

STAGE DOOR

Omak, Washington

www.omakpac.org

Winter/Spring 2024

Marvelous March at the PAC

Experience **March Madness** at the Omak PAC, with exciting performances on stage throughout the month, from mariachi to chamber music to *Seussical* to the Okanogan Valley Orchestra and Chorus.

Folkloric music from award-winning mariachi troupe



THE PAC AUDIENCE will have a special opportunity to hear the melodious, high-energy music of Wenatchee High School's award-winning mariachi ensemble, Mariachi Huenachi, on



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Shea-Kim Duo dazzles with chamber music

THE AWARD-WINNING SHEA-KIM DUO – the married couple Brendan Shea on violin and Yerin Kim on the piano – perform at the PAC on March 29.

In a decade of playing together, the duo has toured the world, giving concerts in Belgium, Italy, Canada, South Korea, and the United States.

“Shea and Kim work exquisitely as a team, overlapping their lines so seamlessly they become inseparable,”



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Fantastical, magical *Seussical*

The Omak Pioneer Players perform the fantastical, magical, musical extravaganza *Seussical*.

Students in the Omak High School Drama Club voted on a show, and the delightful fairy tale was the overwhelming choice, director Lyn Pearce said.

Seussical takes the characters from the Jungle of Nool to the Circus McGurkus to the invisible world of the Whos, as Horton the elephant tries to protect the Whos of Whoville and guard an abandoned egg. Other beloved characters that come to life on the stage include Gertrude McFuzz,

the bird with the one-feather tail.

Although Horton faces challenges along the way – teased by monkeys and confronted by a dubious kangaroo – the other characters believe in him and his conviction that “a person’s a person no matter how small.”

The talented cast, director, and production crew have been hard at

work since November.

The show features original choreography, inventive sets and costumes, and



Seussical™

great singing and acting.

Audiences will recognize their favorite

Dr. Seuss characters, including Horton, the Cat in the Hat, Gertrude, Mr. and Mrs. Mayor, the Grinch, and Thing 1 and Thing 2.

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Dolls come to life in the exquisite ballet *The Magic Toy Shoppe*

THE MAGIC TOY SHOPPE is aptly named – audiences will be entranced by the magic of the production and the talents of the local dancers.

At the shoppe, the toy maker –



Dancers have been rehearsing their magic for months.

fluidly danced by Riley Howell from Riverside – creates life-sized dolls that delight patrons.

So, when two families come to his shoppe looking for the perfect gift, we get to watch as doll after doll perform the most fantastic dances.

Although the families love them all, when they see the grace and artistry of *Pièce de Résistance* (The

Sisters), performed by senior dancers Megan Heinlen from Tonasket and Ila Newman from Twisp, the families are ecstatic.

This is Children's Dance Theater's 31st year of bringing exquisite dance experiences to performers and audiences. This elaborate production features 45 youths and four adults from throughout Okanogan County.

Children's Dance Theater founder Lorrie Fraley Wilson adapted the ballet (also known as *La Boutique Fantasque*) for the local stage.

The ballet incorporates comedic elements and folk dance. It features music by Ottorino Respighi based on piano pieces by Gioachino Rossini.

TWO PERFORMANCES:

Saturday, Feb. 17, at 2 p.m. and 6 p.m.

Tickets: \$12 for adults;

\$8 for students and senior citizens.

Seussical

The Omak High School production of *Seussical* marks a special anniversary. Dr. Seuss (Theodor Seuss Geisel), who wrote the beloved stories that inspired the show, was born 120 years ago on March 2, 1904. The local bakery Babycakes Cupcakery is donating birthday cupcakes for concessions in honor of Dr. Seuss' birthday.

Friday and Saturday, March 1, 2, 8, and 9, 7 p.m.

Admission: \$9 for adults, \$5 for students ages 9–18, \$3 for Omak students ages 9–18, free for ages 8 and under

AUDITIONS FEB. 17 FOR OVOC SPRING DRAMA, LOVE LETTERS

The Okanogan Valley Orchestra and Chorus (OVOC) present a unique theatrical experience this May – A.R. Gurney's moving *Love Letters*, which was nominated for a Pulitzer Prize.

The timeless allure of *Love Letters* will sweep away audiences with the evocative and heart-warming story of star-crossed lovers. Artfully punctuated with moments of tender humor, this enchanting production follows childhood friends whose connection deepens into a lifelong love affair.

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Music and magic at OVOC Variety Show

By definition, variety shows have something for everyone, and the Okanogan Valley Orchestra and Chorus (OVOC) promises to deliver, with folk, rock, jazz, blues, and more performed by local musicians. From soulful solo to vibrant, rhythmic ensembles, performers will deliver an unforgettable show.

In addition to the musical selections, the variety show lives up to its name with a tantalizing magic act from Khan's Curious Museum of Magical Items.

There will be jazz and swing from the Okanogan Valley Big Band and vocal jazz from Mad About Jazz. BrassWorks will showcase the versatility of trumpets, trombones, and tubas.

Also look for music from Coyote X with Robert Stafford, the Queen Bees, Matt Gentry and Friends, the Biscuits and Gravy Reunion Tour, and more.

Celebrate artist Ric Gendron

The variety show is a celebration of life for Ric Gendron, the acclaimed Colville artist who passed away last year. Gendron's art will be on display during the show.

Gendron (1954–2023) was a



member of the Arrow Lakes Band of the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation, where he lived and worked. Gendron was known for his figurative paintings and for portraits that blended Native American imagery with bold colors and stylized patterns.

He drew on his experiences as a tribal member and on his appreciation of a wide variety of music and culture, including the Beat poets of the 1960s, jazz, blues, and rock and roll.

Friday, Feb. 9, 6 p.m.

Tickets: \$10 for adults; free for those 18 and under.

OMAK MUSIC STUDENTS SHOWCASE TALENTS

The Omak Spring Band Concert is March 18. It features beginning band, middle school concert band, high school concert band, and high school jazz band.

The Omak High School choir performs on March 25.

The choir performs its final concert on May 20, and the band is May 21.

**All concerts start at 7 p.m.
Admission is free.**

Travel "The World Around Us" with OVOC

This season, the Okanogan Valley Orchestra and Chorus have focused on "The World Around Us."

The chorus has been exploring the idea of "Elements," pretending they're 12th-century alchemists, chorus director Derek Pulsifer said.

For Water, they're singing the Scottish folk song "Flow Gently, Sweet Afton." For Earth, it's the Jester Hairston spiritual "Elijah Rock." For Air, they're singing Michael John Trotta's "Flying for the Joy of the Flight." They'll also present "Fire," part of Katerina Gimón's "Elements" cycle, which uses nontraditional sounds to convey the idea of fire.

The chorus will reprise "The Storm is Passing Over," which they performed – but only virtually – during the COVID pandemic.

The orchestra performs two movements from Beethoven's beloved Fifth Symphony, as well as "An Ode to Joy Festival," based on the choral section of Beethoven's Ninth Symphony.

Beethoven's Fifth is one of the most well-known works in classical music repertoire, and hearing it live – performed with passion and vibrancy – is an unforgettable experience.

The global aspect of the OVOC season comes full circle when the orchestra performs "Stampede!," written for the orchestra by former OVOC chorus director Jonathan McBride. The spirited music evokes life in Okanogan County through sunrise, cowboys, a cattle drive, hoedown, and the Stampede.

Saturday, March 23, 3 p.m.

Tickets: \$10 for adults; free for those 18 and under.

Mariachi Huenachi

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Friday, March 15.

The ensemble sings and plays guitar, vihuela, guitarrón, violin, and trumpet. Their expression of mariachi music includes traditional dances and dress.

Mariachi Huenachi came in second at the Mariachi Spectacular Conference, a national competition in Albuquerque in July, where they competed against 18 other ensembles.

Not only has the entire ensemble been recognized for its artistry, but some of the group's singers have also attracted attention for their talents. Delilah Cabrera, age 16, recently recorded her original song "Amor Perdido" (Lost Love) in Los Angeles for a Mexican record company.

The group has also performed to great acclaim at the Numerica Performing Arts Center in Wenatchee.

Friday, March 15, 7 p.m.

Tickets: \$28 for adults; \$10 for students, and free for those 4 and under.

UPCOMING PAC EVENTS

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 9
OVOC Variety Show • 6 p.m.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 17
Love Letters auditions •
9 a.m., Okanogan High School

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 17
The Magic Toy Shoppe •
2 p.m. & 6 p.m.

FRIDAY, SATURDAY & SUNDAY,
MARCH 1, 2, 8 & 9
Seussical • 7 p.m.

FRIDAY, MARCH 15
Mariachi Huenachi • 7 p.m.

MONDAY, MARCH 18
Omak Band Concert • 7 p.m.

SATURDAY, MARCH 23
OVOC Family Concert • 3 p.m.

MONDAY, MARCH 25
Omak Choir Concert • 7 p.m.

FRIDAY, MARCH 29
Shea-Kim Duo • 7 p.m.

SATURDAY & SUNDAY, MAY 11 & 12
OVOC Love Letters • Time TBA

MONDAY, MAY 20
Omak Choir Concert • 7 p.m.

TUESDAY, MAY 21
Omak Band Concert • 7 p.m.

Shea-Kim Duo

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Strings Magazine said.

BBC Magazine praised the duo for their "rich and intimate atmosphere, as they navigate the thrills and spills."

Shea is concertmaster of the Boise Philharmonic and a member of the Langroise Trio, the artist-in-residence ensemble at the College of Idaho. Kim is an associate professor of piano at Central Washington University.

The Shea-Kim Duo has garnered honors including the Ackerman Chamber Music award and a gold medal at the Manhattan International Music Competition.

The PAC Foundation received a grant from the Woods Family Music and Arts Fund in support of the Shea-Kim Duo concert.

Friday, March 29, 7 p.m.

Tickets: \$28 for adults; \$10 for students

LOVE LETTERS

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The story unfolds through their exchange of letters. Despite their differences and the physical distance between them, they remain confidants, sharing a romantic and complex bond.

OVOC typically presents a spring musical. But, with no space to build or store sets and costumes (OVOC's building in Okanogan is under construction, after it was badly damaged by snow last winter), the group opted to produce a drama featuring local actors.

It will be presented in readers' theater format, a simple setting of two actors behind desks, their words painting a vivid emotional landscape. This simplicity allows the audience to engage deeply with the characters, making each performance unique.

Love Letters is at the PAC on May 11 and 12, and at the Community Cultural Center in Tonasket on May 18 and 19. *Love Letters* will be directed by Doug Brandt



and produced by Cari Zachow.

Auditions: Saturday, Feb. 17, 9 a.m. at Okanogan High School. More information will be on www.ovocmusic.org.

■ **STAY IN TOUCH - DON'T MISS THE SUPERB MUSIC, ARTS, AND THEATER AT THE PAC** ■

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Shakespeare comes to the PAC

Omak High School students get a unique glimpse of professional theater when the Seattle Shakespeare Company performs *Macbeth* in the PAC on April 26.

The performance will be the high point of a week-long celebration of William Shakespeare, whose plays are taught across all grade levels at Omak High School, according to English teacher Tracey Orr.

The Seattle Shakespeare Company performed *Macbeth* for Omak students several years ago at the PAC. The performance combined a modern setting with English and Spanish language, showing how Shakespeare's plays are continuously adapted.

The Seattle Shakespeare Company performs year-round at its home theater in Seattle, but they also bring

their talents to schools across the state during the spring.

The traveling troupe has six actors. They bring all their costumes, set pieces, sound equipment, and props for a 70-minute performance. Students get to ask questions of the actors following the performance.

Shakespeare's plays are meant to be seen, not just read, but in a small, rural community, such opportunities are limited.

Not only will students get to enjoy a professional production, but they'll also get to appreciate how a state-of-the-art theater like the PAC can transport them to another world.

The school and its students are grateful for the financial support of Omak School District and the Omak PAC Foundation, who worked together to provide this opportunity.

Help sustain the PAC long-term

The Omak PAC is 35 years old and yet – because of the commitment of the Omak School District and donations to the PAC Foundation – it continues to look fresh.

Supporters who'd like to guarantee the long-term future of the PAC as a state-of-the-art performance space should consider including the PAC in their estate plan. The foundation is a charitable, nonprofit corporation.

There are four types of bequests:

- residual bequests grant the residue, or a portion, of your estate to the PAC Foundation
- specific bequests for a stated dollar amount or a particular security
- contingent bequests in case planned bequests can't be fulfilled
- life income bequests are an option to provide income to someone close to you with the principal reverting to the PAC after their lifetime

For more information, contact Charlie Arvidson at jcarvid87@hotmail.com.

Omak PAC Foundation

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