

From Russia with Music

Classics from Eastern Europe highlight week.

The **Eugene Symphony**, on Thursday, April 21, traverses musical Romanticism's beginnings, in Beethoven's symphonic third piano concerto, to its end: Igor Stravinsky's landmark 1921 *Symphonies of Wind Instruments*, whose abandonment of Romantic gestures (not to mention string instruments), use of silence, and striking textures make this short, apparently simple work a truly radical signal of Romanticism's demise. The program concludes with another Russian classic by Dmitri Shostakovich, probably the last century's greatest symphonist. Although the nationalistic themes befit his *Symphony No. 12's* subtitle, "The Year 1917," the fact that his tormentor, Stalin, had died when he wrote it enabled the composer to avoid jingoism for something darker and more ambiguous.

You don't have to be a fan of Romantic music to cherish another Russian classic, Sergei Rachmaninoff's gorgeous *All Night Vigil* aka *Vespers*. The **Eugene Concert Choir**, accompanied by the Ukrainian choir **Cantus**, will perform this lush, dramatic vocal masterpiece at Central Lutheran Church (18th & Potter) on Saturday, April 16, along with a smattering of folk songs from the two choirs' homelands. Still more Russian music — played by an actual Rooskie — is on tap that same Saturday when Eugene favorite **Yuri Rozum** returns to what's becoming his second home for a recital of Romantic piano music by Rachmaninoff, Tchaikovsky and Liszt. After years of denying him opportunities for religious and political reasons, the Russian government finally gave Rozum its highest arts award in recognition of his popular and critical acclaim. The Shedd also hosts a couple of popular local acts: the **High Street Singers** folk quintet — "the Weavers meet Dan Hicks, with Bill Monroe overtones" — in 20th century folk classics on April 20, and the acoustic string band **Swang**, playing swing and jazz from the 1920s through the '50s, on April 28.

Yet another Russian symphonic masterpiece gets a live performance on April 16 and 17 when the **University of Oregon Symphony Orchestra** accompanies the **Eugene Ballet** in one of the most colorfully cinematic scores in all of music, Nikolai

Rimsky Korsakov's *Scherzade*, the glorious orchestral suite based on the *Arabian Nights*. The orchestra will also accompany dances based on music by Dvorak and Toronto's Srul Irving Glick, one of Canada's most prolific contemporary composers, whose music draws on Hebraic influences. Live music always adds an extra spark to dance.

Over at the university's Beall Concert Hall on April 22-24, the **UO Opera Ensemble** offers a double bill: Rossini's *The Marriage Contract* and Puccini's *Gianni Schicchi*, sung in English and moved from Florence, Italy to Florence, Ore., in the 1890s, and featuring the comic consequences that ensue when a timber baron leaves his estate to the church instead of his family. And on April 28 the UO faculty music masters in the **Oregon String Quartet** play an exceptionally fine program of 20th century music, including Claude Debussy's magnificent string quartet, American composer William Grant Still's lilting "Four Indigenous Portraits," featuring guest flutist Nancy Andrew, and a special treat: Bela Bartok's sparkling "Contrasts," commissioned by Benny Goodman, and featuring faculty members Fritz Gearhart on violin, clarinetist Wayne Bennett and pianist Victor Steinhardt.

More music from Eastern lands comes to Cozmic Pizza on April 16 when **Trio Slavej** — the Nightingale Trio — plays vocal and instrumental Balkan folk music from Bulgaria, Romania, Serbia, Greece and Macedonia on traditional instruments including goat-skin bagpipe, long-neck lute, and flutes, as well as the contemporary jazzy-rock "wedding music" for clarinet accordion and keyboard. The program emphasizes Roma (gypsy) dance music and features the amazing Bulgarian multi-instrumentalist Kalin Kirilov and UO Balkan music experts Carol Silverman and Mark Levy.

Finally, on Sunday, April 17 the group that's done more for contemporary music than any other, the **Kronos Quartet**, performs music by avant jazz master John Zorn (who's heading back to Eugene next year), the spellbinding, mysterious Icelandic avant rock band Sigur Ros, and Scott Johnson's powerful tribute to the great political iconoclast I.F. Stone, "How it Happens." **EW**

EMU CULTURAL FORUM PRESENTS

The Second City
TOURING COMPANY



TONIGHT ONLY!

Thursday, April 14

MCDONALD THEATER - 1010 WILLAMETTE ST.
SHOW BEGINS AT 8PM • DOORS OPEN AT 7PM

\$10 Students, \$15 General. Available at McDonald Theatre,
EMU Ticket Office, TicketsWest locations
1-800-992-8499 • www.ticketswest.com

CASTLE MEGASTORE & ZERO TOLERANCE
are proud to present Adult Superstar...

Monica Sweetheart

ONE NIGHT ONLY!!!

FRIDAY
APRIL 22nd
6pm - 10pm

3270 Gateway St
Springfield

Don't miss your chance to meet one of Today's Hottest Stars!!!

CASTLE
Knights & Damsels Welcome

SPRINGFIELD - 3270 GATEWAY ST - 541.988.9226
Sunday thru Wednesday 8am - 2am / Thursday thru Saturday Open 24 Hours



Hot Body CLUB

One Night Only!
Andi Sue Irwin
SATURDAY, APRIL 16

Entries for name change still being accepted until April 17th!

Oil Wrestling
MONDAY, APRIL 18

2165 W. 11TH AVENUE ♥ EUGENE ♥ 683-6021
Monday - Saturday 12-2 & Sunday 2-2 www.hotbody.com