

Music from the Other Americas

Latin American classics at Shedd, Native American sounds at Soreng

Eugene is pretty privileged when it comes to opportunities to hear the great classics of European music, and thanks to the Shedd (the organization formerly known as OFAM), we've also been treated to far more of its neglected North American stepchildren — the music of Copland, Barber, Gershwin and so many more — than just about any other city of our size. Now, the **American Symphonia** is continuing its mission to redress unfair musical neglect by bringing a pair of concerts to the Shedd that feature too-seldom heard classical music of Latin America. There's no better host for unfamiliar music than the genial soprano **Maria Jette**, whose easy rapport with audiences, sparkling musicality and dedicated research into unfortunately obscure crannies of the repertoire have delighted and enlightened audiences for years. Her 2004 Shedd concert of rare south-of-the-border gems unearthed some pleasant surprises, and these concerts should reveal even more treasures.

On Jan. 18, Jette and her longtime partner, pianist **Sonja Thompson**, will play folk and art songs by composers we should have heard of — Peru's Andres Sas, Brazil's Alberto Nepomuceño and Camargo Guarnieri, Isabel Aretz of Venezuela and Argentine Carlos Guastavino. Just as happened in similar circumstances in the U.S., Eastern Europe and elsewhere, South American music in the early 20th century

reflected the Romantic nationalism that was sweeping the continent, and its multicultural heritage — Native American, African and European — produced a rich list of ingredients for its musical recipes. On Jan. 20, Jette, Thompson and the American Symphonia chamber ensemble, featuring UO violin master **Fritz Gearhart** and other superb local musicians, will play more familiar songs and dances by Mexico's Carlos Chavez, Brazil's Heitor Villa Lobos and Argentina's Alberto Ginastera and nuevo tango master Astor Piazzolla plus still more rare fare by other composers. This is a wonderful and much-needed program that should fill in some serious gaps in our musical worldview and provide a piquant alternative to the usual classical fare. If you crave further immersion into great South American sounds, check out **Third Angle New Music Ensemble's** Tango Junkie concerts on Jan. 25 and 26 at Portland State University, featuring excerpts from Piazzolla's magnificent tango opera *Maria de Buenos Aires*.

The Shedd also hosts the great southern jazz/blues epitome of cool, **Mose Allison**, on Jan. 21. His witty, Monk-influenced songs and piano instrumentals have been winning admirers (famously including Pete Townshend and Van Morrison, who've covered his tunes often) since the 1960s, and his concerts are typically intimate, fun and swinging all at once.

Native American influences also inform

the **Eugene Concert Choir's** Jan. 27 concert, featuring a cantata by Oregon composer Hal Eastburn that employs Native American instruments, poetry and song. You can read our preview in Bravo at our online archive (www.eugeneweekly.com/2007/01/04/bravo.html). And that afternoon, you can see a free presentation by **Jóhannaí' Drum and Dancers**, who'll be joining the choir for that evening's concert. Coincidentally, the **Portland Chamber Orchestra's** Jan. 27 concert at Reed College also features new music by youngish Northwest composers involving Native American and nature themes. Forrest Pierce's "Great River of the West" for orchestra and Native American percussion musically traces the Columbia River. Duncan Neilson III's "Heart of the Wild" includes narrative and the composer's paintings and drawings to evoke the Northwest natural landscape.

Speaking of multimedia enhanced music, the DIVA center has been hosting a fascinating range of "sound artists" who make music from nontraditional sources and often combine them with visual and film imagery. On Jan. 31, catch Australian sound artists **Camila Hannan** and **Tarab** of Melbourne, Portland's **Seth Nehil**, **Daniel Heila** of Eugene and others for some sonic explorations. They might use field recordings of urban and natural sounds to produce sometimes trippy, sometimes haunting soundscapes that create images in your head whether you're watching the accompanying visuals or not.

There's no better host for unfamiliar music than the genial soprano **Maria Jette**.

The upcoming **Music Today Festival** (see next week's issue for more info) is always one of the highlights of the year, but happily that's not the only contemporary music at the UO this month; new music shouldn't be ghettoized only in sporadic festivals but should be a constant presence on our musical landscape. On Mondays, new UO faculty member **Brian McWhorter** is presenting free, late-night short programs of contemporary music in the cozy confines of the campus's Collier House. On Jan. 22, trumpeter McWhorter joins **Simon Lott**, the drummer for the Charlie Hunter Trio, in duets for a fictional Southern Louisiana band called Renwicke. On Jan. 25, the pair combines with local improvisers **Tommy Sciple**, UO faculty pianist **Toby Koenigsberg** and **Tim Willcox** at Cozmic Pizza in what promises to be a wild night of jazz-like jams for listeners with out-there ears. On Jan. 29, Brian and Eugene Symphony violinist **Lisa McWhorter** will play a duet written for them by the important 20th century composer Christian Wolff. On Jan. 20, another UO jazz master, saxophonist **Rich Perry**, plays the Oregon Jazz Festival with UO and LCC musicians at LCC auditorium. On Jan. 19, Eugene Symphony percussion titan **Charles Dowd** joins his protege **Tracy Freeze** in duets for vibes and marimba at the UO Music Building's room 198. **EW**

TK5 PRESENTS MRBLACK 5TK PRESENTS

HARDCORE 4 HUNGER

A CAN FOOD DRIVE FOR FOOD FOR LAKE COUNTY

GOD FORBID

GOATWHORE

MNEMIC

THE HUMAN ABSTRACT

ARSIS

ATHIARCHISTS

WACHE THE DEAD

5pm JEAN GREY CHANNEL BLUNTPPOINT

\$15 Advanced with 2 Cans of Food

TicketsWest

SUNDAY JANUARY 21

MRBLACK'S BDAY BASH

WOW HALL

291 W 8th Ave Eugene, OR INFO (503) 484-8345

TICKETS ON SALE NOW

ALL AGES EVENT

EVENTFUL PRODUCTIONS PRESENTS

Coco Montoya

Touring in support of his new album Dirty Deal

Tuesday, January 30

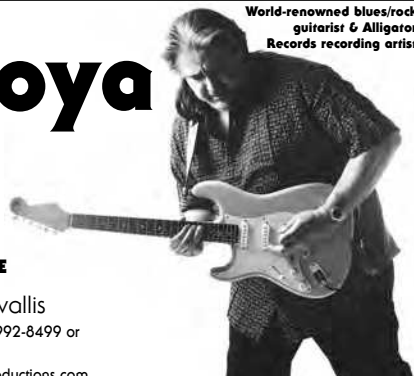
8:00pm ONLY WILLAMETTE VALLEY APPEARANCE

Platinum Club 126 S.W. 4th St, Corvallis

Tickets: TicketsWest at select Safeway Stores or charge by phone 800-992-8499 or online at www.ticketswest.com, Grass Roots Book Store, Platinum Club

For more info: Eventful Productions 541-928-2609 • www.EventfulProductions.com

World-renowned blues/rock guitarist & Alligator Records recording artist



THE KOOZIES

With Special Guests:

The Sawyer Family

Saturday, January 20

DA REAL THING FRIDAYS
★REGGAE ★DANCEHALL ★HIP HOP★
10PM SELECTIONS PROVIDED BY 10PM
BRIMSTONE SOUNDS
★LADIES FREE!!!★

THE ESSENTIALS
9:30PM \$5
THE BROTHERS OF BEAT
JAN. 21
LIVE AT LATITUDE 21

EVERY THURS. MOTHERSHIP CONNECTION w/BROTHERS OF BEAT
P-FUNK • OLD SCHOOL • R&B • SOUL • HIP HOP • 10PM • NO COVER

Bar & Grill 21 WEST 6th AVENUE • PH. 338-9000 • OPEN EVERYDAY 11:00AM-2:30AM