

LIVE REVIEWS



Symphony of the Hills

"Rach & Roll with Rachmaninov"

October 6, 2016 The Calliou Center

Review by Greg Forest

The Symphony of the Hills kicked off this season with a bit of Rach (as in Rachmaninov) and Roll. This isn't head-banging metal but a clever twist and nod to some composers not usually thought of as the rock stars they were in their times.

The concert kicked off with "The Rock" from The Who's 1973 milestone rock opera - "Quadrophenia" which is generally thought of as the first pure opera to use the rock format. There have been a number of rock musicals and orchestras were no stranger to backing tracks from Buddy Holly, the Beatles and Rolling Stones but "Quadrophenia" was regarded as the first true rock opera.



Just a few minutes into the performance I was thinking to myself, "This is a darn good orchestra" and beamed with pride that my community could field such a talented ensemble. Eugene Dowdy, Conductor and Artistic Director put together a great program that crossed a lot of boundaries in one evening's entertainment.

The second piece was "Symphony No. 103 in C Major" by composer F.T. Haydn, who was a 18th century star in his own right.

After the intermission, Dr. Don Crandall sat down at the piano and performed two movements of Rachmaninov's popular "Piano Concerto in E flat minor."

Dr. Crandall is the Director of the Music Department at Schreiner University and also spends time with local groups,



Harry & the Hightones, Men in Black, The Mike Kasberg Quartet and George Eychner's Jazz Quartet.

An adept at tickling the ivories, Crandall gave a virtuoso performance garnering a well-deserved standing ovation.

The concert ended with Don Kicking off a raucous version of Bill Haley's "Rock Around the Clock," with some rocking horns and the whole symphony kicking in.

Symphony of the Hills still has a great season in store for music lovers - there are four more concerts between now and April 27 so visit symphonyofthehills.org for tickets and more information.