

# LIVE REVIEWS



## **Symphony of the Hills** **"Rach & Roll with Rachmaninov"** October 6, 2016 The Callioux 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](http://symphonyofthehills.org) for tickets and more information.