

spotlight

THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 24, 2009 THE DAVIS ENTERPRISE

C2 Film
C3 Gardening
C4 Comics
C5 Beer
C6 Art

C SECTION

Marginalia

UC Davis theater/dance schedule, at a glance:

Fall quarter
 ■ **"Elephant's Graveyard,"** written and directed by Jade Rosina McCutcheon;
 Oct. 23-Nov. 1 at the Mondavi Center's Studio Theatre;
 \$30 general, \$15 students/children/seniors.
 ■ **"Tribes: the unified field,"** written and choreographed by Granada artist-in-residence Sara Shelton Mann;

■ **"Corpo/Ilicito: The Post-Human Society 6.9,"** written, directed by Granada artist-in-residence Guillermo Gómez-Peña;
 Nov. 18-22 at the UC Davis Main Theater;
 \$16 general, \$11 students/children/seniors, in advance; \$18 and \$13 at the door.

Winter quarter
 ■ **"THIRDeYE Theatre Festival,"** artistic director, Peter Lichtenfels;
 Jan. 27-31 at UCD's Wyatt Pavilion Theater;
 \$14 general, \$10 students/children/seniors, in advance; \$16 and \$12 at the door.
 ■ Two graduating master of fine arts choreographies: **"Dances for Non-Fictional Bodies"** (excerpt), by Jess Curtis; and **"Blue Jointedness,"** by Nina Galin;

Feb. 12-21 at the Mondavi Center's Studio Theatre
 \$16 general, \$11 students/children/seniors, in advance; \$18 and \$13 at the door.
 ■ **"Director's Showcase,"** directed by master of fine arts candidate John Zibell;
 Feb. 24-28 at UCD's Wyatt Pavilion Theater;
 \$14 general, \$10 students/children/seniors, in advance; \$16 and \$12 at the door.

■ **"The Seagull,"** by Anton Chekov, directed by Granada artist-in-residence Katya Kamotskaia;
 March 10-14 at UCD's Main Theater;
 \$16 general, \$11 students/children/seniors, in advance; \$18 and \$13 at the door.
Spring quarter
 ■ **"Solo Explorations,"** acting thesis presentations by graduating master of fine arts candidates;
 April 2-3 at UCD's Arena Theater and locations to be announced;
 Free admission.
 ■ **"Main Stage Dance/Theater Festival";**
 April 9-18 at UCD's Main Theater;
 \$14 general, \$10 students/children/seniors, in advance; \$16 and \$12 at the door.

■ **"Some Things Are Private,"** by Deborah Salem Smith and Laura Kepley, directed by graduating master of fine arts candidate Candice Andrews;
 May 5-9 at UCD's Main Theater;
 \$16 general, \$11 students/children/seniors, in advance; \$18 and \$13 at the door.
 ■ **"A Matter of Taste,"** a performance and food event, directed by Granada artist-in-residence Anna Fenemore;
 May 19-23, location and admission prices to be announced.

■ **"UC Davis Film Festival"**
 May 26-27 at the Varsity Theatre, 616 Second St., Davis;
 \$5 general.
 Visit <http://theatre.dance.ucdavis.edu/season/tickets.aspx>.



Performance potpourri

UC Davis music, theater and dance departments ready their seasons

By Jeff Hudson

ENTERPRISE STAFF WRITER

September marks the beginning of a new performance season from the UC Davis departments of music, theater and dance.



Above, new conductor Christian Baldini will lead the UC Davis Symphony Orchestra. At right, writer/choreographer Sara Shelton Mann's "Tribes, the unified field" is described as "a journey into the past and future fluctuating between verbal and nonverbal language."

COURTESY PHOTOS

Miscellany of music

SPECIAL TO THE ENTERPRISE

Tickets for UC Davis music department events are available at the Mondavi Center Ticket Office, (530) 754-2787.

To request a season brochure or to join the events mailing list, contact the music department at (530) 752-7896 or musicmail@ucdavis.edu.

To view or subscribe to the department's events calendar, visit <http://music.ucdavis.edu/events>.

The music department season, at a glance:

■ Sunday, Oct. 4: 2 p.m. at the Mondavi Center's Jackson Hall — **Christine Brewer**, soprano. Works by Richard Wagner, Strauss and Carter with Craig Rutenberg, piano; works by Samuel Barber and George Gershwin with the UC Davis Symphony Orchestra, conducted by Christian Baldini. Tickets are \$50/\$30/\$20 general, \$25/\$15/\$10 students and children.

■ Saturday, Nov. 7: 7 p.m. at the Mondavi Center's Larry and Rosalie Vanderhoef Studio Theatre — **The Meridian Arts Ensemble**, a sextet composed of five brass players and one percussionist, in a program of everything from J.S. Bach to Frank Zappa. Meridian is a faculty ensemble at the Manhattan School of Music. \$18 general, \$9 students and children.

■ Sunday, Nov. 8: 7 p.m. at Jackson Hall — **The Causeway Band Festival Concert**, featuring the UC Davis Concert Band with the Meridian Arts Ensemble, the Sacramento State Symphonic Wind Ensemble, high school and junior high school festival bands, led by composer/conductor Mark Camphouse. Works by Camphouse, Gustav Holst and Zappa. Directed by Pete Nowlen. \$14/\$12/\$8 general, \$7/\$6/\$4 students and children.

■ Sunday, Nov. 15: 7 p.m. at the Studio Theatre — **The Empyrean Ensemble**. World premiere works by Ross Bauer, Stephen Blumberg and Ed Jacobs, along with music by Aaron Copland and Seung-Ah Oh. Mika Pelo and Kurt Rohde, directors. \$18 general, \$9 students and children.

■ Wednesday, Nov. 18: 7 p.m. at the Studio Theatre — **The UC Davis jazz bands**, in a program of works that showcase solo members of the jazz improv ensemble. Delbert Bump, director. \$12 general, \$6 students and children.

■ Saturday, Nov. 21: 7 p.m. at UCD's Freeborn Hall — **The UC Davis Gospel Choir**, directed by Calvin Lymos. \$12 general, \$6 students and children.

■ Sunday, Nov. 22: 8 p.m. at Jackson Hall — **The UC Davis Symphony Orchestra**. The program will include Alberto Ginastera's Four Dances from Estancia; Maurice Ravel's Piano Concerto in G Major, with pianist Eric Zivian; and Antonin Dvorák's Symphony No. 5 in F Major. Christian Baldini, conductor. \$16/\$14/\$10 general, \$8/\$7/\$5 students and children.

■ Wednesday, Dec. 2: 7 p.m. at UCD's Main Theater — **The University Concert Band**, directed by Pete Nowlen. \$12 general, \$6 students and children.

This year will feature some new faces on the faculty, new sounds in the concert hall, and new works on stage.

The season also will highlight some classics, including Anton Chekhov's "The Seagull" — usually classified as a comedy, albeit a melancholy one in most productions — along with choral works by Gioachino Antonio Rossini, Anton Bruckner and Vaughan Williams, and the ever-popular Mussorgsky/Ravel "Pictures at an Exhibition."

Perhaps the most prominent new face is Christian Baldini, the young conductor who will lead the UC Davis Symphony Orchestra.

The orchestra's season will begin with an Oct. 4 concert that will be a birthday tribute to local music angel Barbara Jackson, who donated the naming gift for the Mondavi Center's big venue, Jackson Hall. The orchestra will back up visiting soprano Christine Brewer in a concert that will open with an overture-length piece called "Oblivion," by the late composer and tango specialist Astor Piazzolla, who lived in Argentina but came from Italian heritage.

This combination also describes Baldini.

"I was born in Mar del Plata, the same city as Piazzolla," Baldini said. "The music library there is called the Piazzolla Library."

Of course, Piazzolla and Baldini were born decades apart: Piazzolla back in 1921, Baldini about 30 years ago.

The Argentine influence also will be evident in the UC Davis Symphony's Nov. 22 concert, which will feature Alberto Ginastera's "Four Dances from Estancia."

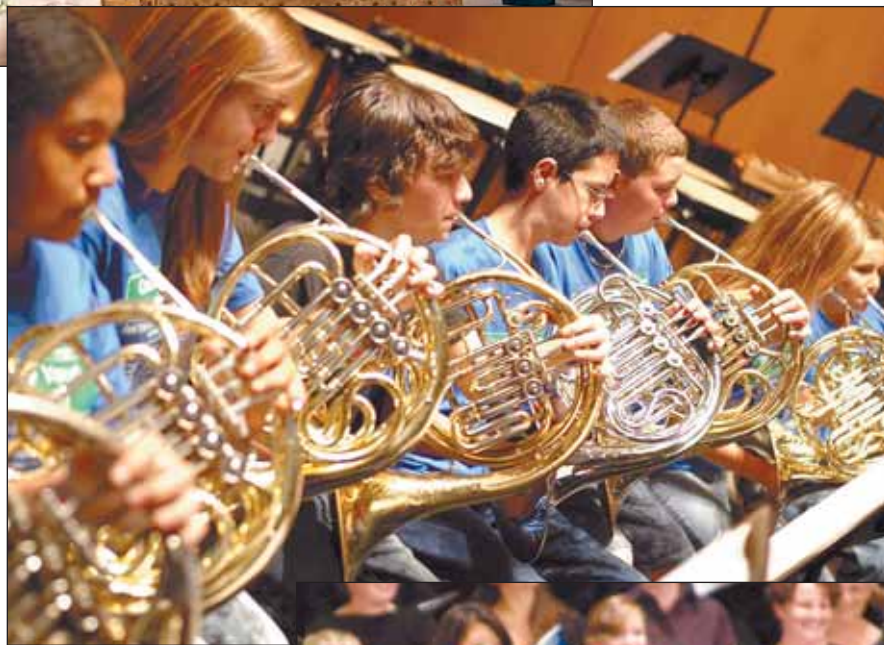
"I looked at the orchestra's programming for the last 12 years or so, and there hasn't been a lot of music from Latin America," Baldini noted. "I love this piece; it has a lot of amazing compound rhythms. Ginastera was very influenced by Igor Stravinsky and Bela Bartok."

"This is like a Latin American node of that kind of aesthetics."

The November concert also will include the Dvorak Symphony No. 5, which is more familiar from recordings than live performances.

"Nobody plays this piece," Baldini said. "It's very pastoral, in the same key as Beethoven's Pastoral Symphony. It's got this fantastic journey from something that's completely contemplative and content, to a very passionate finale. It goes a really long way."

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At left, the annual Causeway Band Festival, featuring the UC Davis Concert Band with the Meridian Arts Ensemble, the Sacramento State Symphonic Wind Ensemble, and high school and junior high school festival bands, will take place Nov. 8. Below, Jeffrey Thomas, foreground, will conduct the University Chorus in several concerts, on Dec. 4, May 14 and May 28.

COURTESY PHOTOS



■ Friday, Dec. 4: 8 p.m. at Jackson Hall — **The University Chorus** with the UC Davis Symphony Orchestra. The program will include Vaughan Williams' Dona nobis pacem. Jeffrey Thomas, conductor. \$16/\$14/\$10 general, \$8/\$7/\$5 students and children.

■ Friday and Saturday, Jan. 22-23: 7 p.m. at the Studio Theatre — **UC Davis Violin Festival** concerts, directed by Dan Flanagan and Michael Sand. \$18 general, \$9 students and children (each performance).

■ Sunday, Jan 24: 7 p.m. at the Studio Theatre — **The Empyrean Ensemble**, in a program featuring ensemble members Ellen Ruth Rose, viola, and Chris Froh, percussion. World premieres by John MacCallum, Pablo Ortiz and Laurie San Martin, along with music by John Cage. Mika Pelo and Kurt Rohde, directors. \$18 general, \$9 students and children.

■ Sunday, Feb. 7: 8 p.m. at Jackson Hall — **The UC Davis Symphony Orchestra**. The program will include Anatoly Liadov's "Kikimora"; Bela Bartók's Violin Concerto No. 2, with Hrabba Atladottir, violin; and Modest Mussorgsky's "Pictures at an Exhibition." Christian Baldini, conductor. \$16/\$14/\$10 general, \$8/\$7/\$5 students and children.

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