No. 6, which is also well known in its alternative version for harp. The orchestra will also play Bach's fabulous third *Brandenburg Concerto* and — it's that time again — Corelli's "Christmas Concerto," a sparkling concerto grosso worth hearing in any season.

One of Eugene's most renowned musicians doesn't actually perform here much anymore, so any appearance by renowned clavichordist **Joan Benson** is an event for classical music fans. On Dec. 2, Benson will join the **Prem Ensemble** with singer **Snatam Kaur** and guitarist **Forrest McDowell** in music from the Sikh tradition in a concert benefiting the Kagyu Dakshang Chuling Building Fund project for the construction of a new shrine room. The interfaith "Building Peace" show takes place at Friends Meeting Hall, 2274 Onyx, and includes a silent auction and dessert feast. **EW**

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