

Gershwin's musical gold on display in romantic songfest

BY JAMES D. WATTS JR.
World Scene Writer

One should probably thank Shakespeare that "Love Is Here to Stay." This revue of songs written by George Gershwin, which will be presented Friday and Saturday at the Robson Performing Arts Center in Claremore, got its start as part of the 2006 Oklahoma Shakespeare Festival, held each summer at Southeastern Oklahoma State University in Durant. Dell McClain, who teaches theater at SOSU and is director of the festival, came up with the idea of a Gershwin revue that would be presented as the festival's dinner theater offering. He devised a show that presents Gershwin's songs in the context of the composer's brief but eventful life. For musical assistance, McClain

turned to Jeff Lankov, a Dallas-based pianist and conductor. In addition to working as music director for organizations such as Radio City Music Hall and the Dallas Summer Musicals, Lankov has released a CD of "The Piano Music of George Gershwin."

The show includes some of Gershwin's best-known compositions, including "I Got Rhythm," "Someone to Watch Over Me," "Embraceable You," "Love Is Here to Stay," as well as his first foray into pure concert music, "Rhapsody in Blue." "Love Is Here to Stay: A Gershwin Revue" will be presented at 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday at the Robson Performing Arts Center, 101 E. Stuart Roosa, in Claremore.

Tickets are \$15-\$30, and available through www.MyTicketOffice.com, or by calling (918) 699-7390.



Courtesy

"Love is Here Today" showcases dozens of songs by George Gershwin.

Gridiron show relies on musical lampoons rather than skits

BY MATT ELLIOTT
World Scene Writer

This weekend's Gridiron show will feature songs instead of skits and will have its first run at the Tulsa Performing Arts Center.

The show lampoons public figures and newsmakers from the past year, often with humor.

"The show is fun," said show producer Casey Morgan, development director for radio station KWGS, 89.5 FM. "You don't have to know much about politics to enjoy it. It's very fast-paced and very funny."

The show's songs will skewer everything from Bells Amusement Park to pundit Bill O'Reilly, Gov. Brad Henry, former U.S. Rep. Ernest Istook and U.S. Senator Barack Obama, Morgan said. Any celebrity also will be fair game, she said.

O'Reilly will be lampooned to the tune of "the Battle Hymn of the Republic" — "Bill O'Reilly is annoying/with the tactics he's employing/For a fight he's

always spoiling/as truth gets marched upon" — and North Korean dictator Kim Jong-Il will be pilloried to the tune of "Little Old Lady From Pasadena" in a song title, "Wacky Dictator From North Korea."

Money from the show's ticket sales will go to journalism and communications scholarships at local and state universities, Morgan said.

The show will feature nine singers, Morgan said, including Kathy LaFortune, wife of former Mayor Bill LaFortune, as well as local jazz singer Rebecca Ungerman.

The songs were written by Tulsa World staff writer Randy Krehbiel, AEP-PSO spokesman Ed Bettinger, Tom Campbell, Tulsa World editorial pages Editor David Averill, Eva-Marie Gooden, Bruce Howard and Ungerman.

The band providing the music for the night consists of guitarist Frank Brown, bassist Jim Bates, keyboardist Spencer Sutton and drummer Wade Robertson.

GRIDIRON SHOW

When: 8 p.m., Friday and Saturday

Where: John H. Williams Theater, in the Tulsa

Performing Arts Center, 110 E. Second St.

Tickets: \$25 day of show, available at the PAC's

ticket office, by phone, 596-7111, or online

through www.tulsapac.com

Nightspots

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Lanna Thai Restaurant, 7227 S. Memorial Drive — Jazz Trio featuring Leo Jones, Tommy Crook and Scott Musick, Friday.

Lennie's Club, Trade Winds East, 3373 E. Skelly Drive — Sweny, Campbell and Duke, Friday and Saturday; Doug Smith, Wednesday; Open mike with Jim Sweny, Thursday.

Lola's at the Bowery, 5 E. Brady St. — Wink and Jeff, Friday; Mezclave, Saturday; Annie Ellicott Trio, Wednesday; 7 Blue, Thursday.

Magoo's, 5002 S. Memorial Drive — 3 Hour Tour, Friday and Saturday.

Old Town Mexican Cafe, 4447 E. 86th St. North, Sperry — Dennis Beyer, Thursday.

Pickles Pub, 3323 E. 51st St. — DJ, Friday, Saturday, Wednesday and Thursday; Ray Hamilton and Dave Armstrong, Tuesday.

Privé, 3523 S. Peoria Ave. — J.M.B. of Citizen Mundi, Sunday; Steve Liddell, Monday.

Saffron Coffee, Food and Art, 1148 S. Harvard Ave. — Poetry Night, Tuesday; Open mike, Thursday.

Tiki Lounge, 4325 E. Apache St. — Jam session, Sunday.

Twisters, Cherokee Casino & Resort, U.S. 44 and 193rd East Avenue — Stat Band, Friday and Saturday; Scott Elison, Sunday; Time Machine, Monday; Darrel Cole, Tuesday; Dustin Pittsley, Wednesday; Late Night Drive, Thursday.

Vault Sports Bar & Grill, 106 S. Atlanta Ave., Owasso — David Skinner, Friday; Element, Saturday; Brian Parton, Thursday.

Vintage 1740, 1740 S. Boston Ave.

— Sharla Pember, Wednesday.

JAZZ & STANDARDS

Bistro at Seville, 10021 S. Yale Ave. — Mark Bruner and Shelby Eichler, Friday.

Camerelli's, 1536 E. 15th St. — Mark Bruner and Shelby Eichler, Sunday.

Chalkboard, 1324 S. Main St. — Tim Swanson, Sunday.

Da Boat Seafood/Oyster Bar & Grill, 8102 S. Lewis Ave. — Jambalaya Jass Band, Friday, Saturday and Thursday.

Emilio's Piano Lounge, 8146 S. Memorial Drive — SCORE, Friday and Saturday; Luigi Balletto, Wednesday.

Evangelistic Temple, 5345 S. Peoria Ave. — A Night of Jazz with Grady Nichols, Wednesday.

Green Onion Restaurant, 4532 E. 51st St. — Bob Clear and Jon Cummins,

Tuesday through Saturday.

Lanna Thai Restaurant, 7227 S. Memorial Drive — Jazz Trio featuring Leo Jones, Tommy Crook and Scott Musick, Friday.

Lobby Lounge, Double Tree Hotel at Warren Place, 6110 S. Yale Ave. — Jim Burns, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday.

Phil's Smokehouse & Grill, Tulsa Southern Hills Marriott, 1902 E. 71st St. — Jim Burns, Friday.

St. Michael's Alley, 3324 E. 31st St. — Ron Wiggins and Rick Morton, Thursday; Tommy Crook, Saturday; Luigi Balletto, Tuesday.

Ti Amo Ristorante Italiano, 6024 S. Sheridan Road — Janet Rutland with Randy Wimer, Friday; Tommy Crook and Mark Bruner, Wednesday.

University of Tulsa, 600 S. College Ave. — Bela Rozsa Memorial Concert, Monday; TU Jazz Bands with David

Amram, Tuesday.

DANCE

Central Center at Centennial Park, 1028 E. Sixth St. — Round Up Boys, Thursday.

Club Fusion, 1565 S. Sheridan Road — Hot DJ Dance Mix, Wednesday through Saturday.

Homebuilders Association, 11545 E. 43rd St. — Mike Bennett Orchestra featuring Sharon Moguin, Wednesday.

Jazz's Lounge, 424 S. Memorial Drive — DJ Mello, Friday through Thursday.

Liquidz, 112 E. 18th St. — Super Freak, Saturday.

Moose Lodge, 11106 E. Seventh St. — Wiskey Bent, Sunday.

Templ, 412 E. Second St. — DJ Turk, Friday and Saturday.

On TV

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Oscar nominee Forest Whitaker follows up his Golden Globe win and his latest stunning performance as a stroke victim pushed over the edge on "ER" with a stint as host of "Saturday Night Live" at 10:30 p.m. on NBC, channel 2 and cable channel 9.

What a tangled web Lisa weaves when first she decides to trace her Native American heritage for a school project that gets out of hand on "The Simpsons." It airs at 7 p.m. Sunday on Fox, channel 23 and cable channel 5. Natalie Portman also guest-voices the role of an older teenage girl romancing brother Bart.

The music industry sounds all the right notes at its "49th Annual Grammy Awards," airing at 7 p.m. Sunday on CBS, channel 6. Watch for Oklahoma's own Carrie Underwood and Rascal Flatts performing a tribute to country rock. Also performing will be Shakira, Wyclef Jean, Chris Brown, Lionel Richie, Smokey Robinson, and many other nominees. The winner of the sing-with-Justin Timberlake contest also will be brought on stage for a duet.

Experience the otherworldly world of a detective with supernatural powers in "Dresden Files," airing at 8 p.m. Sunday on Sci Fi, cable digital channel 175.

"Nature" goes after the really big ones, like 20-foot-long "Super Crocs," at 7 p.m. Sunday on PBS, channel 11.

There's trouble, right here on Wisteria Lane. Orson finally reveals his past to Bree, the pizzeria causes problems between Lynette and Tom and Mike's memory seems to be returning on "Desperate Housewives," at 8 p.m. Sunday on ABC, channel 8.

KOED, channel 11, airs the one-hour special "Oklahoma Rising," featuring performances by Vince Gill, Sandi Patty, Jimmy Webb and the Oklahoma City Philharmonic Orchestra, at 8 p.m. Sunday on Oklahoma's Educational Television network.

A relatively bloodless — until the end — "Dracula" is reborn on "Masterpiece Theatre," at 9 p.m. Sunday on PBS, channel 11.

Not so bloodless is Sunday's new episode of "Rome" on HBO. Vorenius, despite Pullo's warnings, returns to the Collegium with his rescued daughters, Octavian "encourages" Cicero to support his being made consul and two adversaries patch up their differences. It airs at 8 p.m. Sunday on pay digital channel 300.

Last but not least, "Crossing Jordan" and "Las Vegas" crossover once again with Danny and Delinda trying to help Woody and Jordan solve a murder on a new episode of "CJ" airing at 9 p.m. Sunday on NBC, channel 2 and cable channel 9.