

Bach's Birthday Performances at National Music Museum

By Christine Feltes
For the Plain Talk

Johann Sebastian Bach's music filled the halls of the National Music Museum last Saturday as performers and an appreciative audience gathered to celebrate the composer's 330th birthday.

This musical happening in Vermillion is part of an international effort called Bach in the Subways, which aims to increase appreciation of classical music in today's world.

Patricia Bornhofen, manager of communications for the museum as well as the event's coordinator in Vermillion, emphasized the importance of introducing Bach to larger audience.

"Bach in the Subways is supposed to be random, with people erupting into Bach, to celebrate Bach's birthday," she said. "And more than to celebrate Bach, to encourage people to pay attention to classical music."

The musical offerings began with Darin Wadley, a professor of music at the university, and his son performing a few of Bach's works on a vibraphone and a tuba.

"We've never done this before," Wadley said. "These instruments didn't exist in Bach's time."

They were joined by Holly Haddad on the clarinet to play a short chorale piece by Bach. Bornhofen reiterated

that one of the ideas behind the event is to allow people to hear classical music played on many different instruments.

"Stereotypically, it's strings and keyboards, but actually there are arrangements for everything," she said, noting the assumption that classical music can only be performed on some instruments. One of the goals of the movement is, according to Bornhofen, "to show people that classical music can be played on a variety of different instruments."

Of course, more traditional instruments than the vibraphone had their moments at the event. Lorrie Thomas and the University of South Dakota bassoon group played several pieces that Bach specifically wrote for bassoon.

Then Arian Sheets, curator of stringed instruments, played several of Bach's works on an 18th century viola which had received some modifications in the 19th century. The instrument was very similar to instruments that would have been played while the composer was alive.

"That's part of the spirit of this, people play what they play, and that shows how Bach can be re-contextualized," Bornhofen stated.

In the afternoon, three pianists exploring the museum gave an impromptu performance of several Bach pieces

on a Clarinova piano with permission of the museum staff.

The day's performances concluded in the afternoon with a rendition of Bach's Prelude in C on an electric piano by Rhye Leonard.

Bach in the Subways was founded in 2011 by a New York cellist, Dale Henderson, who saw a need to introduce Bach's music into ordinary situations. As the name implies, Henderson began by performing Bach's works in the subways of New York. The movement has since expanded across the globe, with performances this year in 129 different cities as diverse as New York, Tokyo, Chihuahua, and Vermillion, according to its website: bachinthesubways.com.

"Every year they do it, it grows. There are major concerts being done in some place, as well as people playing in subways, people on street corners, people doing marathons," Bornhofen told the audience.

It is due in large part to the National Music Museum that the event could take place in Vermillion. And, it looked like the event held last Saturday at the museum was helping, as stated on bachinthesubways.com, "to sow the seeds for future generations of classical music lovers by generating public interest and excitement for the art form."

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The USD Chamber Singers and director David Holdhusen (front center) taking their final bows of their Spring Tour.
AMBER MARGHEIM/ FOR THE PLAIN TALK

Chamber Tour Ends on High Note

By Amber Margheim
For the Plain Talk

As the golden sunshine from a beautiful day filtered and faded toward evening through the windows of the United Church of Christ, the University of South Dakota Chamber Singers began the final concert of their spring tour. This was more than just a homecoming performance following their European tour, it was a moment in time and the culmination of a four year relationship between the singers and composer Jonny Priano that had begun in that very church.

Six years ago David Holdhusen, Director of Choral Activities and Professor of Choral Music at USD was sitting one summer day at that year's SD-ACDA conference. Don Langlie, owner of Poppler's Music Store came to Holdhusen with some music to review. Holdhusen describes reviewing new music as often "A lot of fading through and finding that gem".

"On that day, Holdhusen recalls "I came across a piece called Vieni Nel Mio Cuoreand I listened to about 45 seconds and I wrote it down on my list. By the time I got to 5 minutes and 35 seconds (the full length of the song) it was programmed into the tour. It was phenomenal".

"I heard it, I loved it, I programmed it. We sang it". Later that year the choir produced a recording of Vieni Nel Mio Cuore at the United Church of Christ in Vermillion and posted the video on Youtube. Six months later, Laura Kuschel,

who posted the Youtube video, came running up to Holdhusen before rehearsal saying "He (Priano) wrote back to us." Jonny wrote on our Youtube page and he saw our video and he loved it and he wrote this comment and he wants to talk to you and to meet you".

Holdhusen and Priano connected through email. Holdhusen recalls how Priano praised the choir saying "how impressed he was that a choir of that size at that time could sing a piece with all the sustain and how wonderful the harmonies were and just said really kind things".

"After that, he and I stared to communicate a little bit and a year or two later we performed his next published piece" says Holdhusen. Just as with the previous song, the choir performed it and recorded it. After hearing that recording, Priano contacted Holdhusen and said "I have all these pieces that I don't have published and I just really want it out there. Would you be interested in singing some of them?"

Since then, the Chamber Singers have done something from manuscript from Priano each year, bringing his unpublished works to the masses for four years now. "Every year he sends us something we like that seems better than the year before" remarks Holdhusen. Last year Priano sent the choir a piece entitled Do Not Fear. "A piece that touched the choir to its very soul" comments Holdhusen.

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This panoramic image was taken during the USD Dakotathon's Local Band Night event, held on March 20th, which raised over \$500 for the Children's Miracle Network.
THOMAS HATZENBUHLER / FOR THE PLAIN TALK

Two South Dakota Students Win National Silver Medals for Their Artwork

The Next Generation of Creative Leaders Named as National 2015 Scholastic Art & Writing Award Winners

New York, NY — March 16, 2015 — The nonprofit Alliance for Young Artists & Writers in partnership with their South Dakota Art Affiliate, the University of South Dakota Art Department, today announced the national winners of the 2015 Scholastic Art & Writing Awards, the nation's longest-running and most prestigious recognition program for creative teens in grades 7-12. More than 300,000 works of art and writing were submitted for adjudication at the regional level in the Awards' 28 categories, which include poetry, painting, architecture, short story, fashion design and more.

South Dakota Students receiving awards are:

Sophi Dudley, Vermillion High School, Silver Medal for her comic art "Ouija Date", her teacher is Justin Brunick.

Jacob Boomsma, Brandon Valley High School, Silver Medal and American Visions Medal for his digital artwork "A Fast Food Nightmare", his teacher is Martha Sewell.

"The Scholastic Art & Writing Awards reflect the diverse landscape of today's young creative thinkers," said Virginia McEnerney, Executive Director of the Alliance for Young Artists & Writers, the administrator of the Scholastic Awards. "Year after year we see more of the nation's most talented and innovative teens emerge from different parts of the country, and it is our privilege to provide them with a platform to share and

amplify their unique voices with a national audience."

All art and writing submissions are judged based on the program's three criteria: originality, technical skill and emergence of personal vision or voice. Student works are first adjudicated regionally through the more than 100 local Affiliates of the Alliance. South Dakota Regional winners receiving Gold Keys, Silver Keys, Honorable Mentions and American Visions Nominations were celebrated at the University of South Dakota with an exhibition and March 1, 2015 Award Ceremony.

Gold Key-winning works were then judged nationally by an impressive panel of creative-industry experts to receive Gold, Silver, American Visions & Voices, Portfolio Silver with Distinction or Portfolio Gold Medals. This program year, more than 1,900 of the most talented teens from 47 U.S. states, Washington, D.C. and

American schools abroad received national recognition and gained access to exhibition and publication opportunities, as well as scholarships. This year's list of distinguished jurors included artist Andres Serrano, poet Nikki Giovanni, Warhol Museum Director Eric Shiner, artist Wangechi Mutu and comic artist Dash Shaw.

Since the program's founding in 1923, the Awards have fostered the creativity and talent of millions of students, including renowned alumni who have gone on to become leaders in their fields, including Andy Warhol, Truman Capote, Richard Avedon, Philip Pearlstein and Sylvia Plath. More recently, Stephen King, Richard Linklater, Zac Posen and Lena Dunham won Scholastic Art & Writing Awards when they were teens.

In June, National Award-winning teens from across

the country will gather in New York City to attend the National Celebration series of events in their honor, hosted by the Alliance. This celebratory week will kick off on June 5 with the opening of the Art.Write.Now.2015 National

Exhibition at the Sheila C. Johnson Design Center at The New School's Parsons School of Design and Pratt

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City of Vermillion

2014 Drinking Water Report


Can be viewed online at:
<http://bit.ly/1BVOWkT>

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vermillion.us

Alive Inside Alive Inside Alive Inside Alive Inside Alive Inside

Wednesday, April 8th, 6:30 pm

in the Kozak Community Room



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A FILM BY MICHAEL ROSSATO-BENNETT

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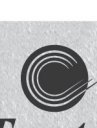
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