



DIANE STEVENSON | Statesman Journal

Lithuanian-born pianist Rudolf Budginas plays a free program for school kids and parents at The Historic Elsinore Theatre. The event kicked off the Salem Community Concerts' season.

Music and theater deals for kids

These are some of the deals that Mid-Valley arts organizations offer to students. They are compiled from the ArtSmart 2009-10 Education Guide and from the organizations listed. For additional opportunities, including scholarships, residencies, classes and museums, go to www.arts.martsalem.org/education.html

SALEM COMMUNITY CONCERT ASSOCIATION

DEAL: \$10 admission for students of any age, plus one parent, teacher or chaperone per student gets the same rate.

DEAL: The Cavatina Duo (guitar and flute) will give a free outreach concert at 12:30 p.m. Nov. 19 for Mid-Valley students and for children accompanied by parents.

LEARN MORE: Call Esther Ediger, (503) 623-9055 or go to www.salemcommunityconcerts.org.

OREGON SYMPHONY ASSOCIATION IN SALEM

DEAL: \$5 student ticket rate (any student, any age, with valid student ID) for any available seat for Oregon Symphony concerts in Salem. Purchase tickets at the box office starting at 7 p.m. the night of the concert.

DEAL: Students who want guaranteed seats can purchase a full concert series for \$10 per concert.

DEAL: The 2009-10 Youth Concert will be held March 16 at Smith Auditorium, Willamette University. Performances at 9:30 and 11 a.m., cost \$3 per child and reservations are needed.

LEARN MORE: Go to www.orsymphonysalem.org.

SALEM CHAMBER ORCHESTRA

DEAL: \$5 student tickets for all concerts

DEAL: "Gift of Music" Family Concert is free: 2 and 4 p.m. March 14, Hudson Hall, Willamette University

LEARN MORE: Go to www.salemchamberorchestra.org.

SALEM POPS ORCHESTRA

DEAL: \$5 tickets for all students with valid student ID and free for students 12 and younger who are accompanied by a paying adult.

LEARN MORE: rohalet@earthlink.net or go to www.salempopsorchestra.org.

See Deals, 4D

Making classical music cool

Concert by pianist Rudolf Budginas one of many that mark arts organizations' attempt to reach the next generation

BY BARBARA CURTIN
Statesman Journal

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Beethoven = boring? Not so. It's a safe bet, at least for the hundred or so kids who attended last Monday's free school outreach concert at the Historic Elsinore Theatre sponsored by the Salem Community Concert Association.

Pianist Rudolf Budginas played his own souped-up arrangement of Beethoven's Fifth Symphony, hands flying between the piano keys, an African djembe and a cymbal.

It was a highlight of a show that had him leaping between the stage and the audience, asking questions and teaching, then playing excerpts from Chopin,

Liszt, Joplin, Gershwin and Bizet.

The concert association is just one of the local groups that offer deep discounts and freebies for young people and their parents. The hope is that once students are exposed to great music and theater, they'll become lifelong fans.

Online

See this story online at StatesmanJournal.com for a photo gallery

"This is our next audience," said Esther Ediger, president of the concert association. "We're an aging organization. By inviting the students, we're bringing them in to learn. This outreach and his interaction whet their appetite for live music, and there's nothing to replace live concerts."

Budginas, 40, dressed casually in jeans, said before the concert that he relished unscripted student shows like this one. He was in Salem as part of a 32-state, 85-city tour.

See Budginas, 4D



Budginas invited students from the audience, including Tayden Goodeill, 11, from Queen of Peace School, to help him.

Budginas

Continued from 1D

Though he was born to musical parents in Lithuania and started music lessons at age 4, as a child he still thought, "it was the most horrible thing to go to the classical concert."

As an adult, he vowed to change that.

Performers need to understand today's youth culture, with its shorter attention spans and modern music forms, he said.

"We have to put classical music in a modern concept if we want to preserve it," he said.

In San Luis Obispo, Calif., where he now lives, he played a concert with a youth symphony, a rock band and piano.

"It was very lively," he said. "Young people came and brought their friends."

But isn't it a gimmick to jazz up the famous opening

of Beethoven's Fifth?

"Better to stimulate the child with cheapened Beethoven than a video game," he said. "Better to hear Beethoven in a beautiful theater with your friends than to be in your own room with your computer."

Afterward, 7-year-old Josie Freeman, who is home-schooled, said, "my favorite part must have been the rhythm part. I want to be a drummer."

Nicki Medeiros, a sixth-grade teacher at Queen of Peace Catholic School, said, "in these times when the economy is tight, it's wonderful to be part of a program like this." The school's music teacher would follow up on the concert in class, she said.

Hannah Chong, one of Medeiros' students, got to stand on stage and play triangle for one piece.

"I liked the part where he played Liszt and Chopin



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Rudolf Budginas brought students from the audience to help him with a piece, including Tayden Goodeill (from left), 11; Hannah Chong, 11; Alyssa Walsh, 11; and Anthony Mousel, 10; all from Queen of Peace School.

and stuff like that," she said. "I will probably want to go up to his level some day."

Tayden Goodeill, another sixth-grader, said, "At first I thought it would

be a little boring to hear a piano guy, but when it got started, it started to be more interesting."

bcurtin@statesmanjournal.com or (503) 399-6699

Deals

Continued from 1D

SMITH FINE ARTS SERIES

DEAL: \$10 tickets for any student with valid student ID.

LEARN MORE: Call (503) 838-8333, e-mail fineart@wou.edu or go to www.wou.edu/president/advancement/smith.

WILLAMETTE MASTER CHORUS

DEAL: \$5 tickets for students with valid student ID. Additional 10 percent discount to groups. Dress rehearsals are free for choir and other school music groups.

LEARN MORE: Contact Paul Klemme, (503) 370-6929, or go to www.willametteasterchorus.org.

PENTACLE THEATRE

DEAL: Student discount of

\$1.50 off advance-purchase, reserved-seat tickets; half price for student tickets purchased at the door.

DEAL: The Thursday night prior to the opening night of a show run is student night and is free to student groups; reservations required through Kluaue Baer at (503) 589-1692.

LEARN MORE: Call (503) 485-4300, Ext. 22, or go to www.pentacletheatre.org

SALEM REPERTORY THEATRE

DEAL: Pay-What-You-Can Night for students on the Wednesday night preview prior to each show opening. Seats are first-come, first-served. Students should arrive at the theater between 6:30 and 7 p.m. for a 7:30 p.m. curtain.

LEARN MORE: Go to www.salemrep.org