

Modigliani quartet resonates with audience

Burt Saidel



The beginning of the season gave Dayton arts lovers so many wonderful performances that one could not see them all. I missed one of my favorites, Dayton Contemporary Dance Company. DCDC, one of the outstanding dance troupes in the world, clings to their current thesis of having only one performance of each of their Dayton appearances. Conflicts are inevitable.

I have lobbied for a return to a full weekend of their effervescent excitement. So far, no such luck. I will keep trying!

Impresaria Elana Bolling of Vanguard Concerts works hard to make her "one night stands" as conflict free as possible. This is no small feat when you consider the rich and crowded schedule.

The second concert of the season featured the return of the Modigliani Quartet from France. The young talents were an instant sensation with their debut in 2007. Since that time, their name has changed from Amadeo Modigliani to just Modigliani. They have also acquired new instruments.

Their music is now made on instruments that were crafted in Paris in 1863 by Jean-Baptiste Vuillaume. One of the legendary luthiers of that golden era, Vuillaume used the wood from a single tree to create the four

instruments. The set, called The Evangelists, is a loan from a Swiss Foundation. Prior to the use by the quartet, they had not been heard for over 35 years.

Their program included Haydn's Lobkowitz quartet, Debussy's G minor quartet, a short Prelude and Fugue by contemporary composer Stéphane Delplace and the giant quartet No 6 by Felix Mendelssohn. The playing was extraordinary, brilliant without presumption. The musical lines and interplay of each work were given a crystalline interpretation.

There was a mutual resonating effect which, according to music lover and musician Dr. Peter Lauf, was due to the compatibility of the instruments, and perhaps, even from the soul of the tree that fathered them. I will give the tree much credit but give even more luster to these virtuosos.

WSU Opera

Wright State's Opera Department has a dual mission. Director and associate professor Kim Warrick loves opera. She loves to create singers and have them create beautiful music. Her students, like those of the theater department, are blessed with bountiful talents.

Part of Kim's goal is to develop singers to be performing artists or pedagogues in their chosen field. The other side of the coin, possibly the most important, is for Kim to instill a love of opera in those who go on to become doctors, accountants, parents - all who need that extra inspiration that comes from devotion to an art. At WSU, she manages to succeed at both.

I attended "Opera Scenes" which are fully staged excerpts sung to the piano accompaniment of Steven Aldredge. *Pirates of Penzance*, *The Old Maid and the Thief*, *Suor Angelica*, *The Magic Flute*, *Romeo and Juliet* and *Carmen* are a diverse selection. More than thirty students performed, with some singing several parts. Of particular note, Leslie Ann Lyons, Jennifer Blincoe and Kelsey DeMange were lovely as the Three Ladies and Anthony Sollenberger was a credible Tamio in "Flute." Sarah Bucher sang the difficult role of Suor Angelica. The memorable voices included Brad Mattingly and Lauren David in *Romeo and Juliet*.

Each year a full length opera is presented. In the miniscule confines of Schuster Hall, now slated for renovation, I have seen a *The Magic Flute*. This season's complete opera is John Gay's *The Beggar's Opera*. This 1728 musical play is the precursor of *The Three Penny Opera*, will be performed on Mother's Day weekend. Don't miss this rare opportunity.

Mary Poppins on Broadway

To me, the Great White Way of Broadway is fading. Many of the

new musicals are bereft of real music. Many of the revivals of great works of the past are hyped into nearly unrecognizable form.

A birthday treat for my four year old grandson, Oliver David, included a trip to Broadway's *Mary Poppins*. I knew this legendary musical would be his delight, but never predicted it would be mine, as well.

What made the production great was its perfect stagecraft. The Banks family's house was brilliantly conceived. The bank where Mr. Banks worked was a dramatically distorted colonnade. And, when Mary Poppins flew, her umbrella firmly in her hand, her calm poise unruffled, it didn't matter that the wires were visible. Her ascension seemed like magic.

Mary and the entire cast sang and danced with energy and verve. It was not a hype-filled display of special effects although all the effects were truly special. Children and adults alike were mouthing the familiar lyrics, myself included.

This was a return to real musical theater. I never thought Mary Poppins would save Broadway. I may have underestimated her.

Muse Machine recital

The Dayton Art Institute and the Muse Machine have been collaborating in presenting recitals which combine art and music. These Sunday afternoons are a pure delight even when the music is not of my genre.

Last Sunday, it was perfect. Dayton Philharmonic trumpeter Ashley Hall and her husband, trumpeter Nathan Tighe, have been collaborating on Muse Machine programs for the past two years. In addition to all their other musical activities and Nathan's pre-medical studies, they have been devoted to bring the message of the relationship between music and art to young people throughout the region.

The recital at the DAI was evidence of what a great program this is and what gifted musicians and teachers Ashley and Nathan are. With their bevy of trumpets, they played music which illustrated the essence of paintings from ancient art through to modern abstraction and minimalism.

The clarity of their message and its enthusiasm are winning examples of how many great young persons are ready to carry the torch for a better world.

Virtuoso cellist at DAI Nov. 21

Vanguard Concerts presents in concert Narek Haknazaryan, cellist (from Armenia) with piano accompanist Noreen Polera on Nov. 21 at 8 p.m. at the Dayton Art Institute's Renaissance Auditorium.

Mr. Haknazaryan was born in 1988 in Yerevan, Armenia, into a

family of musicians. His early studies were at the Sayat-Nova School of Music in Yerevan with Zareh Sarkisyan. At the age of 12, Mr. Haknazaryan began studies at the Moscow Conservatory with Alexey Seleznyov. Mr. Haknazaryan is pursuing an Artist Diploma at the New

England Conservatory of Music.

Tickets for adults \$20.00, students \$15.00 and may be purchased at Hauer Music, downtown, Wright State Union Box Office, Dayton Art Institute night of concert only, on line at www.daytonartinstitute.org or by calling 436-0244 or 412-0144

What's Up This Week

Galleries & Museums, Music, Theatre, Dance, Events

GALLERIES & MUSEUMS

48 High Street Gallery
St. Anne's District (228-4532)
Home to the Dayton Society of Painters and Sculptors
Gallery hours are limited.; 1-5pm Sat & Sun
11/21 thru 12/8 - New Members and Small Works Holiday Show.

Boonshoff Museum of Discovery
2600 DeWeese Parkway, (275-7431)
Thru 11/10/10 *Lab Detectives* Solve a true-to-life crime, explore the crime scene - a break-in and theft. Search for clues, evaluate the evidence to solved the crime as you try to determine "who done it."

Cannery Art & Design Centre
434 E. Third St., (228-2232)
Ongoing - Exhibits by more than 20 local artists. All media

Dayton Art Institute
458 Belmonte Park North (223-5277)
Thru 12/31- 90 "Treasures of the Museum" highlighted
Thru Fall 2009 - Exploring Art A to Z - Kids Experientcenter Gallery (For pre-K through 3rd grade)..
Gallery St. John
4400 Shakertown Rd., Beavercreek (320-

5405)
Thru 11/22 - Photography of John Lemker, S.M.

K-12 Gallery
510 E. Third St. (461-5149)
Ongoing - Works by children; classes

Natl. Museum of the USAF
Wright-Patterson AFB (255-3286)
Ongoing - Major aircraft in chronological order from Wright Bros. to Stealth fighters and more.

Rosewood Gallery
2655 Olson Dr, Kettering (296-0294)
Thru 12/11 *HWD (heightxwidthxdepth)*
2009: A regional sculpture competition. Opening reception November 8, 2 - 4pm.

Sinclair Community College
444 W. Third St., Bldg 13 (512-5381)
Burnell Roberts Triangle Gallery
Thru 11/19 - Abner Cope
Zone VI Photo Gallery
Thru 11/18 - *Hinterland*; Shelly Murney

University of Dayton Art Galleries
300 College Park (229-4214 or 4254)
Art Street 330 Kiefaber St. (229-5101)
Thru 11/23 - *Citizens of the World*

Photography Exhibit: International photography from students of all majors.
The Marian Library (229-4214 or 4254)
Thru 11/27 - Creche Exhibit
Thru 11/20 - *Katherine Ann Osenga* :Icons of the Electronic Age
Thru 11/23 - *Darel Sparling: When Purple Meets All Other Colors: Paintings that majestically present Christmas themes.*
Rike Gallery (229-3237)
Thru 12/9 - *Senior Exhibition*

Wright State University Art Galleries
Robert & Elaine Stein Gallery
A132 Creative Arts Center
3640 Colonel Glenn Highway (775-2978)
Thru 11/10/10 - *Reflections on Darwin*

MUSIC, THEATRE, DANCE, EVENTS

Wed 11/18
Montgomery Woman's Club - Town Hall Lecture Series: 11am *I Was a Better Mother before I Had Kids.* Family humorist, Lori Borgman. King's Island Paramount Theatre inside park, Cincinnati (513) 684-1632 leave message. Also **8 pm** *Sycamore Jr. High School Auditorium, 5757 Cooper Rd, Blue Ash*
Thu 11/19

Cityfolk: Los Lobos 8pm Music draws from Tex-Mex, country, folk, R&B, blues and traditional Spanish and Mexican music. *Victoria Theatre, 138 N. Main St., 496-3863*
Montgomery Woman's Club - Town Hall Lecture Series 11 am (see 11/18)

11/20 Fri
Dayton Philharmonic SuperPops 8pm The Jazz Artistry of Jane Monheit, a relative newcomer to the jazz world. Also 10/2. *Schuster Center, One W. Second St., Dayton 228-3630*
University Orchestra, 7 p.m. Kennedy Union Boll Theatre. *University of Dayton, 300 College Park, Dayton 229-2545*
Collin Raye and Restless Heart 8pm Country artist Collin Raye. *Clark State PAC, 300 S. Fountain Ave., Springfield 328-3874*
Corpus Christi 8pm McNally's vivid and moving passion play provides a unique view of the story of Christ. *Thru 11/22 Dayton Playhouse, 1301 E. Siebenthaler Dr., Dayton 424-8477*

Back to the 80s 8pm Join the graduating class of William Ocean High School, set to the biggest hits of the 80s. *Thru 11/22 Playhouse South, Clark Haines Theatre, 3700 Far Hills Ave., Kettering. 888-262-3792*
ArtStreet's Friday Night Film: "Lust, Caution" 9pm FREE. Public invited *ArtStreet Studio B, 330 Kiefaber St, Dayton 229-5101*

11/21 Sat
Dayton Philharmonic SuperPops 8pm The Jazz Artistry of Jane Monheit (see

11/20)
Vanguard Concert 8pm Narek Haknazaryan, 21-year-old American cellist. Dayton Art Institute Renaissance Auditorium, 456 Belmonte Park North 512-0144 or 436-0244
UD Opera Workshop 8pm "A Night at Orlofsky's," Fully staged and costumed production of scenes from five operas. University of Dayton Kennedy Union Boll Theatre. 229-3936.
Wind Symphony 3pm Sinclair Community College, Blair Hall Theatre, 444 W. Third St., Downtown Dayton 512-2341
Corpus Christi 8pm (see 11/20)
Bob & Tom Comedy All-Stars 7pm & 10pm With Donnie Baker and Emcee Kristi Lee of the Bob & Tom Show. Victoria Theatre 138 N. Main St., Dayton 228-3630
Back to the 80s 8pm (see 11/20)
USAF Museum Family Day 10am - 3pm Day of aerospace-themed activities for the whole family. Learn about the International Space Station; build your own model from recycling materials. National Museum of the US Air Force, Wright-Patterson AFB, Dayton 255-3286
Eureka Lab! Bountiful Bulbs 1pm Where many holiday flowers come from. Learn how to force our own bulbs. *Cox Arboretum, 5733 Springboro Pike. 434-9005*