

REVIEW

Science, music mix in OR

Delightful new concert series debuts at museum

BY HAROLD DUCKETT
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Music and science have always had the kind of relationship one has with one's strange cousin. You know there's a connection, but the resemblances aren't obvious.

Isotone, a delightful new concert series that premiered at the American Museum of Science and Energy on Sunday afternoon, aims to change that perception.

With the inspiration of Steve Eddlemon, a Juilliard-trained musician, as well as an entrepreneur in the field of medical physics instrumentation, Isotone's opening concert featured contemporary works written for percussion and violin.

Eddlemon and his equally talented violinist wife, Susan, performed all of the pieces on the program, along with Susan Eddlemon playing Bach's Sonata No. 1 in G Minor, BWV 1001, written in 1720 as the first in a set of six sonatas and partitas Bach composed for unaccompanied violin.

It was played in tribute to Albert Einstein, a lifelong violinist who loved playing Bach and to whose memory the concert was dedicated.

If this doesn't sound like anything other than a conventional classical music concert, Eddlemon's own composition, "Bagatelles for Electric Violin, Percussion and Van de Graff Generator," would have made your hair stand on end, something the generator effectively does for anyone who puts a hand on it.

But instead of being just a novelty thrown in as a joke,

Eddlemon used the generator's clicking and electrical sparks as an effective rhythm instrument. And, just for fun, he also used a fluorescent light bulb instead of the usual wand.

David Loeb's early 1970s "Sonata for Violin and Percussion," which opened the concert, had the kind of serenity one might experience during a night of lying quietly on a blanket watching the stars.

Spare and minimal, the work made one listen to the beauty of the intervals during which sound decays after the note is initially struck.

Especially wonderful was a brief section for lovely, melodic violin harmonics and very gently played glockenspiel.

In addition to the glockenspiel, the work also included Eddlemon playing marimba, xylophone, tympani, bongo drums, cymbals and tom

tom with an array of mallets and in combinations that could have kept an octopus busy.

The concert also featured the world premiere of Knoxville composer Mark Harrell's "Dialogue for Violin and Percussion," commissioned by the Eddlemons for this concert. Moving outside his usual approach to composition, Harrell structured "Dialogue" in the 12-tone system. One could hear in it glimpses of the music of Arnold Schoenberg, who invented the tone row system.

The opening of "Dialogue" made one think of Schoenberg's gorgeous "Verklarte Nacht."

Beginning simply, but becoming increasingly complex, it is a satisfying piece that was thoughtfully played, none of it more so than the beautiful, melodic closing passages.

Bertelkamp dies after life of service

News Sentinel Staff

When family members recall Jane Smith Bertelkamp, they remember her dedicated service to the Helen Ross McNabb Center.

"She just loved the Helen Ross McNabb Center and everybody involved," said Hank Bertelkamp, her husband. "Never missed a board meeting."

Jane Smith Bertelkamp, a 75-year-old Knoxville resident, died Sunday. She was born and raised in Loudon County and taught English in the county's school system.

She dedicated her life to serving her family, friends, St. John's Episcopal Cathedral, and causes close to her heart such as the Helen Ross McNabb Center, which provides mental health care, substance-abuse services and social services for children and adults in East Tennessee.

She served first on the board of the center's foundation for six years and then

the center's main board for the same length of time. Mrs. Bertelkamp was the sort of person who worked hard behind the scenes in an organization, according to her husband. She also served on the board for Blount Mansion and the Knoxville Garden Club.

"She was just a wonderful person, a friend, and, most of all, she was an advocate for people in our community," said Andy Black, CEO for the Helen Ross McNabb Center.

She is survived by Hank Bertelkamp, her husband of 54 years; son and daughter-in-law, Bert and Sheila Bertelkamp; and daughter and son-in-law, Lori Bertelkamp McKelvy and Tom McKelvy.

Following a private interment, there will be a memorial service 5 p.m. Tuesday at St. John's Episcopal Cathedral. The family will receive friends following the service at the church.

AGOGLIA

from B1

additional \$100,000 during the show as citizens cast their votes online — www.cnn.com/heroes — for the 2008 CNN Hero of the Year.

The First Response Team of America arrives with heavy equipment just hours after a disaster strikes to begin clearing wreckage so that local emergency officials can help those in need.

When Agoglia passed through Knoxville en route to Middle Tennessee almost nine months ago, his emergency equipment consisted of a custom-designed truck equipped with a hydraulic crane and crushing head capable of tearing down a house in 20 minutes to an hour.

Since then, he has added a second truck and crane, a high-speed water pump, a computerized generator for powering emergency rooms and nursing homes, and a hovercraft for water rescues.

"We respond to small-

town America, places that simply don't have the specialized equipment we do," Agoglia said. "Our resources are needed on day one, when lives can be saved. You have to show up mentally ready, and with the right technology."

The First Response Team of America also has added a dirt bike equipped with a satellite phone and GPS tracker so that he and his team can go off-road and pinpoint the location of people in need. There's also a \$20,000 audio-visual camera that can slide through 30 feet of rubble and transmit onto a computer screen mounted on the rescuer's chest.

After working the Tennessee tornadoes, Agoglia and his five-member team responded to a string of natural disasters in Alabama, Missouri, Oklahoma, Iowa, Indiana and then back to Iowa.

Over the last year and a half, the First Response Team of America has responded to 20 storms.

To subsidize his free service at tornadoes, wildfires, mudslides and floods, Agoglia works for pay during the recovery stage at hur-

ricane sites.

Late last summer, just before Hurricane Ike hit Texas and Louisiana, Agoglia suffered a deep cut on his foot while working at home. As a result, his team had to leave without him, and the injury prevented Agoglia from making money off hurricane cleanups that he was counting on to pay for his first re-

sponder work.

Agoglia said his operating costs in the field amount to \$65,000 a month and that donations to First Response Team of America aren't close to covering those expenses.

"It's been a difficult time," he said.

Agoglia said the \$25,000 he'll be awarded by CNN

will come in handy and that winning the \$100,000 as the 2008 Hero of the Year would be especially nice given his injury and financial challenges.

But mostly, he's humbled by the recognition.

"Honestly, I don't see any difference between me and the local volunteer firefighter who puts his life on

the line," Agoglia said. "Our motto is we're 'helping heroes be heroes' by giving them the resources they need. Honoring me is great, but the reality is that there are thousands upon thousands of heroes all over this country."

Morgan Simmons may be reached at 865-342-6321.

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