



The Majestic Winds

Majestic Winds to Perform Benefit Concert March 6

WESTFIELD — Majestic Winds, the professional wind band of the New Jersey Workshop for the Arts, will present a benefit concert at the Redeemer Lutheran Church on Thursday, March 6, at 7:30 p.m. Proceeds from the concert will go toward the Margaret Kritsch Anderson Fund to assist Margaret's Family in their future needs.

Former Westfield resident Margaret Kritsch Anderson, 34, was shot and killed on January 1, 2012 in Mount Rainier National Park in Washington, according to the National Park Service. Margaret was the daughter of pastor Paul and Dorothy Kritsch. A Westfield High School graduate, Class of 1995, Margaret went on to pursue her dream of becoming a park ranger and was shot while on duty New Year's Day during what began as a routine traffic stop. Authorities believe the shooter initially fled to the remote area to hide following an earlier shooting at a New Year's party near Seattle that left four wounded, two critically, before he shot Ms. Anderson later in the day.

The ensemble will be directed by Howard Toplansky, an NJWA staff instrumental instructor. "Our musical offerings are geared to please a variety of musical tastes and range from Renaissance to Ragtime favorites," stated Mr. Toplansky.

"Das Pensionat" Overture by Franz von Suppe, Selections from "Oklahoma" by Richard Rodgers and "Ballet Egyptian" by Alexandre Luigini will be the main selections on the first half of the concert. "Accelerations" Waltz by Johann Strauss will also be featured on this program. Frank Narucki, the featured saxophone soloist, will perform a virtuoso rendition of "Someone to Watch Over Me" by George Gershwin.

Several marches will also be performed during this program, which include "Sons of the Brave," by Thomas Bidgood; "Vintage March," by I. Chernetsky, and "Chimes of Liberty," by Edwin Franko Goldman.

Rounding out the concert will be "Embraceable You," by George Gershwin; "Dancing Reeds," by Charles Eischand "The Comet Foxtrot," by Zinovi Binkin, who was the copyist and arranger for the Ministry of Defense Band in Moscow during World War II.

This event is open to the public and, while there is no charge for admission, a freewill offering will be gratefully accepted. Redeemer Lutheran Church is located at 229 Cowperthwaite Place, Westfield.

For additional information about NJWA or Majestic Winds, call (908) 789-9696 or email njwaband@att.net.

WHS Presents Spring Musical *Anyone Can Whistle*

WESTFIELD — The Westfield High School (WHS) Theatre Department will present Stephen Sondheim's madcap 1964 musical *Anyone Can Whistle*, a family-friendly musical that features a cast of more than 40 talented student performers. Performances will be Thursday, March 13; Friday, March 14; and Saturday, March 15. All shows are at 7:30 p.m.

Part romantic comedy, part satire, *Anyone Can Whistle* tells the tale of small-town mayor, Cora Hoover Hooper, (played by Madeleine Rosenthal), whose scheme to profit from a local "miracle" is sidetracked by an idealistic nurse (Kim Roth), a charming doctor (Fraser Weist), and the patients of the town's mental hospital, known as the "cookies."

Director Daniel Devlin said *Anyone Can Whistle* has a melodic score packed with showstoppers and big dance numbers, but also delivers a message about the importance of individuals in a conformist society, "and our sometimes vague definition of sanity."

Westfield High School has earned a reputation as one of the most successful theater departments in the state, with the cast and crew of its spring musicals regularly among the top nominees for the Paper Mill Playhouse's prestigious Rising Star Awards.

Kim Roth, a senior, said *Anyone Can Whistle* is a challenging show to perform, but is confident that her training at WHS over the years has prepared for the role. "I am beyond excited to work with so many talented actors and see how the audience reacts to one of Sondheim's most controversial works," she said.

The show also features Daniel Coelho as Treasurer Cooley, Colin Barry as Police Chief Magruder, and Frank Guerriero as Comptroller Schub, who aid the crooked Cora along with her chorus of "boys" played by Alex Cestero, Julian Mone, Tony Peer and Jack Ritter.

Other roles include Elena Arida as the Narrator; Connor Wynne as the Sandwich Man; Sophie Hurwitz as Baby Joan; Jackie Daaleman as Mrs. Schroeder; Jill Rosenfeld as Dr. Demold; J.D. Kelly as George; Lauren Echausse as June; Michael Poyntz as John; Katherine Ko as Marta; Abbie Paone as Velma and Victoria Guerriero as Osgood.

Also appearing in various roles are

Lizzy Allen, Luke Altman, Marissa Alvarez, Sarah Boyle, Catherine Bruno, Gabrielle Dunn, Alan Fang, Alex Frisch, Lucy Hale, Steve Heron, Maddie Hudelson, Alexandra Jackman, Hasitha Kakileti, Jack Kirkland, Olivia Kuzman, Victoria Napolitano, Megan O'Connell, Andrew Orenberg, Megan Pinna, Lisa Morgan Simon, Sydney Stewart and Jesse Zimmermann.

Students play a large role in the "behind the scenes" production as well. The show's colorful set is being constructed by a crew of students under the direction of set designer Roy Chambers, an art teacher at the high school.

Samantha Gruskin is the show's stage manager, and Steven Bubniak and Matt Hopen are assistant stage managers. Jack Venezia and Hannah Mackenzie are assistant technical directors. Alex Palatucci is the show's graphic designer. Hair and makeup is under the direction of Alexa Derman; Maddie Kevelson is the show's costume designer; and Ellie Smith is head of props.

The lighting will once again be designed by Lisa and Michael Kimmel of Sharp Edge Lighting Design of Hoboken, with the assistance of student technical leaders Matt Binkowitz and Mary Kate Miller. The show's many dance numbers are being arranged by professional choreographer Samantha Hahn, with assistance from student dance captain Catherine Bruno.

The show also features a live orchestra of Westfield High School students, led by musical director John Brzozowski, a chorus teacher at the high school.

Tickets for *Anyone Can Whistle*, which are reserved seating, are \$12 each and can be purchased in advance at the web site www.ShowTix4U.com until 3 p.m. the day of the show. Tickets are on sale now.

Advance purchases are recommended, since WHS shows often sell out. However, any tickets not sold in advance will be available for sale at the door. Questions can be emailed to WHS tickets@Westfieldnj12.org.

All performances will be held in the auditorium of Westfield High School, located at 550 Dorian Road. In honor of the "cookies" that appear in the show, at each performance one lucky audience member will win a free tray of cookies, courtesy of Bovella's Bakery in Westfield.



SILENT MOVIE...The 1926 United Artists silent film "The Son of the Sheik" starring Rudolph Valentino will be shown on Friday, February 28, at 7:30 p.m. at the First United Methodist Church in Westfield. Live organ accompaniment on two pipe organs will be provided by well-known organist Trent Johnson.

Organist Trent Johnson To Accompany Silent Movie

WESTFIELD — The 1926 United Artists silent film "The Son of the Sheik" starring Rudolph Valentino will be shown on Friday, February 28, at 7:30 p.m. at the First United Methodist Church in Westfield. Live organ accompaniment on two pipe organs will be provided by well-known organist Trent Johnson.

Preceding the show will be a spaghetti supper at 6:30 p.m. in the church social hall. A donation of \$15 per person for both will be by reservation only. General admission at the door for the film only will be adults \$10 and \$5 for children under 12.

The largely improvised organ accompaniment for this showing will be performed on the church's two pipe organs. The chancel organ is a large 54 rank Aeolian-Skinner organ which was installed in 1959 in consultation with Wilma Jensen, then organist, now a world class concert and touring organ virtuoso. Adding excitement and "stereo" to the pipe sounds in the vast sanctuary will be the additional use of the Möller 12 rank independent antiphonal gallery organ. This feature and combination of pipe organs in a church is unique in this area.

Trent Johnson, also a composer and conductor, has accompanied many films from the silent era including "The Phantom of the Opera," "The Hunchback of Notre Dame," "Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde," "Nosferatu," and comedy classics featuring Charlie Chaplin and Harold Lloyd. He has been the music director of the Oratorio Singers of Westfield since 1994 and is director of music at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church in Bernardsville.

Mr Johnson is a graduate of the Peabody Institute of the Johns Hopkins University and The Juilliard School, and is an organist at Radio City Music Hall in New York City for the Christmas Spectacular where he performs on the giant "Mighty Wurlitzer" organ, the largest theater

organ still in regular use today. This will be a fun filled event, suitable for adults and children alike. Mr. Johnson will provide a largely improvised "theater organ" accompaniment to this full length feature.

Since a soundtrack was not provided for silent films, music was generally provided by musicians who watched and accompanied the film as it unfolded. Accompaniment was often provided by a pianist, an organist, a small ensemble or, in some cases a full score for orchestra. Ensembles and orchestras often had musical scores specifically written or arranged for the movie. A pianist or organist had the options of memorizing or improvising music tailor-made to particular scenes, mood changes and dramatic situations.

Use of a pianist or organist proved to be more cost effective and, as a result, theater organs grew in great popularity as silent films flourished. These mighty organs not only had pipes that made the sounds of various orchestral sirens, drums, bells, instruments, but they often contained "traps" whistles, and other sound effects suitable for motion pictures.

This film screening is a benefit concert for the Oratorio Singers of Westfield who will be presenting a choral concert on Sunday, March 30, at the First United Methodist Church. The Oratorio Singers concert will feature professional soloists, choir and members of the New Jersey Symphony Orchestra in the "Great" mass in c minor of Mozart, and the World Premiere of Trent Johnson's cantata Saint Augustine, all led by music director Trent Johnson. Proceeds will also benefit the Aeolian-Skinner and Möller organs restoration projects.

The First United Methodist Church is located at One East broad Street in Westfield. For further information and reservations for the spaghetti dinner, call (908) 656-1718. Parking for this event is in the church lot off Ferris Place.

POPCORN

"The Monuments Men"

Hardly Monumental
2 popcorns

One Popcorn, Poor — Two Popcorns, Fair — Three Popcorns, Good — Four Popcorns, Excellent

By MICHAEL S. GOLDBERGER
Film Critic

Be it ever so noble and righteous an endeavor, filmmakers who partake of George Clooney's "The Monuments Men" will doubtfully wish to experience it again when it plays the flat screen in the den. Viewing Grant Heslov's screenplay, based on two books detailing the true-to-life tale about the men and women appointed to retrieve art treasures the Nazis stole during WWII, is more a respectful pilgrimage than an entertainment.

Essentially a grand scale scavenger hunt played for the very highest stakes, it is the loftiness of the task itself that intrigues, and not the poorly written, slow boat to its ends. Surely posterity wouldn't have minded a bit more artistic license for the sake of dramatic fluidity.

Call it "The Dirty Dozen Light" as this mission, although it is played with real guns, a vile antagonist and all the dangers those circumstances entail, presents a motley crew of unlikely candidates for wartime heroes. The bulk of them beyond acceptable fighting age, they are comprised of noted authorities on the arts. If they are convivially ragtag, they are nonetheless hifalutin, giving them that whimsical appeal audiences expect from such a conclave.

Although the names have been changed, probably for legal considerations, the principals can easily be matched to their actual inspirations. Mr. Clooney, directing himself in this patriotic paean to the Monuments, Fine Arts and Archives Program, is Frank Stokes, the Harvard art conservationist who talks President Roosevelt into allowing him to form the unit. In all, there were approximately 400 participants. Here we home in on eight of them.

Matt Damon plays James Granger, the director of the Metropolitan Museum of Art, smuggled into occupied Paris to figure out just where the Nazis, under the authority of Hermann Goering, are stashing their ill-gotten gains. There, he seeks the collaboration of the script's unofficial Monument Woman, Claire Simone (Cate Blanchett), a French art scholar who, from the museum where she worked, was able to spy the comings and goings of the pillaging intruders.

Other players, all of whom chide each other in the generically familiar style common to such film assemblages, manage a likeability that, alas, can't ameliorate a so-so script. But they give it the old college try. Bill Murray, doing that stare that says disbelief, curiosity, disdain and benevolence all in one grimace, is Richard Campbell, architect extraordinaire.

Likewise, John Goodman as famed sculptor Walter Garfield, amuses merely by the humorous incongru-

ence of his heft and demeanor being squished into an army uniform. Adding a little Continental panache, Jean Dujardin ("The Artist") is Jean Claude Clermont, a French director of design. Representing the Brits, Hugh Bonneville is Donald Jeffries, a chap who hopes his service will earn him redemption from a misspent past.

In short, there is a delegate from each of the allied countries, determined to preserve the culture that nurtures and is the historical lifeblood of a free civilization. And of course, to put the icing on the cake, there is a tried and true enemy, second best only to Beelzebub himself: Nazis. No equivocating here...no concerns about political correctness.

Not content to merely put the world on its ear for a few years and kill millions of people, they've systematically, for fun and profit, plundered the world's fortunes. Claiming for themselves every objet d'art they can get their fascist hands on, they oxymoronically prize the artifacts of those decimated nations for whom they espouse such utter disdain.

Military historians generally agree this was among the preoccupying lucinacies that ultimately led to their defeat. That, and trying to wipe out an entire peoples. Surveying the mind-boggling number of priceless paintings, sculptures, etc., the camera challenges us to identify each item in the panoply of priceless heirlooms.

In one especially forceful scene, Matt Damon's curator par excellence hangs a re-claimed portrait of a female, Jewish family member on the wall of an abandoned Paris apartment. Mademoiselle Simone asks him what he's doing, chillingly assuring that no one is returning to this dwelling. Assuming his finest Boy Scout demeanor, he replies, "I was commissioned to recover art and return it to its proper owner."

That and a few other moments work. Otherwise, the docudrama can't even seem to get out of homage mode, even when a more sophisticated narrative might have accomplished its tribute in spades. There is no discernible subtext other than what you may construe, and no appreciable subplot.

Where Clooney's effort does, however, achieve success is in educating us to these exploits. Our interest is piqued. The suggestion here then is to skip the movie and spend the treasure you save on related literature and admission to museums where you can enjoy the fruits of "The Monuments Men's" virtuous labors in living color.

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"The Monuments Men," rated PG-13, is a Columbia Pictures release directed by George Clooney and stars George Clooney, Matt Damon and Cate Blanchett. Running time: 118 minutes.

NJWA Summer Workshop Program Begins Registration

WESTFIELD — Residents can now register for the 2014 NJWA Summer Workshop, which will open its doors for the 43rd time this July. The three week workshop, for those in junior kindergarten through grade 8, will run from Monday, July 7, to Friday, July 25, from 8:30 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. at Roosevelt Intermediate School, 301 Clark Street, Westfield.

The Young Explorers program, for those entering junior kindergarten or kindergarten in September, will expose students to arts and crafts, violin, foreign language, life science, pre-engineering and little chef's math.

First Grade Adventurers, for those entering first grade in September, will participate in arts and crafts, violin, science, LEGO Education Simple Machines, LEGO Education Story Starters and author studies.

Those in the grades 2-3 workshop will have a choice of various classes in the areas of art, dance, engineering, robotics, science, music and language arts. The workshops for students in grades 4-5 include a variety of classes in art, music, dance, science, engineering, writing and robotics, while those in grades 6-8 can choose from among classes in fine arts, robotics, music, dancing, engineering and physical science. Students may take one, two or three consecutive workshops throughout the morning. Specific class selections are listed in the 2014 brochure.

In addition to the regular Workshop hours, an optional early morning drop-off is available, as well as a full day of programming in conjunction with the Westfield YMCA. A registered nurse is also on staff during the regular workshop hours.

Kean's Department of Theatre Presents *In the Heights*

UNION — Imagine Washington Heights, a tight-knit New York community where the coffee from the corner bodega is light and sweet, the windows are always open, and the breeze carries the rhythm of three generations of music. During its acclaimed Broadway run, *In the Heights* quickly became an audience phenomenon and a critical success, winning five Tony Awards.

Conceived and with music and lyrics by Lin-Manuel Miranda, *In the Heights* is an authentic and exhilarating journey into one of Manhattan's most vibrant communities. Find out what it takes to make a living, what it costs to have a dream, and what it means to be home...*In the Heights*.

Led by a team of guest artists — director Suzanne Agins, choreographer David Scotchford, musical director Meg Zervoulis, and scenic designer Nick Benacerraf — *In the Heights* features costumes and lights by resident



LEGO MANIA...Many LEGO Education courses will be among the choices at this July's NJWA Summer Workshop to be held at Roosevelt Intermediate School in Westfield.

Degreed and/or certified teachers, experienced performers and professional artists comprise the faculty of the NJWA Summer Workshop.

To view, download or print the 2014 NJWA Summer Workshop brochure and application, visit www.njworkshopforthearts.com. Completed applications should be mailed or delivered to the address indicated on the form.

The NJWA Summer Workshop is a division of the New Jersey Workshop for the arts, a 501 (c) 3 non-profit organization. For additional information about the summer program, call (908) 518-1551, e-mail njwa.summerworkshop@gmail.com or visit the New Jersey Workshop for the Arts studios at 150-152 East Broad Street, Westfield.

faculty members Karen Lee Hart and Nadine Charlson.

"*In the Heights*, though it is less than 10 years old, has worked its way into the consciousness of a generation," said director Suzie Agins. "I was overwhelmed by the turn-out at auditions - at how many students wanted to be a part of this show, even if they weren't theatre majors, even if they'd never been in a play before!"

In the Heights opens Friday, February 21, at Kean University's Wilkins Theatre. Additional performances include: February 22, 26, 28, March 1, at 8 p.m.; February 22, 23, and March 1, at 2 p.m.; February 28, at 10:30 a.m.; and February 27, at 5 p.m., followed by a Q&A with the cast and creative team. Tickets are \$15 for the general public, \$12 for seniors and Kean staff/alumni, and \$10 for students.

To purchase tickets for *In the Heights*, call (908) 737-7469 or visit www.keanstage.com.

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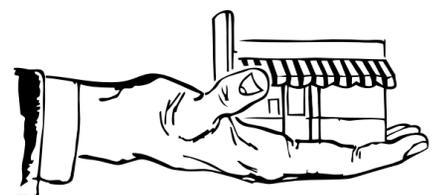
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