



Hey, Mozart! winner Philip Miller

Hey, Mozart! winner Quintin Dean

COURTESY PHOTOS

Las Cruces Symphony conductor Lonnie Klein, left, uses his conductor's "wand" to start the magic for a "Pops 4 Kids" concert that will feature Bob Diven, right, narrating "Peter and The Wolf."

One for the kids

Beloved children's stories, movies worked into symphony's 'Pops 4 Kids' concert

By S. Derrickson Moore
SUN-NEWS REPORTER

LAS CRUCES — Harry Potter, a legendary wolf, kid composers and "High School Musical" tunes will all be part of a kid-pleasing musical program coming soon for more than 2,000 area fourth-graders and for children and family members who attend the Las Cruces Symphony's "Pops 4 Kids" concert.

The symphony's most popular youth event includes free performances in April for regional school kids.

An April 19 family concert at the New Mexico State University Music Center Recital Hall begins with a musical instrument petting zoo at 2 p.m., offering kids a chance to get up close and personal with the instruments and orchestra performers. Then, a 3 p.m. concert will feature music with youth appeal, said the symphony's conductor and artistic director Lonnie Klein.

"It's going to be a real hoot. We'll perform John Williams' score for 'Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets.' It seems like a good fit. Like Harry Potter, my 'wand' (conductor's baton) starts the magic," Klein said.

The symphony, joined by narrator Bob Diven, will also present Sergei Prokofiev's "Peter and the Wolf."

The beloved classic offers an entertaining tale and a great chance to showcase opportunities for future musicians, with orchestration that features flute, oboe, clarinet, bassoon, horns, trumpet, trombone, strings and a variety of per-

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cussion instruments, including timpani, cymbals, triangle, castanets, bass drum, snare drum and tambourine.

Prokofiev's interpretation of the tale gives a "voice" and personality to individual instruments, Klein explained: "The bassoon is the grandfather, the clarinet is a sneaky little cat and the flute is a little bird. It's good for kids and entertaining for families. It's good music."

The orchestra will perform selections by Robert Longfield from "High School Musical," the Disney Channel's blockbuster movies that have attracted legions of preteen fans and unleashed a merchandising blitz.

Also performing will be Las Cruces winners of the statewide 2007 Hey, Mozart! child composer contest for kids 12 and younger. Zia Middle School students Quintin Dean, who plays the viola, and pianist Philip Miller, will be featured with the Las Cruces Symphony Orchestra. Their compositions were specially arranged and first performed by the New Mexi-

co Symphony Orchestra in Albuquerque and recorded for inclusion on a CD featuring 14 New Mexico student composers whose works were selected from more than 106 original melodies submitted.

"Breeze through the Willows," is Dean's composition.

"It's kind of got a Celtic sound to it, an Irish sound. It's kind of high for the viola ... It's just a nice, calm piece of music, no excitement," said Dean, son of Dama and Terry Dean of Las Cruces.

Miller's "Halloween Night" is more of a thriller.

"It's kind of scary. It's at the lower end of the piano. There's one part where it goes up really high and then goes back down. You might hear it in a scary movie," Miller said. His parents are Lisa and Donald Miller of Las Cruces.

"Last year, the kid composers brought the house down," Klein said.

The youth concert will be a Saturday matinee for the first time, rather than

If you go

- ▶ What: "Pops 4 Kids" Family concert
- ▶ When: 3 p.m. April 19, 2 p.m., musical instrument "petting zoo" before the performance
- ▶ Where: NMSU Music Center Recital Hall
- ▶ Program: "Peter and the Wolf," narrated by Bob Diven, "Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets" theme, "High School Musical," Hey, Mozart! child composer contest winners
- ▶ How much: \$5
- ▶ Info: (575) 646-3709 or visit online at www.lascrucessymphony.com

ONLINE EXTRA

www.lcsun-news.com/sunlife

Sample compositions of Hey, Mozart! child composer contest winners:

- ▶ Philip Miller's "Halloween Night"
- ▶ Quintin Dean's "Breeze Through the Willows"

a weeknight evening performance.

"We decided to have the concert on a Saturday this year. We think it will give everybody a little more time to enjoy the petting zoo and relax and maybe go out to dinner afterward," Klein said.

The one-time public performance often sells out early. For tickets, at \$5, call (575) 646-3709.

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