

Program for June first, 2008 10:30 am

Welcome message from Felix Wurman:

'Welcome to the seventeenth convention of the Church of Beethoven. Seventeen distinct programs made available to New Mexicans in as many weeks. And the programs only seem to get better. This morning we delve into the world of theater with Einstein: A Stage Portrait. Thanks Tom for your portrayal. Of course music is never far off here at the church. Gabriel Gordon has returned to play Bach. This time the first four movements of his d minor partita. Many of you heard Carmelo de los Santos when he performed the Chaconne a couple of weeks ago. It is the final movement of the d minor Partita.

What is the Church of Beethoven? The recipe calls for measures of these: an exciting concert, a poetry reading, a sometime sing-along and even a celebration of pure silence! Oh, and did I mention, the best coffee in town? In short: one-stop shopping for the perfect Sunday morning. On a serious note we have determined that a minimum donation of \$10-20 per person will allow us to continue presenting innovative programs every week. Your money goes directly to the artists and other people that make these weekly events possible. There is no additional funding. Next week Christine Saari plays Bozza, a Beethoven string quartet, and two award-winning poets will recite. Does it get any better than this? Please enjoy our ever-changing roster of artists and give as generously as you can. I'm Felix Wurman and I approve this message.'

PROGRAM

Music: Partita in d minor BWV 1004 by Bach Allemanda Corrente Gabriel Gordon, violin

Scene 1: "Einstein: a Stage Portrait" Tom Schuch, actor

Anthem: "City of New Orleans" by Steve Goodman David Donelson guitar/vocals (words on back page)

Celebration of Silence (two minutes)

Scene 2: "Einstein: a Stage Portrait" Tom Schuch, actor

Collection: Sister can you spare a dime?

Music: Partita in d minor BWV 1004 by Bach Sarabanda Giga Gabriel Gordon, violin

Gabriel Gordon graduated from New York's High School of Performing Arts, and was a founding member of Philadelphia's DaPonte Quartet. He has had many leadership roles in orchestras like the American Symphony, the Bronx Opera, The Haddonfield Symphony, The Bridgeton Symphony, and the South Jersey Symphony. Other regular performances were with the Pro Arte Chamber Orchestra, Philomusica, Philharmonia Virtuosi, and the Philadelphia Pops. He has performed chamber music with Emmanuel Vardi, Lynn Harrell, Mark Johnson of the Vermeer Quartet, Lillian Kallir, Stanley Babin, Eleanor Lawrence, Seymour Bernstein, and the Cassatt Quartet as a substitute first violinist for the Seal Bay Music Festival. Mr. Gordon is currently a member of the New Mexico Symphony, and is in the finals for the Concertmaster position of the Santa Fe Symphony. He has studied with Jascha Brodsky, Eugene Drucker, Isadore Cohen, Laura Hamilton, and Jonathan Strasser. A conductor as well as a violinist, Mr. Gordon is also currently the conductor of the Albuquerque Youth Symphony, and Music Director of the Old York Road Symphony.

Tom Schuch (pronounced shook) has called himself many things: student, gardener, waiter, restaurant manager, insurance salesman, husband, son, friend, brother, treatment foster parent, landscaper, painter, bartender, oral presentation coach, and vermicomposter. The list goes on and on. These labels provide the curious with a way of describing people they meet. When asked who he really is, without hesitation comes the reply, ACTOR. Since the age of 12 this is how Tom Schuch has seen himself. Oh sure, life has a way of taking us on detours, journeys and unplanned explorations. Schuch considers those detours as necessary and invaluable. Everything he has done, every person he has met, and every situation he has lived through has in some way made him the actor he is today. Never is there a day he doesn't learn and improve, however minutely. Schuch got his feet wet in a variety of theatrical productions while in school including works by Shakespeare, Anouilh, Giradoux, Medoff, Mamet, Williams, Wolfe, and musicals including The Boyfriend and The Music Man. After graduating with a degree in Drama from the University of Washington, Schuch began his version of life's pursuit and over the years lived in Seattle, Denver, Los Angeles, and Albuquerque acting-working-acting-working-acting-working.

During this time he acted in over 50 theatrical productions, a variety of short and feature films, industrial films, television and voice-over commercials. He made guest appearances on the Young & the Restless, The Nanny, and The Red Shoe Diaries. He was a founding member of a professional comedy improv troupe, Surely You Jest, and performance group, Shakespeare-on-the-Halfshell. All these experiences added up to a considerable resume. And then came the moment...there comes a time in every actor's career where they have to make a decision: Do I quit? Do I continue? If I continue, what does that mean? (By the way, Schuch says quitting was never a consideration.) What it meant was never accepting roles or producing work that wasn't challenging or important or cathartic. What it meant was never accepting work without remuneration. What it did was make actor synonymous with work. What it did was introduce Schuch to Einstein: A Stage Portrait. He's never looked back. Tom Schuch is the President of SPOLI Productions, President of the New Mexico Branch of Screen Actors Guild, a member of Actors Equity Association and the American Federation of Television and Radio Artists.

David Donelson was an aspiring singer-songwriter in his 20's but grew weary of the starving artist life so became a well-fed corporate professional instead. After 20 years of material comfort accompanied by spiritual starvation and general ennui he went to live and work for 7 years at a Buddhist meditation center in California. There he experienced many insights, including a reawakened appreciation for music. He's currently exploring to see what may be his best fit into the musical world.