

One-Act Play Festival — Las Cruces Community Theatre, 313 N. Downtown Mall, Las Cruces, hosts its one-act showcase Friday through Sunday, **March 15-17**, featuring original works by area playwrights and directors. Plays and times to be announced. Information: (575) 523-1200 or lcctnm.org.

'Wait Until Dark' — **March 22-April 7** at El Paso Playhouse, 2501 Montana. Information: 532-1317 or elpasoplayhouse.co

'Alice in Wonderland' — No Strings Theater Company presents a version of Lewis Carroll's classic created by The Manhattan Project, under the direction of Andre Gregory and directed by Karen Caroe, **March 22-April 7** at the Black Box Theater, 430 N. Main in Las Cruces. Information: (575) 523-1223 or no-strings.org.

Tenampa Brass Band — Amigos de la Fundacion Mascareñas's Matices Culturales 2019 performance series presents the Guadalajara instrumental group at 8 p.m. Saturday, **March 23**, at Centro Cultural Paso del Norte in Juarez, playing jazz, funk, blues, pop, hip-hop and Latin, with influences from Dirty Dozen Brass Band to Michael Jackson. Ticket information: 544-5118 in El Paso; 612-3175 or 612-4075 in Juárez, or fmascarenas.org.

Richter Uzar Duo — The string duo of Viktor Uzur and Brad Richter performs at 7 p.m. Saturday, **March 23**, at Flickinger Center for Performing Arts in Alamogordo. They represent two of the world's most lauded musical institutions, Moscow Conservatory and the Royal College of Music. Tickets: \$18, \$30 and \$40. Information: (575) 437-2202 or flickinger-center.com.

Sergei Teleshev — Grant County Community Concert Association closes its season with accordionist Sergei Teleshev and violinist Veronika Shabashov at 7 p.m. Tuesday, **March 26**, at WNMU Fine Arts Auditorium in Silver City, performing the works of Bach, Piazzolla, Tchaikovsky and more. Tickets: \$20 (age 17 and younger with paid adult (two per adult), and WNMU students with valid ID admitted free. Information: (575) 538-5862 or gconcerts.org.

Kaoru Wantanabe concert — UTEP Department of Music performs a concert featuring the music of the Japanese composer at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, **March 26**, at Fox Fine Arts Recital Hall. Ticket information: 747-5606 or utep.edu/liberalarts/music/.

'The Humans' — The UTEP Department of Theater & Dance present the comedy by Stephen Karam 2:30 p.m. Wednesday through Sunday, **March 27-31**, at UTEP's Fox Studio Theatre. Directed by Kim McKean. One holiday. One dinner. One family. A boatload of secrets. As the Blake family celebrates Thanksgiving in a ramshackle duplex in Lower Manhattan, strange things begin to happen, laying bare their deepest fears and follies. Ticket information: 747-5118, theatredance.utep.edu or on Facebook.

Sergei Teleshev & Veronika Shabashova — Showtime! El Paso presents the world-renowned performers at 7 p.m. Thursday, **March 28**, at the Abraham Chavez Theatre. Accordionist Teleshev, performs works by Bach, Piazzolla, Tchaikovsky and more. He performs with world-renowned violinist, singer, actress and dancer Veronika Shabashova. Information: 247-2726 or showtimeelpaso.com.

April

'Something Rotten' — Broadway El Paso presents the El Paso premiere of the hilarious smash hit Tuesday and Wednesday, **April 2-3** at the Plaza Theatre. Set in 1595, it tells the story of Nick and Nigel Bottom, two brothers who are desperate to write a hit play. When a local soothsayer foretells that the future of the theatre involves singing, dancing and acting at the same time, Nick and Nigel set out to write the world's very first musical. Ticket information: 231-1111, ElPasoLive.com/Broadway or on Facebook at Broadway in El Paso.

Vitality — The popular illusionist closes the 2018/2019 Premier Series season with "An Evening of Wonders" at 7 p.m. Saturday, **April 6**, at the Flickinger Center for Performing Arts in Alamogordo. Vitaly has mystified fans from all over the world, including Las Vegas superstars Penn & Teller whom he has successfully fooled on their hit TV show. Tickets: \$18, \$30 and \$40. Information: (575) 437-2202 or flickingercenter.com.

UTEP Symphony Orchestra — 7:30 p.m. Monday, **April 8**, at Fox Fine Arts Recital Hall. Ticket information: 747-5606.

The Satin Dolls 'Sing, Swing and Sizzle!' — The ensemble performs at 7 p.m. Saturday, **April 13**, at Spencer Theater in Alto, N.M. singing and tap-dancing big band classics in a costumed stage show reminiscent of a 1940s USO tour. Joined by a 5-piece band, the music includes "Boogie Woogie Bugle Boy," "In The Mood," "String of Pearls" and more. Tickets: \$39-\$65. Information: (888) 818-7872, (575) 336-4800 or spencertheater.com.

Lincoln Trio — El Paso Pro-Musica presents the 2-time Grammy Award winning trio for concerts and master classes **April 15-19** in El Paso and Las Cruces. Ticket information: 747-8163 or eppm.org.

UTEP Choralfest — UTEP Department of Music's annual Choralfest is Monday and Tuesday, **April 15-16**. Ticket information: 747-5606 or utep.edu/liberalarts/music/.

UTEP Horn Choir Concert — 7:30 p.m. Thursday, **April 18**, at Fox Fine Arts Recital Hall. Ticket information: 747-5606 or utep.edu/liberalarts/music/.

'Mamma Mia!' — UTEP Dinner Theatre, presents the hit musical inspired by the music of ABBA **April 19-May 5**. On the eve of her wedding on a Greek island paradise, a daughter's quest to discover the identity of her father brings three men from her mother's past back to the island they last visited 20 years ago. Featuring classic ABBA songs including "Dancing Queen," "SOS," "Mamma Mia," "Super Trouper," "Take a Chance on Me," and "The Winner Takes it All." Show time is 7 p.m. Wednesday through Saturday; non-dinner matinees are Sunday 1:30 p.m. April 28 and May 5; dinner matinee is 2:30 p.m. Sunday, April 21. Tickets: \$33.50 to \$43.50 Wednesday, Thursday and Sunday discount dinner performances; \$36.50 to \$48.50 (Friday and Saturday dinner performances), and \$19.50 to \$29.50 no-dinner matinee performances (Ticketmaster). Information: 747-6060 or utep.edu/udt.

Layali Al-Sham — UTEP Department of Music's Middle Eastern music ensemble performs its spring recital at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, **April 20**, at Fox Fine Arts Recital Hall. Ticket information: 747-5606 or utep.edu/liberalarts/music/.

Van Cliburn winner is EPSO's opening concert guest artist

El Paso Symphony Orchestra (EPSO), under direction of conductor Bohuslav Rattay, has a diverse offering of performances for its 88th season.

The orchestra holds many distinctions, including being the longest continuously running symphony in the State of Texas, and serving as El Paso region's largest arts employer, with more than 200 people (including 80 musicians) working to produce each concert. Of the musicians themselves, more than 97 percent of them are regional educators at elementary through college level.

This year's season includes the regional sounds of mariachi and popular Broadway composers, as well as guest musicians presenting some of the greatest works in classical music.

This season begins with "Rachmaninoff Gold" Sept. 21-22, featuring Van Cliburn Gold Medalist Yekwon Sunwoon as guest pianist, performing Rachmaninoff's Piano Concerto No. 2 in C minor, op. 18, and Symphony No. 2 in E minor, op. 27.

October's performance featuring guest violinist Chloe Trevor highlights Michael Daugherty's "Fire and Blood" Oct. 19-20. Also on the bill is Tchaikovsky's "Symphony No. 4, in F minor, op. 36.

Rattay and the orchestra will celebrate the music of Andrew Lloyd Webber Nov. 16-17, with "Music of the Night." Selections will be from Webber's musicals "Phantom of the Opera," "Cats," "Jesus Christ Superstar" and "Evita." There will also be a performance of "Pictures at an Exhibition" by Mussorgsky (Ravel).

Each January, EPSO partners with El Paso Pro-Musica's Chamber Music Festival to present a joint concert Jan. 18-19 with cellist Zuill Bailey. The concert will include Brahms' Symphony No. 2 in D major, op. 73, and Dvořák's Cello Concerto in B minor, op. 104.

Guest pianist Daria Kiseleva performs with the symphony Feb. 22-23 on selections such as Beethoven's Piano Concerto No. 5 in E-flat major, op. 73 "Emperor" and Prokofiev's Symphony No. 5 in B-flat major, op. 100.

The season ends April 26-27 with a celebration of a regional sound in "Mariachi & Bernstein," with Bernstein's Symphonic Dances from "West Side Story," Marquez's Danzon No. 2, Ginastera's Estancia Four Dances, op. 8a and Moncayo's "Huapango" accompanied by a mariachi band.

Shows begin at 7:30 p.m. at the Plaza Theatre, and each performance is pre-ceded at 6:30 p.m. with an opening notes talk in the adjacent Philanthropy Theatre.

The Symphony's youth affiliates include the Tocando project, and El Paso Symphony Youth Orchestras (EPSYOs).

Tocando, billed as a "visionary movement to transform the lives of children through music," began in 2013 at Hart Elementary in Segundo Barrio. The pro-

gram was partly inspired by a Venezuelan project called "El Sistema," which helped change the life trajectory of hundreds of thousands of the nation's neediest children.

Tocando, supported through the PlayUSA initiative and Carnegie Hall's Weill Music Institute, offers area youth intensive music study through classes and rehearsals and opportunities to perform throughout the community.

The symphony will host its 5th annual "Tomatoville" fundraiser for Tocando Friday, Oct. 12, with the "ultimate BLT" experience, drinks, and live music.

El Paso Symphony Youth Orchestra's is now in its 13th season and is under the direction of James O. Welsch, who also serves as resident conductor for El Paso Symphony Orchestras. The youth orchestra hosts several performances throughout the year, including their annual Side-By-Side performance with EPSO in March.

Another way EPSO reaches out to the community with their annual Young People's Concert, free programs for around 15,000 area fifth-graders at the Abraham Chavez Theatre. The program, set for Jan. 30-31, 2019, is presented in collaboration with Carnegie Hall's Link Up Program, and the public is welcome, on a space-available basis.

Other Symphony fundraisers include their 22nd annual March Madness event benefiting EPSO's education and outreach programs. The event is held during the NCAA Men's Basketball Championship finals with game viewing, pre-game activities, dinner and a golf tournament.

As a gift to the community, orchestra hosts the annual Independence Day "Pop Goes the Fort" with patriotic music and fireworks at Biggs Park on Fort Bliss.

For the past few years, the symphony has broadened its audience with rock and pop tribute concerts. This summer, the symphony hosted Winterbourne's The Music of Queen, the "ultimate celebration of the legendary rock band" featuring the EPSO led by conductor Brent Havens with a full rock and vocals by Brody Dolyniuk.

Whatever the performance, Rattay himself has said he wants to make sure it is an emotional experience for the audience.

"Music is all about emotions," he said on statement for the orchestra's web page. He reminds people not to just attend a concert to try and "analyze" things.

"(If you) just try to surgically take it all apart, you will not get the experience I think the orchestra and myself am trying to convey," he said. "Sit down, listen, just relax and let the emotions take over. I think that's the main reason we are on stage doing what we do."

Season tickets for the classical series are \$66-\$222, with individual seats ranging from \$16-\$45. For information call 532-3776 or visit epso.org.