

The Phab Phillies

Opium dreams, UFOs and *Beowulf*

First Renée Fleming, now the **Philadelphia Orchestra** — Eugene is certainly cornering the classical celeb market these days. (In your face, Portland!) While the Phillies' May 27 program admittedly offers nothing new or even recent, it still offers a chance to hear one of classical music's grandest institutions strutting its stuff. Mozart's lilting *Sinfonia Concertante* for winds may not quite achieve the brilliance of its viola and violin counterpart but provides a delicious showpiece for the soloists. The main course, the *Fantastic Symphony* by the master orchestrator Hector Berlioz, displays the orchestra's famously polished sound. The great early masterpiece of Romanticism was inspired by the composer's lust for a famous actress — celeb worship is nothing new — whom he later married, though not before transforming her into a Satanic ogre in the symphony's opium dream of a final movement.

The PO has enjoyed a deserved reputation as one of the world's finest since the days of Leopold Stokowski before WWII and, despite the current frostiness between musicians and departing music director Christoph Eschenbach, still reigns as one of the elite orchestras. It'll be interesting to hear how that famous Philly sound survives in Silva Hall, and maybe this performance will provide a benchmark for local music fans to measure the progress of our own well-regarded orchestra.

When the Philadelphia Orchestra commissioned *Philadelphia Stories* from composer Michael Daugherty (who had heard it often), he included a movement that paid explicit tribute to the Stokowski sound. I heard Marin Alsop conduct it at the Cabrillo Festival along with another Daugherty piece that the **Oregon Wind Ensemble** will play June 1 at Beall Concert Hall. Daugherty's delightfully dizzy *UFO* is a dazzling five-movement percussion concerto that channels reports of UFO sightings, affectionate nods to old science fiction movies and *Star Trek* and a host of wild effects. Evelyn Glennie was the star soloist in that Cabrillo performance (and on the *Philadelphia Stories/UFO* CD) but the UO's own **Sean Wagener**, who will perform it here, is easily up to the frenetic percussion solos.

Speaking of percussion music, the **Oregon Percussion Ensemble** pays tribute to one of the pioneers of that form, John Cage, in an afternoon concert June 2. Cage's early works for percussion helped open up new possibilities for music. Cage soon after blazed trails in electronic music, and one of today's innovators in that form, **Masayuki Akamatsu**, will present some of his electronic audio visual works that evening in Room 198 of the UO Music School. Also at Beall, the May 31 choral concert features Renaissance, Baroque and contemporary music by several composers including

Portland-born Morten Lauridsen. And the June 7 band and orchestra concert has works by more contemporary composers including Penderecki and Eric Whitacre.

The UO also hosts a terrific jazz program this Thursday, May 24, when the fine contemporary trumpeter **Ron Miles** joins UO faculty and students in his own originals and



The Philadelphia Orchestra

works by UO students. I was delighted to discover Miles on recordings with his frequent partner Bill Frisell, and he's since become a distinctive original voice in contemporary jazz. The UO also hosts jazz concerts on May 25 (room 178) and June 3 (Beall), featuring premieres of accomplished student works and classics by Horace Silver, Bill Evans and more. And on June 1, UO guitar prof **Mike Denny** and organ master **Barney McClure** play jazz from their new CD, with help from drummer **Kevin Congleton**, at Jo Federigo's. But the big jazz show is **Joshua Redman**, who also has a new CD and who returns to the Shedd on June 6, this time in his acoustic trio with drummer Eric Harland and bassist Reuben Rogers. The young tenor/soprano sax giant was one of the brightest and most popular stars to emerge in jazz in the 1990s; his new trio disk looks back to the post-bop trio tradition of Sonny Rollins, augmented by occasional Asian influences, including Indonesian gamelan.

You can hear a real gamelan, accompanying shadow puppet theater, in a free show at the UO's Agate Hall on June 2. But instead of presenting a traditional Javanese epic from the Mahabharata or Ramayana, this performance is something special: an original score and script composed and performed by Qehn and the ensemble he directs, Eugene's **Gamelan Sari Pandhawa**. (Full disclosure: I sometimes play in that ensemble, but I won't be in this performance, and I receive no compensation whatsoever from the group.) Qehn has taught gamelan at the UO and studied composition at the university. He's long been fascinated by the imperishable *Beowulf* legend and has created a setting of the epic featuring songs in Old English and Scots Gaelic, a script in both Old and Modern English and puppet action using hand-carved puppets from Java. It'll be fascinating to hear the results of crossing one of the West's great myths with one of the East's great musical and theatrical forms.

EW

TABOO NIGHTCLUB

TONIGHT!
AND EVERY THURSDAY
DJ TEKNEEK PRESENTS
NOCHE LATINA
REGGAE TONE, SALSA, MARENGUE,
HIP HOP & R&B
\$1 TABOO TEAS, \$1 COORS LIGHTS
\$2 WELLS, ALL NIGHT EVERY NIGHT

FRIDAYS
GET LIFTED FRIDAYS
REGGAE, DANCE HALL,
HIP HOP, R&B
DJ WOBBLE
& DJ TEKNEEK
\$2 COVER B4 11PM
\$1 TABOO TEAS, \$1 COORS LIGHTS
\$2 WELLS, ALL NIGHT EVERY NIGHT

SATURDAYS
HIP HOP/DANCE/R&B
HOSTED BY
DJ TEKNEEK

TUESDAYS
94.9 PRESENTS
CYPHER ROOM
HOSTED BY CONCEPT OF THE SON OF
ADAM & DJ TEKNEEK
WEEKLY FREESTYLE COMPETITION FOR
\$100 PRIZE & A SET ON FRIDAY NIGHT
\$1 TABOO TEAS, \$1 COORS LIGHTS
\$2 WELLS, ALL NIGHT EVERY NIGHT

WEDNESDAYS
SILVER DOLLAR PRESENTS
WILD ON WEDNESDAYS
AMATEUR POLE DANCE CONTEST
\$500 CASH PRIZE
23 W. 6th (across from the Hult Center)
338-8787 • www.tabooeugene.com

e. geek's
Knowledge Knights

"Which two cities
have the oldest
stadiums in Major
League Baseball?"

The first 10 people to bring the correct
answer to this question written on this ad
will receive a free prize!

EVERY TUESDAY FROM 8PM - 11PM
FREE • COOL PRIZES • TONS OF FUN

Max's Tavern
550 e 13th, Eugene, Oregon
(541) 349-8986

WORLD TOUR 2007

SNATAM KAUR
celebrate peace concert

with GURUGANESHA SINGH,
MANISH VYAS & RAM DASS SINGH

SAT., MAY 26TH, 7:30 - 9:30PM
UNITY OF THE VALLEY
3912 DILLARD (39TH & HILYARD), EUGENE

LOCAL TICKETS:
\$15 ADVANCE, \$20 AT THE DOOR
YOGA WEST EUGENE, 3635 HILYARD
STAR GATE BOOKS, 1374 WILLAMETTE
GREATER GOODS, 515 HIGH
EUGENE WEEKLY, 1251 LINCOLN
CHILDREN 12 AND UNDER FREE

FOR MORE INFO: 343-7825
WWW.YOGAWESTEUGENE.COM
WWW.SPIRITVOYAGE.COM

WITH SUPPORT FROM
PEACE CEREAL Spirit Voyage Cell-nique®
Super Green Drink

Green Flash Brewing Co.
WEST COAST I.P.A. SAN DIEGO

**Just One Of Over 900
Beers To Choose From!**
345 E. 11th Avenue
Eugene, OR • (541) 485-Bier

The Bier Stein
BOTTLESHOP & PUB