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Orchestra at Esther Short Park

Acclaimed musician to conduct at free concert

For the first time ever, acclaimed conductor, pianist and violinist Awadagin Pratt will conduct the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra during a free concert on Sunday, Sept. 8 at Esther Short Park in downtown Vancouver.

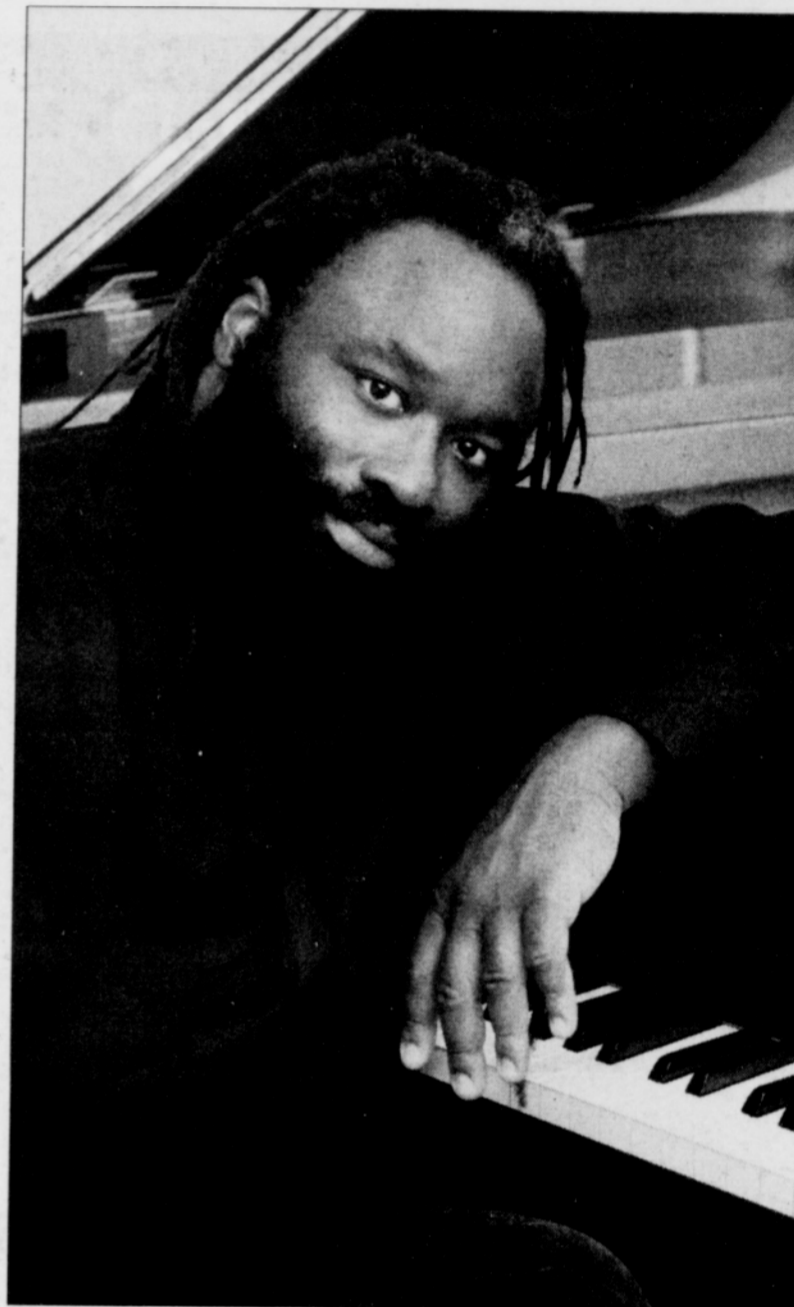
As part of the music filling the air, children will have the opportunity for some hands-on fun with orchestral instruments during a "musical petting zoo," starting at 1:45 p.m.

The concert, featuring Pratt and guest artist baritone Stephen Salters begins at 3 p.m. and is free and open to the public.

Pratt began studying piano and violin as a child. He has been the subject of numerous articles in the national press, including Newsweek, People Magazine and New York Newsday. He was named one of the 50 Leaders of Tomorrow in Ebony Magazine's special 50th anniversary issue and has been featured on National Public Radio's Performance Today, St. Paul Sunday Morning and Weekend Edition.

On television, Pratt has performed on the Today Show, Good Morning America and Sesame Street, been profiled on CBS Sunday Morning and was one of the featured soloists on PBS's "Live from the Kennedy Center - A Salute to Slava."

In November 2009, he was one of four artists selected to perform at a White House classical music event that included student



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workshops hosted by the First Lady, Michelle Obama, and performing in concert for guests including President Obama.



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