



Tuesday, March 30, 2004

April is filled with music at OU

By **Dawn Pauli**, contributing writer

Oakland University's **Music, Theatre and Dance Department** is wrapping up the academic year with nine musical performances, including a benefit performance by Flavio Varani, professor of music.

"This is the only recital with a twist," Varani said. "In addition to performing solo, I'll be joined by violinist Velda Kelly and Nadine Deleury for Schumann Trio op. 63."

Varani recently recorded "Fantaisie" for piano and orchestra by Paul Paray, French conductor of the Detroit Symphony for 11 years in the 1950s. Next fall, he will be recording 40 piano pieces of the solo output by Paul Paray. He is planning to tour South America in May and Japan in October and November as a soloist of Tokyo's "Shin Nippon Symphony Orchestra."

To reserve tickets for any of the April concerts, call the Varner Box Office at (248) 370-3013 Tuesday through Friday from noon to 3 p.m. Tickets also are available through all Ticketmaster outlets, the **Ticketmaster** Web site or by calling (248) 645-6666. Discounts are available for seniors, OU employees and groups of 20 or more.

Most events take place in Varner Hall on Oakland University's campus.

APRIL 2004 PERFORMANCES:

University Chorus and Oakland Chorale

Oakland University's top singers will perform choral music during this concert. Michael Mitchell is the conductor. Tickets are \$12 for general admission and \$6 for students.

Dates and Times: Friday, April 2, at 8 p.m. and Saturday, April 3, at 8 p.m.

Saxophone Ensemble

The Oakland University Saxophone Ensemble will present an hour-long program of music that runs the gamut from France and South America to Celtic and Swing. In addition to two quartets, there will be a soprano/baritone saxophone duet. Alayne Rever is the director, and admission is free.

Date and Time: Sunday, April 4 at 7:30 p.m.

Jazz Band Concert

The Oakland University Jazz Band is a traditional 16-piece Big Band, including four trumpets, four trombones, five saxophones and a rhythm section. The band will perform contemporary arrangements by Bob Mintzer and others, as well as classic charts such as "In the Mood" and "Night in Tunisia." The Oakland University Jazz Singers, a vocal jazz ensemble, also will perform four arrangements with an instrumental combo. Danny Jordan is the director. Tickets at \$6 for all seats.

Date and Time: Tuesday, April 6, at 8 p.m.

African and Steel Drum Ensembles Concert

The African Ensemble/Steel Band Concert on Friday, April 9, will feature Bernard Woma, a special guest artist from Ghana, West Africa. He is master drummer and solo xylophonist of the Ghana national dance ensemble. The first half of the concert will be performed by the OU African drum and xylophone ensemble. They perform music from Ghana on instruments including gourd resonated xylophones (gyil), large talking drums (antumpan), and small clay pot drums (dalari). The OU Steel Band will perform the second half of the concert. The group will be performing music of Trinidad, Cuba and Brazil. Mark Stone is the director. Tickets are \$6 for all seats for the Thursday, April 8, performance. The Friday, April 9, performance is \$10 for general admission and \$6 for students.

Dates and Times: Thursday, April 8, at 10 a.m. (African Drum only) and Friday, April 9, at 8 p.m. (both ensembles)

Flavio Varani Concert

Brazilian-born pianist Flavio Varani will perform French pieces by Rameau, Hahn and Ravel and will be joined by violinist Velda Kelly and cellist Nadine Deleury to perform Schumann Trio op. 63. Tickets are \$50 for VIPs, \$25 for general admission and \$10 for students. All the proceeds benefit the Music, Theatre and Dance Department

Date and Time: Saturday, April 10, at 8 p.m.

Symphonic Band Concert

This concert will feature instrumental music performed by OU's top musicians, including the two winners of the Oakland University Symphonic Band Concerto Competition – Laurie Burns, performing the third movement of Carl Maria von Weber's Clarinet Concerto No. 2, and Robert Benton, performing the Fantasia for Euphonium and Band by Gordon Jacob. Gregory Cunningham is the conductor, and Kenneth Kroesche is the associate conductor. Tickets are \$6 for all seats.

Date and Time: Tuesday, April 13, at 8 p.m.

Oakland Symphony with Oakland Chorale

The Oakland Symphony Orchestra concludes its inaugural season at Oakland University with a program featuring the combined voices of OU's premiere choral ensemble, The Oakland Chorale, and the Detroit-area's world-class professional choir, Cantata Academy. The concert will feature the overture to "La Forza del Destino," composed by Giuseppe Verdi, the monumental "Symphony No. 5" of Jean Sibelius, Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart's sublime "Coronation Mass," and the rarely performed "In Windsor Forest," a Cantata for mixed voices by Ralph Vaughan Williams adapted from his opera "Sir John in Love." Gregory Cunningham is the music director, and Michael Mitchell is the special guest conductor. Tickets are \$15 for general admission and \$8 for students.

Date, Time, Location: Saturday, April 17, at 7:30 p.m. at Clarkston High School

Piano Ensembles

OU students, and students from the community will present a recital of piano duet music and two piano music. The students are coached by Mary Siciliano. There is a reception following the concert. Admission is free.

Date and Time: Sunday, April 18, at 5:30 p.m.

Chamber Ensembles

The ensembles feature voice, piano, strings, winds and brass. They are coordinated and coached by Liz Rowin and Mary Siciliano. Admission is free.

Date and Time: Sunday, April 18, at 7:30 p.m.

For more information, visit the [Department of Music, Theatre and Dance](#) Web site.

SUMMARY

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