



THE SANTA CRUZ FOUNDATION FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS

We are pleased to share **Preludes and Postludes**, our first Newsletter. For those of you who are new to the Santa Cruz Foundation for the Performing Arts, we are a nonprofit organization that is dedicated to presenting high quality live performances of popular and classical music in area homes, historic sites and now at the Benderly - Kendall Opera House, our new performing arts building. The performances of the 2017-2018 concert season have been breathtaking and we would like to share some of the exciting events that have been taking place in Patagonia, Arizona in and around the Benderly - Kendall Opera House:



Patagonia Fall Festival

Before any of our concerts began this year, SCFPA was the proud sponsor of the 2017 Patagonia Fall Festival! The three day event in October had a record breaking turnout and to participate in the festivities we created a cartoon face cut-out of the baroque composer Georg Friedrich Handel standing in front of the Benderly-Kendall Opera House—we loved seeing familiar faces and making new friends too!



Richter/Uzur Duo



The electrifying Richter-Uzur Duo returned to perform on November 5th! The duo is no stranger to SCFPA having performed in the Benderly Salon Series in 2013, 2015, and 2016. Their virtuosic and creative music making has been a delight over the years and it was magical to hear them again in the beautiful acoustics of the Opera House. The dynamic cello-guitar duo performed works by Bach, Saint-Saens, Bartok, as well as some of their own brilliant original compositions. They also gave a very memorable performance of their own arrangement of John Lennon and Paul McCartney's "I am the Walrus".

Yuri Namkung and Evan Kory



Exactly one year after performing the last “house” concert of our Benderly Salon Series in 2016, violinist Yuri Namkung and pianist Evan Kory returned to Patagonia for a recital at the Benderly - Kendall Opera House. The duo met four years ago while teaching at the Interlochen Arts Academy in Michigan and have been performing together ever since. Their diverse program on November 19th included music of the 18th, 19th, and 20th centuries—works by Handel, Ponce, Brahms, and Bartok. Thanks to the generous loan of two violins by master violin maker Douglas Cox of Vermont, Yuri was able to play on both modern and baroque instruments with Evan accompanying on piano and harpsichord. The opening piece was a gorgeous transcription by Jascha Heifetz of Mexican composer Manuel Ponce’s “Estrellita”, meaning “Little Star”. The recital program was unique in the alteration between modern and baroque instruments—immediately following the Ponce the duo walked over to the harpsichord and played a Handel Sonata in F major. The wonderful acoustics of the Opera House illuminated the exquisite sound-world of the beautiful harpsichord and baroque violin.

To accentuate the strong contrast between baroque and modern instruments, Yuri and Evan performed Bartok’s Romanian Folk Dances. Bartok, who was also an ethnomusicologist, paved the way for future composers to incorporate music of all cultures into their compositions. The centerpiece and final work of the program was Brahms’s Sonata No.1 in G Major. An audience member after the concert remarked that he loved the ending. Expecting a grandiose conclusion for such an epic work, he was pleasantly surprised that the sonata ended in quiet repose, much like a gentle sunset.



Santa Cruz Minstrels

The Santa Cruz Minstrels, four reeds and a flute, performed at the Wild Horse Restaurant Balcony on November 24th for the Patagonia Holiday Art Walk and also led the annual Christmas Carol Sing on the steps of the Benderly - Kendall Opera House on December 22nd.



Solo Tres

Consulate General of Mexico Nogales, AZ



The month of December at the Opera House began with a very special performance given by members of the State of Sonora Philharmonic Orchestra. The concert by “Solo Tres”, a charming trio comprised of violin, bassoon, and double bass played by Antonio Mendez, Francisco Moreno, and Omar Nava, was the culmination of months of planning and collaboration between the Consulate General of Mexico in Nogales, the Instituto Sonorense de Cultura, and SCFPA. Christina Wilhelm pointed out at the beginning of the program that the very first performance in the Opera House was given by members of the Tucson Pops Orchestra. She mentioned that because of this, it was very fitting that the conclusion of our first year of concerts in our new venue was with musicians of Hermosillo’s Sonora Philharmonic Orchestra. Solo Tres performed a diverse program of works ranging from baroque masterpieces to “Bésame Mucho” and “O sole mio” and many of the delightful pieces were arranged for the unique combination of violin, bassoon, and bass by their very own double bassist Omar Nava. Thanks to the sponsorship of the Mexican Consulate and SCFPA the event was free to the public. We are very much looking forward to our future collaborations! The next concert is already scheduled for June 30th, 2018.

Santa Cruz Singers and PCUMC

On December 3rd the Santa Cruz Singers and the Patagonia Community United Methodist Church Choir performed the cantata “The Advent of Our God” by James Hansen. The beautiful event was both a musical performance and a service for the season of Advent. Rehearsals for the large musical work began in September with the help of Santa Cruz Singers members Anne Quirin and Reed Mencke. The unique set-up for the performance gave the full house audience the experience of hearing music at one end of the Opera House and narration of the readings at the other end of the space. The readings, which occurred in between musical movements, were orated with wonderful conviction by community members: Linda Fong, Rev. A. Tom Jelinek, Fr. George Holley, and Kay Pitt. Directed by Christina Wilhelm, the choir was accompanied by Pat McNamara on flute and SCPFA Artist-in-Residence Evan Kory on piano.





Levi Hernandez and Evan Kory

Metropolitan Opera and Chicago Lyric Baritone Levi Hernandez and pianist Evan Kory performed a recital on December 10th featuring works by Caccini, Purcell, Guastavino, Ibert, Gershwin, as well as a few Christmas classics. Levi's velvety voice was perfectly suited for the Benderly-Kendall Opera House. His warm tone and the resonant acoustics of the Opera House were a match made in heaven. An especially moving moment was Levi's encore—he sang "White Christmas" and the entire audience sang along. Evan remarked after the concert that all of the voices singing White Christmas inside the Opera House created a magical surround-sound choir! Indeed, it was a moment many of us will always remember. If you would like to hear a bit of the encore be sure to look for a video clip on our Facebook page or Instagram @scfpa.operahouse.

Please join us at the Benderly - Kendall Opera House in 2018 for our regularly scheduled Sunday 3:00pm concerts and for two new Friday evening performances

For Reservations please visit: www.scfpapresents.org

1/7 Juanito Pascual, flamenco guitar

1/21 Tomoya Aomori & Julia Kang cellists with special guests Kaori Tanioka, piano and Kuriko Tsugawa, bass

1/28 John Kamfonas, piano & Eric Edberg, cello

2/2 (Friday) 5:00pm Western Cowboy Songs and Stories with Kerry Grombacher and Jon Messenger

2/11 Note Bene - 19th century parlor music

2/18 Walter Aparicio, piano & Amanda Zory, soprano: Bolivian piano music and art songs

2/23 (Friday) 7:00pm Django Shredders - Gypsy Jazz Guitars

3/4 U of A Musicians on Tour - Woodwind Ensemble

3/11 Ron Lantz, violin & Laura Kargal, piano

3/18 Nogales Barroco performs baroque music on historical instruments

3/25 Nogales Barroco performs Dvorak Piano Quintet and other 19th century music

4/8 Antonio Barberena, accordion

4/15 Juliana Oshinchuk, piano & John De La Paz, clarinet

4/22 U of A Musicians on Tour

4/29 William Feasley, classical guitar

5/6 Vilen Gabrielyan, violin

5/13 Evan Kory, piano



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We would love to hear from you. If you have attended any concert this season or seasons past, please let us know your thoughts! You can email us at: scfpa@scfpapresents.org.



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