

NEW VOICES

A bevy of modern performers bring the future of music to town

I saw classical music's future and its name is ... **Roomful of Teeth?** That takeoff on Jon Landau's famous 1974 encomium to a young Bruce Springsteen might be a little over the top.

But then again, with nearly 30 million Americans singing in choirs and a cappella music a genuine populist phenomenon, an ensemble that combines the universal human instrument — voices — with contemporary artistic ambition might well be a key to bringing new listeners, as well as new singers, to 21st-century classical composers, and vice versa.

Based in Boston, Roomful of Teeth (RoT), which performs this Sunday, Jan. 31, at the UO's Aasen-Hull Hall, has already won a Grammy and made one of its members, composer **Caroline Shaw**, the youngest-ever Pulitzer winner for her *Partita for Eight Voices*, written for the group. Admittedly, some of the wild vocal techniques the group has worked diligently to master are beyond the reach of amateurs, and its eight members, including the amazing soprano **Esteli Gomez**, who's currently completing a teaching residency at the UO, are spectacularly talented singers.

But by dramatically expanding the musical palette for contemporary composers and showing young singers the seemingly limitless possibilities of the human voice, RoT is opening an exciting new chapter in the music of this century. The group's UO concert will feature music from its ravishing new album, *Render*, and more.

Some groundbreaking contemporary classical music is being born here in Oregon, too, much of it among the members of Cascadia Composers. This Saturday, Jan. 30, at First Christian Church (1166 Oak St.), performers including Eugene's exciting new **Delgani String Quartet**, pianist **Alexander Schwarzkopf**, singer **Nancy Wood** and other accomplished musicians from Eugene and Portland will perform new music by Eugene's **Paul Safar** and Schwarzkopf. Joining along are some of Portland's top composers, including opening act **John Berendzen** and his "roboborn." But this isn't just a performance for the ears. It's a full multi-sensory extravaganza with projected video art, live cymatics display, special lighting effects and various other multimedia enhancements. In fact, some performances will happen in the dark. It's a great chance



BANJO WIZARDS
BELA FLECK AND
ABIGAIL WASHBURN

to catch up on the state of the art in homegrown modern music created by our own fellow Oregonians.

Along with hosting RoT, the UO is also bringing Seattle guitarist **Michael Partington** to Beall Hall this Saturday, Jan. 30, to play music by Piazzolla, Albania, Portland composer Bryan Johanson and more. On Feb. 6, the UO's Aasen-Hull Hall is hosting **Beta Collide**, the new music ensemble led by UO faculty members **Brian McWhorter** and **Toby Koenigsberg**, in crazy arrangements of this year's Grammy music nominees. UO students are also producing one of the great Baroque operas, Gluck's *Orfeo and Eurydice*, the tragic Orpheus myth, Jan. 29 and 31, at LCC's Ragozzino Hall. Earlier on Feb. 6, First United Methodist Church (1376 Olive), brings Russian pianist **Andrei Andreev** to play Romantic classics by Beethoven, Chopin, Schubert and Rachmaninov.

A couple of fine Oregon jazz musicians come to town Jan. 30 — though you can only catch one of them, as the shows conflict. At the intimate Broadway House, Portland

pianist-drummer-trumpeter-composer **George Colligan**, who made a sterling reputation in New York jazz circles before taking a faculty position at Portland State University, returns with his trio to play originals and jazz standards. Meanwhile, over at The Jazz Station, you can hear Oregon sax master **Tom Bergeron's Brasil Band**, augmented by three guests: his old partner, New York jazz drummer **Art Lillard**, pianist **Dan Gaynor** and trombonist **Keller Coker**, along with singer **Rosi Bergeron** and bassist **Page Hundemer**.

Another musical family, banjo masters **Bela Fleck** and **Abigail Washburn**, perform duets on Feb. 10 at The Shedd. Fleck's incomparable skill, 15 Grammys and wide range of musical explorations, along with Washburn's singing and songwriting — not to mention their debut album's varied styles (from Dixieland to bluegrass to British folk to originals) and their profusion of different sounding banjos — promise a show that's more than just pickin' and grinnin', although there'll be plenty of both. ■

HI-FI ENCORE LOUNGE - ALL EVENTS 21+ PLEASE
WEDNESDAYS: FUNK JAM FREE 9PM
THURS JAN 28: EDWAARD FREE 9PM
FRI JAN 29: CIRQUE DE LICIOUS PRESENTS FROSTED \$10 COVER 10PM
SAT JAN 30: SOL SEED FREE 10PM
HIFIMUSICBALL.COM
 44 E 7th Ave in Eugene (corner of 7th Avenue & Willamette Street)

G JONES w/ BLEEP BLOOP
 HU-ARN-TI
 BEDROOM TRAX
FEB 4 THURSDAY 7 PM DOORS / 8 PM SHOW
 18+ AGES

THE KNOCKS 'ROUTE 55' TOUR
 w/ CARDI KNOX
FEB 6 SATURDAY 7:30 PM DOORS / 8:30 PM SHOW
 ALL AGES

HELL'S BELLES
FEB 13 SATURDAY 7 PM DOORS / 8 PM SHOW
 21+ AGES

BEST OF EUG 2015
 OREGONMICROGROWERSGUILD.COM

THE GUILD

Everyone Over 21 is Welcome
 Seeds Available for Sale
 Grown with Organic Practices
 Separate Rooms for Medical & +21
 CBD Specialist

Your Friends at the Oregon Microgrowers Guild

do not operate a vehicle under the influence of this drug - for use by adults 21 years of age or older - keep out of reach of children

1395 CROSS STREET EUGENE, OR • 541-246-8972