

Concert: 'It's going to be very special'

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Orange said his paintings are "like jazz, free-form and not referencing the literal interpretation of landscape." He becomes absorbed in the act of creation: "I'm just playing, being free, with no preconceptions about outcome."

The artists dreamed up the "Sight and Sound" idea after the program for the 2016 festival of 13 concerts was printed. They considered adding it to Tuesday's "Bach by Candlelight" event at Grace Episcopal Church in Astoria, but decided it would reach a bigger audience — and have more space on stage — if moved to the Liberty Theater Saturday. Tuesday's concert issold out.

It was added to the 4 p.m. "Sergey's Happy Hour" event as a "duo," featuring only Antonov, but Kazantsev embraced the idea and it expanded into "Trio for Cello, Piano and Artist." The musicians have known each other since third grade and have played together, often as part of the Hermitage Trio.

Antonov has been fascinated in the healing power of classical music, and said he has wondered how it could inspire a visual artist to create something spontaneously.

"It was always my intent to try something like this, and I am happy that Darren liked the



ABOVE: Astoria artist Darren Orange uses a scraper to apply paint to a small canvas in his studio in 2015. BELOW: Keith Clark conducts the Astoria Music Festival Orchestra in Philip Glass's Symphony No. 4, "Heroes," based on music by David Bowie.

idea," he said, the excitement evident in his voice.

"It's going to be very special, and this is the first time in my life we have done this. I think whatever Darren puts on canvas — that's how he sees the work. And there's absolutely nothing that can go wrong with it.

"If we were to play the piece, then play it again and have him start over, too, it would be a completely different painting. That's

what's amazing about live performances."

Other compositions on tap — without painter — include — without painter — include Tchaikovsky's "Pezzo Capriccioso," Gershwin's "Rhapsody in Blue," Three Preludes by Rachmaninov, Stravinsky's Cello Suite No 1 and Astor Piazzolla's 1974 work "Libertango." Pianist Cary Lewis, the festival's chamber music director, will also appear.

A second show at the Liberty 7.30 p.m. Saturday is a

Symphonic Showcase. That concert features the Astoria Music Festival Orchestra, conducted by Keith Clark, with Kazantsev playing Chopin's Piano Concerto No. 2, mezzo soprano MaryAnn McCormick from the Metropolitan Opera of New York singing songs by Mahler, and visiting strings soloists Jeffrey Thayer from San Diego and James Van Valkenburg from Detroit performing a Mozart piece for violin, viola and orchestra.



Divided: 'Today we are not so much communicating as miscommunicating'

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that rarely intersect. What's big news in one world is ignored in another. Conspiracy theories sprout, anger abounds and the truth becomes ever more elusive.

In this world of hundreds of channels and uncounted websites, of exquisitely targeted advertising and unbridled social media, it is easy to construct your own intellectual ghetto, however damaging that might be to the ideal of the free exchange of ideas.

"Right now the left plays to the left and the right plays to the right," said Glenn Beck, the former Fox News host who started TheBlaze, a conservative network, in 2010. "That's why we keep ratcheting up the heat. We're throwing red meat. We're in a room that is an echo chamber, and everybody's cheering."

Albrecht and Dearth don't rely exclusively on partisan media. Albrecht starts her day with the Los Angeles Times, and Dearth occasionally flips to MSNBC to hear opposing viewpoints, particularly on "Morning Joe." They do share mirrored misgivings about the major broadcast networks, newspapers and their related websites — the mainstream media — though Dearth thinks it's too liberal and Albrecht considers it too conservative.

That's the kind of thinking that inspired Roger Ailes to launch Fox News Channel in 1996. The former GOP operative mixed news during the day with a prime-time lineup that appealed to conservatives.

By 2002, Fox had raced past CNN to become the top-rated news network, beginning the golden age of partisan media.

There wasn't anything to compare on the left, at least until summer 2006 when Keith Olbermann began a series of commentaries after being angered by a speech where Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld equated Iraq War opponents to pre-World War II



AP Photo/Mark J. Terrill, Michael Conroy

This combination of June 2016 photos shows Peggy Albrecht, left, in Westlake Village, Calif. and John Dearth in Carmel, Ind. Albrecht is a freelance writer and comedian who loves Bernie Sanders. Dearth, a retiree, grew up a Democrat but flipped with Ronald Reagan. He's a Trump guy.

appeasers. His show became home for disaffected liberals in the Bush administration's final years. MSNBC hired Maddow and eventually made the entire network left-leaning, although network ratings forced it back to news during the day.

Fueled by Fox's primacy and opposition to the war in Iraq, liberals began finding their voice online in the early 2000s.

Writer Josh Marshall began blogging and reporting, developing the Talking Points Memo website. His work forced wider attention to issues like the firing of U.S. attorneys in the Bush administration, Republican voter suppression efforts and the fight against Social Security privatization. TPM has grown to 25 employees with offices in Washington and New York.

Others followed Marshall's path. Conservatives took advantage of new media, too.

"I don't think it's as much a danger to democracy as people think it is," Olbermann said. "When the business changes to being all conservative media or all liberal media — though I don't know how that would happen — that's when it becomes dangerous."

Hardening of attitudes

Yet today's political media

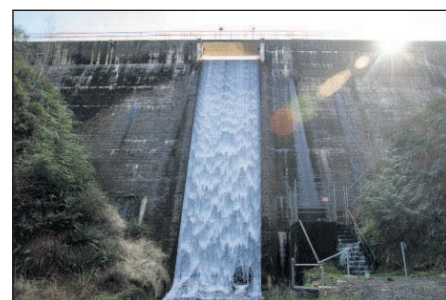
get at least some of the blame for a hardening of attitudes. A generation ago, majorities in each political party described themselves as moderate. Now 62 percent of the Democratic primary electorate identify themselves as liberal, and 76 percent of Republicans say they're conservative, according to ABC News exit polling.

Marty Baron, executive editor of The Washington Post, spoke with some distress this spring at the commencement of Temple University's School of Media and Communication.

"Today we are not so much communicating as miscommunicating," he said. "Or failing to communicate. Or choosing to communicate only with those who think as we do. Or communicating in a manner that is wholly detached from reality. Too often we look only for affirmation of our own ideas rather than opening ourselves to the ideas of others."

That thought was on Beck's mind when he had lunch a year ago with Arianna Huffington, founder of the left-leaning news site that bears her name. They talked about the need for an outlet where a conservative can talk about ideas to a liberal audience and vice versa.

But for now, nothing's come of the idea.



The Bear Creek Dam will likely survive a Cascadia Subduction Zone quake.

Joshua Bessex
The Daily
Astorian

Dam: Seismic study cost the city \$390,865

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Using a 1911 field engineer's notebook that Ken Cook, the city's public works director, uncovered, and a detailed examination of the abutments that brace the dam, a consultant prepared a new geologic model that found that conditions are better than previously assumed.

The dam is a concrete gravity structure in a narrow canyon that relies on its weight for stability. The consultant found that the abutments on the left and right are embedded in a strong basalt foundation — compared to the middle of the dam, which sits in a weaker sandstone — and will likely help the dam withstand resistance.

Asked by City Councilor Drew Herzog whether the dam will remain in one piece in a quake, Gerry Heslin, an engineer with Cornforth Con-

sultants, a Portland based geotechnical firm, said: "Yes. It will stay in one piece and it will stay where it's sitting."

The seismic study cost the city \$390,865, with \$153,932 covered by grant money.

The city will likely make improvements at the water system headworks to prevent overtopping at the dam but can avoid significant structural modifications.

Keith Mills, a state engineer for the Oregon Water Resources Department, said the Bear Creek Dam had been a concern to the state because it is close to the Cascadia Subduction Zone off the Pacific coast.

The state worked with the city and the consultant on a thorough analysis of the dam that, Mills said, shows "with reasonable certainty how well your water supply is going to hold up in some pretty severe conditions."

Dispatch team: 'They are all very deserving of this award'

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Conference Chairwoman Brandy Ritter offered congratulations to Seaside's communications staff. "The team handled the incident with grace and professionalism and we would like to be able to honor them for their work," Ritter said.

After Gooding was killed, Ritter wrote, dispatchers continued to perform their duties in the commu-

nications center. Dispatchers who were not scheduled reported to work "just to support each other."

"Putting the emotions aside and continuing on with the work that needed to be done took courage and strength beyond measure," Brown said. "I am so proud of all of them and the way they handled everything coming at them. They are all very deserving of this award."

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