

arts & entertainment news

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LOCAL ENTERTAINMENT

Jazz Lovers' Club to Present Glenn Miller Orchestra on Jan. 21

The Glenn Miller Orchestra will bring its swinging sound to The Villages, courtesy of the Jazz Lovers Club of The Villages. The big band will perform at 7 p.m. Jan. 21 at Colony Cottage Recreation Center. Tickets for reserved seating are \$35 for Villages residents and guests with ID. All proceeds will go to the Bob Washington Jazz Scholarship. To purchase tickets, call Barbara Griffith at 352-750-1142.

— Michael Fortuna, Daily Sun

Backstage Pass

INSIGHTS ON STAGE, SCREEN AND BEYOND

Packed Crowd Enjoys Classical Concert at The Sharon

By KRISTEN FIORE | Daily Sun Senior Staff Writer

Orchestral music doesn't go in one ear and out the other. It goes in both ears and stays inside you forever.

The Villages Philharmonic Orchestra left a lasting impression on a nearly sold-out audience at its classical concert Monday night at The Sharon L. Morse Performing Arts Center.

There were no singers at this show — the focus was purely on the orchestra as they played movements from Mozart and Beethoven.

Joining the VPO was guest pianist Laurent Boukobza, an internationally recognized musician and a close friend of the orchestra's conductor, Pasquale Valerio.

Boukobza and Valerio met

nearly two decades ago at another pianist's concert.

"I instantly loved the way [Valerio] conducted and talked to the orchestra," Boukobza said. "I talked to him and it was kind of a love-at-first-sight type of relationship."

Boukobza has performed with the VPO many times

Please See **NEXT PAGE**



George Horsford | Daily Sun

Guest artist, Laurent Boukobza, plays the piano with The Villages Philharmonic Orchestra at The Sharon L. Morse Performing Arts Center.

HOW DO I BUY TICKETS?

The Villages Entertainment sells tickets in person at their four box office locations or online at thevillagesentertainment.com

All box office locations are open from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Spanish Springs: 970 Del Mar Drive

Lake Sumter Landing: 1070 Canal Street

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— Art Minier, Patient at Creekside Care Center



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arts & entertainment news

CELEBRITY SPOTLIGHT



RYAN GOSLING

As tensions build over the results of Congo's elections, a credible outcome was urged by the actor, who recently collaborated on a book about the Central African country. Gosling took photos for the book "Congo Stories."



OLIVIA DE HAVILLAND

The Supreme Court is declining to revive a lawsuit by de Havilland over the FX Networks miniseries "Feud: Bette and Joan." The 102-year-old de Havilland had objected to her depiction on the miniseries.



CAROL BURNETT

The 85-year-old accepted the very first Carol Burnett Award for lifetime achievement in television at the Golden Globes on Sunday. "The Carol Burnett Show" debuted in 1967 and went on to earn 25 Emmy awards.

NEW YORK

One More Sign K-Pop Is Here to Stay: A Contract With Mattel

The trappings of success continue to arrive for K-pop sensation BTS, the latest contract with the toy company Mattel which secured rights to produce dolls of the boy band. Shares of Mattel Inc. spiked almost 9 percent Monday, a day after the toymaker announced a licensing agreement that also includes collectible figures and games. BTS last year became the first Korean pop group to reach No. 1 on the Billboard top 200. — *The Associated Press*



Photos by George Horsford | Daily Sun

The Villages Philharmonic Orchestra performs at The Sharon L. Morse Performing Arts Center.



Pasquale Valerio, left, conducts The Villages Philharmonic Orchestra.

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and was thrilled to return to The Villages and perform Beethoven's Piano Concerto No. 2.

Before the show, Boukobza said he hoped that his performance would give the audience joy.

"Beethoven is not really a happy composer," he said. "I'm actually in the process of recording all 32 of his sonatas, and this one is really light. This kind of movement almost opened the doors to romanticism."

Valerio said he was excited for the show in general, but the pieces the orchestra played

were well thought out.

"There is a connection between the beginning and the end of the concert," Valerio said. "I think it is beautiful and represents something very special, and it's for a special audience."

The concert was both triumphant and whimsical, and the addition of Boukobza made for a splendid show.

The movement started gentle, like raindrops, but quickly picked up speed, and soon Boukobza's fingertips were flying across the keys of the grand piano.

Boukobza exuded an air of comfort with his instrument,

the music and the orchestra, and the group worked together like old friends having an exciting conversation.

As usual, the orchestra gave a crisp and polished performance.

Nancy Cook, of the Village of Bonita, said she was impressed by the mechanics of the performance and Boukobza's skill.

"He's handsome," she joked.

"And he's talented. He seemed very gracious. His stage presence is very kind."

The VPO's classical concert was the first show at The Sharon of 2019, and nearly a thousand people started the year off right.

"It's soothing to me," Cook said of classical music. "Especially compared to rap and things like that. It's very relaxing."

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