

The Comforters



The Comforters at 7 pm Thursday, Jan. 25 at Territorial Winery. Free.

— Amanda Burhop

New! Fresh! Controversial!

Among the explosion of new and unusual music at the UO this month is the always exciting **Music Today Festival**. On Jan. 29, the festival's big concert features **So Percussion** in a belated celebration of the 70th birthday of the world's greatest living composer, Steve Reich, including some of his mesmerizing early so-called minimalist works — "Music for Pieces of Wood," the once-contro-

versial, still powerful "Four Organs," (which sparked both raucous cheers and catcalls at its early 1970s performances) and part of the massive, highly influential 1971 masterpiece *Drumming*. This mighty music still packs the power to move the emotions like nothing else, and this is certainly one of the most highly recommended concerts of the year. The program also has sounds by one of Reich's musical descendants, David Lang of New York's Bang on a Can all stars. So Percussion also joins the UO's **Pacific Rim Gamelan** on Jan. 30 in music by UO graduate composers.

Two other Music Today concerts focus on contemporary songs: On Jan. 26, the harmonica/guitar/voices duo of **Joe Powers** and **Lewis Childs** perform music by Astor Piazzolla as well as Brazilian, Italian, Yiddish, and jazz songs, with guest appearances by Japanese koto master **Mitsuki Dazai** and even some tap dancers. The next night has Loyola University faculty musicians **Philip and Ellen Frohmayer** singing classical songs from Mozart, Handel and others, then 20th century songs from Leonard Bernstein, Ned Rorem, Cole Porter and more. The Music Today Festival takes place Jan. 26-30 at Beall Hall, UO. Tickets to individual shows are \$7-\$10. — Brett Campbell

A Musician for All Seasons

Way back on Sept. 28, I was lucky enough to profile the **Eugene Symphony's** concertmaster, **Kathryn Lucktenberg** (check out

www.eugeneweekly.com/2006/09/28/092806bravo.pdf if you're dying to read it). Not only was she a gracious subject, but the others who spoke to me about her said she was a marvelous and dedicated musician. That's most likely clear to anyone who has been to the Symphony this year and seen her passion for the music — the pounding feet during applause, the flickering tongue as a sign of concentration, the joy on her face when others perform well. On Thursday, Jan. 25, the Symphony highlights Lucktenberg performing Antonio Vivaldi's über-popular Four Seasons. Yes, you may have heard this piece in any coffee shop you care to visit, but there's a reason: The music is darn fine. And a bonus, unavailable with espresso, is that the Symphony will also project translations of the four sonnets on which Vivaldi based the music.

After intermission, the Symphony and its valiant concertmaster return for another bang-up piece, Beethoven's towering and massively familiar (OK, at least the first four notes) Symphony No. 5. The evening will be a musically comfortable night for those who haven't heard much classical music before, but conductor and artistic director Giancarlo Guerrero likes to provide energetic interpretations, so even those who would love to hear newer music from the Symphony will probably be pleased (and anticipating the UO's Music Today fest). If you don't have a ticket yet, you're probably out of luck; there might be last-minute returns, of course, but these superb musicians have sold out the house. But take heart, those of you who waited a bit too long! The Symphony performs the same program at 7:30 pm Friday, Jan. 26 at Jacoby Auditorium in Roseburg (and it's less spendy, which makes up for the gas costs). See this show by hook or crook; you won't regret it. — Suzi Steffen

Fingerpicking Kicks

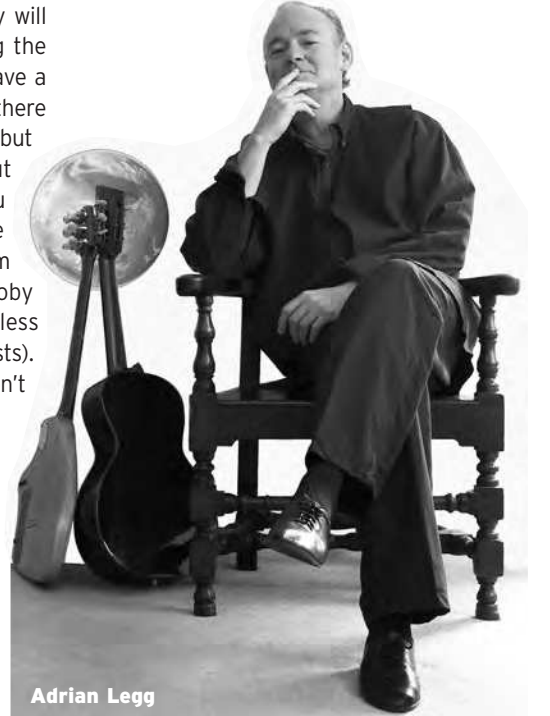
2007 will be remembered for a long time as having one heck of a wintery winter. At least until we have another winter next summer. While it's still nippy now, why not head to Luna, cozy up with a hot toddy and toast your loaves next to a blazing guitar?

Musical string theorist **Adrian Legg**, whom Joe Satriani says has "hammers for fingers," is renowned for his unmatched acoustic prowess. Legg flings musical moods and guitar glitter with unfettered ease, from eclectic folk ballads to intricate percussive minstrelsy. Voted *Guitarist* of the Decade by *Guitarist* magazine and chosen as *Guitar Player's* Reader's Poll Winner for Best Acoustic Fingerstyle Guitarist four consecutive years, Legg is considered a master of the craft.

Legg's passion for the guitar remains respectful and optimistic. "Although we may look fondly on the simple acoustic instrument," he says, "and while it still has a sweet little voice, the mechanical and technical opportunities offered by this constantly evolving instrument are there to be enjoyed by any artist who wants a broader palette."

Acoustically and aesthetically, Luna is the perfect room to witness Legg's intricate talents. It's hard to imagine a cozier Eugene venue matching Luna's intimacy. Sure, Luna's prices are a little steep, but well worth it for an evening spent absorbing Legg's unusually warm virtuosity. Adrian Legg plays at 8 pm Saturday, Jan. 27 at Luna. 21+ show. \$20.

— John Dooley



Adrian Legg

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