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Carole Horowitz: Don't miss the Kalichstein-Laredo-Robinson Trio or 'Wicked'

Published: Sunday, September 27, 2009 12:15 AM CDT

Hail to Ames Town and Gown as it celebrates its 60th season.

Through the years, the musical organization has brought internationally renowned musicians to Ames.

To open its landmark season, Town and Gown will present the world acclaimed Kalichstein-Laredo-Robinson Trio.

The eminent solo artists — pianist Joseph Kalichstein, violinist Jaime Laredo and cellist Sharon Robinson — have performed together as a trio since their debut at the White House for President Jimmy Carter's inauguration in January 1977.

After more than three decades of great success, the three manage to balance independent solo careers with appearances at the world's major concert halls, commissioning new works and maintaining an active recording agenda, as a trio.

Among the many honors granted the musicians, the Chamber Music Society of Detroit has created the Kalichstein-Laredo-Robinson International Trio Award (KLRITA).

The initiative has a two-fold purpose: "to salute the Trio's contribution to chamber music worldwide and to encourage and enhance the careers of promising young piano trios."

Ames Town and Gown has the distinction of being one of the 20 participating KLRITA presenters, along with New York's Carnegie Hall, among others.

Paula Forrest, Town and Gown's artistic director, told me about a telephone call she'd received some years ago.

"The woman greeted me by saying she was Sharon Robinson. I thought it might be a neighbor," Paula said. "Then I realized it was the Sharon Robinson of the famous trio."

Robinson went on to ask if Ames' chamber music organization would like to be part of the initiative.

Paula was delighted with the idea, as was the Town and Gown board of directors. A successful fundraising project ensued.



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By Christian Steiner/contributed photo
The Kalichstein-Laredo-Robinson Trio, described by the New York Times as "one of the best-blended, most sensitive and intelligent piano trios in the world today," will perform at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 3, at Ames City Auditorium.

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"We are proud to be among the participants of this prestigious award," Paula said enthusiastically.

Every other year since the award's inception, about eight years ago, the participants get to host the winning trios.

Three groups have performed in Ames: The Claremont Trio, from the United States; Trio con Brio Copenhagen from Denmark; and The ATOS Trio of Germany.

"These groups are stellar," Paula said. "Each provided us a memorable evening of music."

At 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 3, at Ames City Auditorium, we will again be treated to a memorable evening of music. The Kalichstein-Laredo-Robinson Trio, described by the New York Times as "one of the best-blended, most sensitive and intelligent piano trios in the world today," will perform the music of Haydn, Schubert and Mendelssohn.

Tickets can be purchased at Rieman Music in downtown Ames, the Iowa State University Music Department office or online at www.amestownandgown.org, or at the door.

To commemorate its 60th season, Ames Town and Gown, in cooperation with the Ames Public Art Commission, has commissioned the beautifully crafted, fluid geometric sculptures of internationally renowned Ames textile artist Priscilla Sage.

The works, which will permanently grace the lobby of the Ames City Auditorium, will be dedicated at 6:30 p.m., prior to the concert.

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"Wicked," the Tony Award-winning musical is being presented at the Civic Center of Greater Des Moines, 221 Walnut St., through Oct. 18.

The story is based on the best-selling novel "Wicked: the Life and Times of the Wicked Witch of the West," by Gregory Maguire.

This prequel to "The Wizard of Oz" happens long before Dorothy arrives in the land of the Munchkins.

Two girls meet in the land of Oz. The story tells how they become the Wicked Witch of the West and Glinda, the Good Witch.

"Wicked" premiered at San Francisco's Curran Theatre in May 2003 and soon moved to Broadway's Gershwin Theatre. Although the production received mixed reviews, it has proved to be a favorite among theater-goers.

The musical has broken box office records around the world. Both London's West End and the North American tour have been seen by more than 2 million patrons.

"Wicked" is still playing at the Gershwin. Its first North American tour was launched this year. Currently, there are eight touring companies worldwide.

For information about dates, times and ticket availability, call 1-800-745-3000.

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In June, the Iowa State University Department of Music lost a beloved teacher and most talented musician when Barry Larkin died unexpectedly.

To find someone to fill Barry's shoes was an enormous challenge.

Matthew Coley seems to fit the bill. The marimba, percussion and hammer dulcimer artist grew up in a very rural part of Virginia. As a high school freshman, music became an important part of his life. It was then he discovered the marimba.

In a recent interview, he told magazine "Time Out Chicago" reporter Mia Clarke, "I couldn't be a concert pianist, but I could be a concert marimbist."

His boast came to fruition. Matthew has performed as soloist with orchestras throughout the United States and abroad.

In 2008, he placed third in the prestigious fifth World Marimba Competition in Stuttgart, Germany. He is the only American to ever place.

He received his master's of music degree from Northwestern University where he is a candidate for a doctorate in music.

At ISU, Matthew has been hired as a lecturer in percussion. This is his first academic position at a university.

"It's very delightful," he said. "I enjoy that the students are so committed."

With a chuckle, he wonders where they find the time.

"They have 28 hours in their day," Matthew said.

He is confident "they will all succeed."

At 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 29, at Martha-Ellen Tye Recital Hall on the ISU campus, Matthew will perform with Cory Hills as S12 (Sonic Inertia Duo). The two will blend percussion, dance and storytelling.

The concert will happen just as Matthew returns from a residency at the Days of New Music in Chisinau, the capitol of Moldova.

Saturdays
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October 3, 10, 17, 24

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ISU music's new faculty member is one busy guy. There is his Eastern European gig, his Ames concert, three concerts planned for October in Chicago, his teaching job ... Maybe there are 28 hours in Matthew's day?

...

And don't miss ...

- The Metropolitan Opera HD Live presentation of "Tosca," at noon Saturday, Oct. 10, at Cinemark Movies 12, 1317 Buckeye Ave. The encore performance will be at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday,

Oct. 28.

- Ragtime in Randall — The annual ragtime festival will be Saturday and Sunday, Oct. 10 and 11, at the Elim Lutheran Church, 350 Fourth St. For information and a schedule of events, call (515)

733-6180.

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