

A Month in the Shedd

The old church-turned concert hall hosts a slew of American music shows.

Music lovers might be advised to spend this month at The Shedd, the one-time church that the Oregon Festival of American Music has transformed into one of the best music venues in the West.

On Saturday, Feb. 5, longtime OFAM and Eugene favorite **Darol Anger** brings his newest project, the **American Fiddle Ensemble**, to the Shedd. For three decades, Anger, who co-founded Montreux, Turtle Island String Quartet, Psychograss, David Grisman Quintet, and other innovative groups, has been one of America's most broad-minded and fascinating musicians. He describes his new multigenerational group as "a prodigy, phenom, a master, and a legendary weirdo" that plays "Afro Brazilian Scandinavian bluegrass," and even covers Stevie Wonder and Joni Mitchell.

The quartet, which includes bluegrass guitar master Scott Nygaard and prodigies Rushad Eggleston (cello) and Brittany Haas (violin), merges the technical excellence and melodic development of the classical string quartet with the improvisational spirit of jazz and the rhythmic drive of the traditional string band, achieving a well-informed blend of traditions that appeals to fans of folk music, classical, and jazz.

On Wednesday, Feb. 9, the Shedd hosts

historian, musicologist and singer **Don Edwards**, who's keeping the cowboy song tradition alive. Fans of Western history, literature and music will appreciate his warm baritone's whoopee ti-yi-yos and yo-de-lay-e-hoos.

Another traditional music master, the great Mississippi jazz and bluesman **Mose Allison**, returns to the Shedd on Friday, Feb. 11. Allison's pithy songwriting humor ("Your Mind is on Vacation and Your Mouth is Working Overtime," "Middle Class White Boy,") laconic Monkish pianistics, and blues cool have influenced songwriters such as The Who, Bonnie Raitt, and Van Morrison since the early 1960s, and continue to win converts through his relentless touring.

The next evening, Feb. 12, the Shedd hosts one of today's finest jazzers, pianist **Bill Charlap**, who's been winning accolades in New York jazz circles for a decade, even though he's only 37. His trio's appearance at the Shedd last summer demonstrated Charlap and his colleagues' (drummer Kenny Washington and bassist Peter Washington) seemingly effortless virtuosity and almost telepathic interplay, which have lately won major-label releases and international acclaim. His 2004 CD of Leonard Bernstein songs was universally hailed as among the year's finest jazz albums; Lenny's music of-

fers a richer-than-usual harmonic landscape for the trio's exploration in this concert.

As with Charlap, the Shedd has often featured various incarnations of the great American popular songs that arose from Tin Pan Alley in the 1920s and '30s and blossomed through the 1960s. But that immensely fertile upsurge has tended to overshadow the pop music that preceded it, and next week, OFAM will help rectify that. On Wednesday, Feb. 16 longtime Eugene favorite **Maria Jette**, accompanied by pianist Sonja Thompson, will sing tunes that would have topped the pop charts (had they existed) in America before World War I — "After the Ball," "Danny Boy" and some Joplin rags are probably the most familiar fare on the bill. The next evening, the pair will be joined by singers Emily Lodine, David Gustafson, and Sandy Naishtat in music that resounded through the parlors of Victorian and Edwardian Britain, including works by Edward Elgar and a then-popular setting of *The Rubaiyat* of Omar Khayyam called "In a Persian Garden."

You can hear quite different music from approximately the same period on Feb. 15-16, when the great clarinetist **David Krakauer** brings his quintet, Klezmer Madness! to the Hult Center's Soreng Theater. Krakauer has been one of the leaders in the revival and revitalization of klezmer, the tangy sound that emerged from Russian Jewish communities in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Klezmer Madness! updates the traditional stuff with rock, jazz, and even

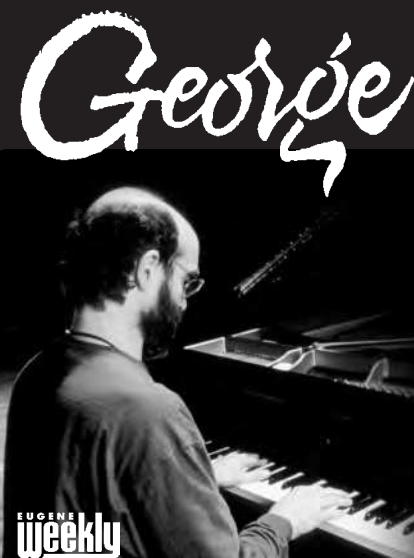
funk influences and makes it all sound fresh.

For some new American music, hear the Oregon/Vancouver based **Knotty Ensemble** accompany a new video by Eugene's **Daniel Tapio Heila** on Friday Feb. 11, and F.W. Murnau's classic film *Sunset* on Saturday, Feb. 12, part of a festival of improvised music and moving image art at DIVA.

The UO features some fine American music at Beall Concert Hall on Feb. 16 when soprano **Ann Crumb** sings three early songs by her father, the great composer George Crumb, music by her brother, UO prof David Crumb, and jazz accompanied by a UO faculty jazz combo. It's part of the UO's terrific **Music Today** festival, which you can read more about here soon.

Other intriguing UO concerts include faculty voice prof **Charles Turley** in music by Ravel, **Lori Laitman's** recent song cycle, "Men with Small Heads," and more on Feb. 8, the world premiere of a new piece by the young Puerto Rican composer **Armando Bayolo** at the Feb. 9 **Oregon Wind Ensemble** concert, and the Feb. 13 UO symphony concert that includes a piece commissioned by Marin Alsop for a young people's concert. The big UO show, though, is the **Paris Piano Trio's** appearance in the Chamber Music Series on Tuesday, Feb. 15, featuring one of Haydn's sparkling trios and equally intoxicating music by Schubert and Faure in one of the best classical concerts of the season. **ew**

Spend Valentine's Day with the Music of the Great One!



George Winston

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