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The Vienna Concert-Verein Orchestra to perform at Keith-Albee Thursday

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WIENER CONCERT VEREIN

The Vienna Concert-Verein Orchestra will play Thursday, Jan. 30 at the Keith-Albee Performing Arts Center as part of the Marshall Artist Series.

Courtesy of Max Dobrovich
The Herald-Dispatch

HUNTINGTON -- On Thursday, Jan. 30, the Marshall Artist Series continues with a concert by the Vienna Concert-Verein Orchestra at the Keith-Albee Performing Arts Center.



Performing all over the world since its inception more than 20 years ago, the Vienna Concert-Verein Orchestra is a unique collection of celebrated musicians based in Austria who bring to life the music of Austrian composers, from the great symphonies written over a century ago to newer pieces written by more contemporary artists.

At the podium will be Conductor Phillippe Entremont, who has led many orchestras around the world. Entremont has conducted the Munich Symphony Orchestra, the Israel Festival Orchestra, the Strasbourg Philharmonic Orchestra, the Netherlands Chamber Orchestra, the Vienna Chamber Orchestra and many more. At one time, Entremont was also the Music Director of the New Orleans Philharmonic Orchestra and the Denver Symphony Orchestra respectively.



A Vienna Concert with the Verein Orchestra will be part of the Marshall Artists Series at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 30, at the Keith-Albee Performing Arts Center. It will feature Conductor Philippe Entremont and piano soloist Sebastian Nauer.
Photo courtesy of Marshall Artists Series
The Herald-Dispatch

In a related note, Marshall University has on its staff Dr. Henning Vauth, associate professor of Music Piano in the College of Fine Arts, who studied under Entremont.

The concert will begin at 7:30 p.m. Tickets range from \$35 to \$65 and can be purchased at the Joan C. Edwards Playhouse in the 1600 block of 5th Avenue by calling 304-696-6656 or at www.ticketmaster.com.

Joining the Vienna Concert-Verein Orchestra during this visit to the Tri-State will be the acclaimed pianist Sebastian Knauer, who has performed in more than 50 countries. Knauer is also the Artistic Director of the Mozart@Augsburg Festival. More information on that all-star, 15-day music event in Augsburg, Germany can be found at www.mozartaugsburg.com.

"The musicians of the Vienna Concert Verein are all members of the Vienna Symphony Orchestra," said Knauer. "These musicians are known for upholding an exceptional standard, which makes playing with them an unforgettable experience. Orchestras from Vienna, in general, have a unique



and rich sound and a wonderful sense of musicality. Besides all of that, the Vienna Concert Verein is an extremely friendly ensemble, which is very important for a soloist so they can feel supported. Playing with Philippe Entremont is pure joy as he is one of the great musicians of our time. I have known him for more than 20 years and I've learned a lot from him. Philippe, I would say, is surely one of the most important persons in my musical life."

While Knauer has developed his own unique style, he is very mindful of his approach as a soloist.

"I think, in general, the composer and his work is more important than the artist who is performing," said Knauer. "What I want to say concerning that is, I find it disturbing if the artists onstage are trying to 'produce' themselves. I am convinced that the more serious we perform onstage, the more expression there will be in the music. One of my teachers once said, 'Go onstage and perform - no circus!' So maybe that is a little secret of my style, as in all of the focus is on the music and not on myself."

Knauer developed a love for classical music at a young age while growing up in his native Germany.

"As there was always music in my family, I heard classical music going back to when I was a baby," said Knauer. "I've always loved the piano. When I was 4 years old, I told my parents that I wanted to become a pianist. Even if they had to smile at the time, they took my words seriously and I had an enormous opportunity presented to me, made possible by my parents, in that I could learn to play the piano and have lessons with good teachers. Without this wonderful support from my family, it would have been much more difficult to become a professional musician."

As for the future of classical music, Knauer believes that it is in good hands with the younger generation. Still, there is always work to be done when it comes to sparking an interest in the genre with folks who are unaccustomed to this long established yet ever-evolving style of music.

"We must help the younger generation to get more in touch with classical music," said Knauer. "That would mean that we need to start when they are in school so we can show the children how beautiful classical music can be, so that they might be interested in either learning an instrument or at least in listening to it. But, we also need to care about the generation between 20 and 40 years old. I know that there are so many who have a fear of entering a concert hall because they just don't know anything about classical music and they think that they're not welcome as there are only specialists in the audience. Therefore, it is important for us as performers to do something that shows these



people that they are more than welcome to attend a concert, even without experience. They must see that, for example, a performer like me is also just a 'normal' person and not a saint whom they should be afraid of. It is a longer process, but it is possible."

Knauer enjoys traveling and performing for audiences no matter the size of the town, and he is looking forward to his visit to the Tri-State.

"Of course, I do enjoy (traveling to the smaller towns to perform)," said Knauer. "Wherever I am asked to perform, there must be music lovers there who will buy a ticket to listen to a classical concert. Without the audience attending a concert, I couldn't survive as a performer. So every performance is very important to me and it doesn't make any difference if there are 200 or 2,000 people in the audience, and it doesn't make any difference if it is a small or a big town.

"One of my very early teachers told me to behave like this, and I am thankful that I learned this important thing from him. I am very much looking forward to coming to Huntington. It will be the first time for me visiting there."

Welcome to the discussion.

Keep it Clean. Please avoid obscene, vulgar, lewd, racist or sexually-oriented language.

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Don't Threaten. Threats of harming another person will not be tolerated.

Be Truthful. Don't knowingly lie about anyone or anything.

Be Nice. No racism, sexism or any sort of -ism that is degrading to another person.

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