

MSU musicians perform 'Happy Birthday Mozart' concert

Bridgette Redman, For the Lansing State Journal 4:53 p.m. EST January 22, 2015



(Photo: Courtesy photo)

Act I: Happy Birthday, Mozart

You're never too old for a birthday celebration. Just ask the musicians at the Michigan State University College of Music.

While they won't be serving birthday cake or playing Pin the Tail on the Donkey, they'll still be pulling out the stops to celebrate the 259th birthday of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart. They're even having it a day early.

"Happy Birthday Mozart" is a Joanne and Bill Church West Circle Series. It's part of a now annual celebration that takes place at the Fairchild Theatre in MSU's Auditorium on Monday, Jan. 26, the day before the prolific composer's birthday.

This party features seven string, piano and woodwind artists playing Mozart pieces with Musicologist Marcie Ray acting as a concert guide to discuss Mozart and the history that surrounds him and his music.

The pieces being performed include:

- Kegelstatt Trio K 498, Trio for Clarinet, Viola and Piano with Guy Yehuda, clarinet, Yuri Gandelsman, viola and Deborah Moriarty, piano
- Piano Quartet No. 1 in G minor K 478 with Dmitri Berlinsky, violin, Gandelsman, viola, David LeDoux, cello and Ralph Votapek, piano
- Clarinet Quintet in A major K 581, Yehuda, clarinet, Berlinsky, violin, Hai Xin Wu, violin, Gandelsman, viola and LeDoux, cello

Mozart began playing the piano at age 3 as his father was teaching his older sister, Anna. By six, he was performing in public and writing music, learning all sorts of musical forms at an early age. Over the course of his short life, he died at age 35, he composed hundreds of different type of works including operas, sonatas, symphonies, masses and concertos. At the time of his death, he was one of the most famous composers of his era and continues to be considered one of the top composers of the Classical period.

The West Circle Series is in its fifth year and all seats are reserved. Tickets are \$15 for adults, \$12 for seniors and \$5 for students and anyone under 18. Tickets can be purchased at www.music.msu.edu or at the door.

Act II: Here Comes The Truth

Next Thursday, the truth is coming to the MSU Auditorium.

It's coming in the form of a comedian, actor and writer whose arrives with this "Here Comes the Truth" tour for a one-day show that is part of a 35-city tour.

Rodney Carrington has recorded eight major record label comedy albums and has his own label, Laughter's Good Records. He also sings and he recorded the intro song and video for ESPN's Colin's Football Sow.

A fan of social media and communicating with his fans through the Internet, he has a YouTube series called "Bit by Bit" which air every Tuesday at 4 p.m.

The show begins at 7 p.m. Thursday and tickets are \$40.50 to \$180. The VIP package includes laminate, poster, DVD and a meet and greet with Carrington. Tickets are available at www.whartoncenter.com.

Encore!

•Ragtime and Boogie Woogie pianist Bob Milne, performs at the Grand Ledge Opera House, 121 S. Bridge Street, at 3 p.m. this Sunday. Tickets are \$10 for students, \$15 presale at the Opera House, MacDowell's Hearth and Flowers, True Value Hardware and \$17 at the door.