

# Fans of Fine Arts

Caldwell Fine Arts

[www.caldwellfinearts.org](http://www.caldwellfinearts.org)

Winter 2006

## Start the new year laughing with Second City

The company began on a cold winter night in 1959 on Chicago's north side in a storefront theatre. Few would have guessed that by the next century, The Second City would have established itself as the primary training ground for North America's finest comic talent. Its alumni list reads like a who's who of comedy. Mike Nichols, Elaine May, Alan Arkin, Robert Klein, Fred Willard, Peter Boyle, John Belushi, Bill Murray, Gilda Radner, John Candy, Martin Short, Catherine O'Hara, Andrea Martin, Mike Myers, Stephen Colbert, Amy Sedaris, Rachel Dratch, Tina Fey—these are just a few of the talents that launched their careers with The Second City.

The ongoing success of Second City speaks to the improvisational training that lay at its core: a dedication to ensemble first; saying yes, and rather than no; a willingness to surrender control as a means to master the stage. Second City performers begin with fearlessness and end

with inspired lunacy. Although the company has risen in stature and success since its humble beginnings, the basic tenants of the work have not changed and that is most decidedly the key to its longevity.



Jan. 11, Wednesday, 7:30 p.m. Jewett Auditorium, Albertson College  
\$15-18 Adult; \$11-14 Student. Upper level seats are listed first. Includes all fees.  
Purchase tickets at the door or call 459-3405 or 459-5783.



Roberto Plano

## Award winning pianist returns to Jewett stage

Italian pianist Roberto Plano won First Prize at the Cleveland International Piano Competition in 2001 and was Third Laureate of the 2003 Honens International Piano Competition in Calgary, Canada. This past summer he was one of the six finalists at the Van Cliburn Competition. Plano performed in Caldwell in February 2002. Since then, he has traveled the world and finished his study at the Ecole Normale "Cortot" in Paris where he earned the "Diplome Superieur De Concertiste" with First Prize. He was selected by conductor Philippe Entremont to prepare a video project about the music of Mozart which will be broadcast by NHK in Japan. Plano has two recordings: a CD of works by Chopin, Liszt, and Scriabin on Italy's Sipario Dischi, and a disc of works by Liszt on the Azica label. A new recording featuring the music of Brahms will take place following the Caldwell

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## MCT *Frog Prince* will feature local kids

For almost 30 years, Missoula Children's Theatre has provided quality education, entertainment, and enrichment for youth. **Auditions** for local students K-12 will be on President's Day, February 20, at Wilson School from 1:00-3:00 p.m. Students who try out will be selected for the folk dance pre-show, under the leadership of local teacher Judy Bush, or for "The Frog Prince" which will be directed by two actors from the Missoula Children's Theatre. Both segments of the Caldwell Fine Arts presentation will give a boost to local youth whether they are involved on stage for the first time or have been in numerous productions. Maurine Wise and Jayne Arbon will be co-chairs for the event. ([www.mctinc.org](http://www.mctinc.org))

Family Cruise Opportunity: "Explore Alaska-Experience the Drama" in a special program from Holland America Cruise Line July 8-15, 2006. The Missoula

Children's Theatre Cruise ACTING OUT AT SEA guarantees a new stage for children or grandchildren on the ship to be in "The Little Mermaid." For more information call 800-289-0348 or on the web at [www.signaturecruiseevents.com](http://www.signaturecruiseevents.com).



### MCT: *The Frog Prince*

Feb. 24, Friday, 7:30 pm & Feb. 25, 3 pm

\$7 adult; \$3 student; open seating. Tickets at door.

## Plano returns

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concert. This opportunity was part of his award in the Honens Competition.

Plano's friendly and outgoing personality has made him a favorite for guest appearances on a number of radio stations, including NPR's Performance Today. His program will include:

Haydn "Variations in F Minor," Schubert "Sonata in A minor," Scriabin, "Sonata-Fantasy in G # Minor," No. 2 Op. 19; and

following intermission, the Brahms "Sonata in F minor."

### Roberto Plano, Pianist

January 26, Thursday, 7:30 pm

\$10 - \$14 adult; \$6 - \$10 student

Tickets: 459-3405 or 459-5783 or at the door.

**Music of the Vine** joins Caldwell Fine Arts events in January and March. The local wine shop and cafe in the Willows Business Complex on Blaine will provide wine by the glass and an hor d'oeuvres tray at the Second City, Roberto Plano, and Quartetto Gelato concerts. Yvonne and Bruce Wehlery will be serving about 30 minutes before the curtain and during intermission in the foyer by the Pioneer Room.



## Boys Chorus salutes America

Join the fun of over one million audience members who have heard the All American Boys Chorus in their travels around the world—to say nothing of the many millions who have heard them on TV and radio. The chorus has sung with many glittering celebrities, among them Bob Hope, Victor Borge, Steve Allen, and Della Reese and been featured with the Los Angeles Philharmonic and the William Hall Master Chorale.

The boys, ages 8-15, come from 20 cities around Orange County in California. The chorus is a non-profit organization open to boys of all races, faiths, creeds, nationalities, and ethnic origins. The program in Caldwell will be A SALUTE TO AMERICA AND HER MUSIC, including selections from popular Broadway musicals, music by Duke Ellington and George M. Cohan, "toe-tapping" tunes from the Roaring Twenties, and patriotic selections. The program is staged with energetic movement and special lighting. [www.allamericanboyschorus.org](http://www.allamericanboyschorus.org)

### All-American Boys Chorus

April 25, Tuesday, 7:30 pm

\$12 - \$16 adult; \$8 - \$12 student

Tickets: 459-3405 or 459-5783 or at the door.

# Erhu performer gives old songs a Chinese twist

“His fingers race up and down the two strings at a speed that would startle most violinists, even Itzhak Perlman.” Rongchun Zhao’s appeal to Western audiences lies not only in his mastery of traditional Chinese music, but in his ability to surprise listeners with his transcriptions of American or classic songs. “Moon River,” “Danny Boy,” the “Air on the G String” by Bach, and “The Tranquil Mountain with Birds Singing” all fit together in a fascinating and educational evening perfect for a family audience. In 1998, Zhao provided interesting school programs for Caldwell Fine Arts. The erhu is a traditional



Chinese instrument that emerged more than a thousand years ago during the Tang Dynasty. Its resonating chamber of rosewood or jati (a heavy oriental wood) is covered on one end with python skin. The horsehair bow is placed between the two strings. There is no fingerboard. Zhao will demonstrate the four sizes of the instrument that correspond to the violin, viola, cello, and double bass.

Zhao was born in Changchun in northeastern China.

## Rongchun Zhao, erhu player Robyn Wells, piano accompanist

March 6 , Monday, 7:30 pm (*Family Night*)

\$8 - \$12 adult; \$4 - \$8 student;  
special family ticket \$25

Tickets: 459-3405 or 459-5783 or at the door.

When he was 11, he became a pupil of a famous erhu virtuoso. He completed advanced studies at the Jilin Art Institute and China Central Conservatory of Music in Beijing. In 1992, the United States granted him permanent residency. Two years later, his debut with the Cleveland Orchestra prompted resident conductor Jahja Ling to comment: “Zhao is an artist of rare sensitivity. The beauty of his sound and the technical facility at his disposal are truly impressive.”

Accompanist Robyn Wells attended Caldwell High School, received a B.A. from Pacific Lutheran University and a Master’s from Miami University. She was staff accompanist at both institutions. She has presented summer piano concert tours for 11 years and produced four CDs. Robyn recently accompanied Langroise Violist David Johnson and will be playing with the Langroise Trio next year.

# Quartetto Gelato will bring the Orient Express to Caldwell

For over a decade, this dazzling ensemble has enchanted audiences and critics worldwide with their exotic blend of musical virtuosity, artistic passion and charismatic presence. They perform without scores.

Their shows radiate a sense of spontaneity and excitement rarely seen on the classical stage. In 1996, the quartet won the National Public Radio (NPR) Performance Today’s Debut Artist of the Year. Today, the Quartet continues its reign as an international sensation with repeat sold-out performances throughout the globe. “Quartetto Gelato Travels the Orient Express” is the program for the Caldwell concert. The music follows the famous train from London to Istanbul. Earlier CDs took an even longer journey—up in space and around the world with the Canadian astronaut, Dr. Robert Thirsk, who played it during his NASA flight aboard the space shuttle Columbia in 1997.



Quartetto Gelato thrills audiences with the mastery of eight instruments and the bonus of a brilliant operatic tenor. The repertoire travels imaginatively between classical masterworks, operatic arias, and the sizzling energy of tangos, gypsy and folk songs. Since their appearance here in 1998, Gelato has a new cellist and accordionist. Cellist,

Kristina Reiko Cooper, was hailed by the New York Times as “sensational.” In the spring of 2001, she received the Doctorate of Musical Arts degree from the Julliard School.

The accordion, bandoneon, and piano artist, Alexander Sevastian was born in Minsk, Belarus, and began accordion study at age seven. His professional career began in Moscow in 1996. Alex and his family moved to Canada in April 2001 where he completed the Advanced Certificate in Performance at the University of Toronto with the Quartetto Gelato’s previous accordionist, Joseph Macerollo.

Founding member Cynthia Steljes continues to popularize the oboe and her husband, Peter DeSotto, also a founding member, adds operatic tenor, mandolin, and gypsy and classical violin. [www.quartettoigelato.ca](http://www.quartettoigelato.ca)

## Quartetto Gelato

March 29 , Wednesday, 7:30 pm

\$15 - \$18 adult; \$11 - \$14 student

Tickets: 459-3405 or 459-5783 or at the door.

Group tickets for 10 or more available for all events.

## Events of Special Interest

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**January 21, 7:30 p.m., Langroise Trio**, no admission.

*Terzetto in C Major, Opus 74*, Dvorak/Johnson

*Three Dances*, David Alan Earnest

*Serenade, Opus 12*, Zoltan Kodaly/David Johnson

**February 9-11, 7:30 p.m., February 12, 2:30 p.m., *The Marriage of Figaro*** by Mozart. **ACI Opera Department**, \$7.50 adults; \$5.00 seniors & students, call 459-3361.

**February 16, 7:30 p.m., ACI Concert Band and Jazz Band**, donation.

**March 11, 7:30 p.m., Langroise Trio** with guests: **Jill Rowley, Tom Tompkins and Ned Johnson.**

Albertson College of Idaho  
Caldwell Fine Arts  
2112 Cleveland Blvd.  
Caldwell, ID 83605-4432

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

**April 27-29 & May 3-6 *Macbeth*** by Shakespeare, **7:30 p.m.**, Studio Theatre in the Langroise Building. **May 7, 2 p.m.** Call 459-5836 or 459-5426 \$10 adult; \$7 seniors and students.

## School outreach funds awarded to CFA

The Whittenberger Foundation and the Caldwell Community Foundation made awards in late 2005 which help sustain school outreach programs. CFA series artists, the Bottom Line Duo (double bass and cello duo), Tears of Joy Puppet Theatre, and the Mariachi Sol de Acapulco offer spring assemblies. An ArtsPowered Learning grant from the Idaho Commission on the Arts continues our outreach efforts. Call 459-5783 or email [cfa@albertson.edu](mailto:cfa@albertson.edu) for more information.

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## Sylvia's Notes

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"The arts are fundamental resources through which the world is viewed, meaning is created and the mind developed," says Elliot Eisner, Professor of Education and Art at Stanford University. "The classical musical world pushed to periphery" is the headline in the Milwaukee Sentinel Journal. Such statements are thought-provoking. Columnist Tom Strini observes that in the 1950s everyone knew Igor Stravinsky whether they never heard (and would never care to hear) "The Rite of Spring." Hollywood cranked out many sudsy biographies of great composers, opera singers, and pianists. NBC had its own orchestra with Arturo Toscanini conducting. Millions heard Beethoven and Brahms on commercial radio and Leonard Bernstein on TV. As recently as 50 years ago, pop and classical music were closely related. Swing band players had training and discipline in common with their classically trained counterparts. Rock with its harmonic simplicity, non-orchestral instruments and emphasis on attitude as the main marketable commodity, stretched the relationship. More recently, synthesized sound and sampling have replaced traditional musicianship in most arenas of popular music. Modern teen pop is more about sexual display than music. Rap discards traditional musical skill,

harmony, melody and uses rhymes which offend many.

Despite my personal laments and the observations of Strini, there is still hope. The target audience may be smaller because of the competition of time and choices available. Where there were 3 major TV networks, now cable and satellite offer hundreds. Many people listen to music on the internet or the iPod. Music performed live and shared with others still has an excitement and aura which can't be duplicated. Continuing the variety and quality which has been the CFA tradition for 44 years is a huge challenge, but we can meet it with your continued support. BEST WISHES for inspiring concerts in 2006.

## COG art project grant benefits area youth

The Gladys Langroise Advised Fund in The Idaho Community Foundation granted money for Ceramics on the Go (COG) art projects for area youth. The bisque ware, greenware, molds and glazes were given to Caldwell Fine Arts by Vaola's Ceramics in Boise. The 4-H Indian Creek Festival children's tent, the Log Cabin Writing Project at Syringa School, the Girl Scout program at Farmway Village and the after-school program in Nampa have used some of the pieces. Molds have been distributed to several schools. Artist Juliana Arriarán will be able to assist local teachers with their projects. Call 459-5783 for more information.