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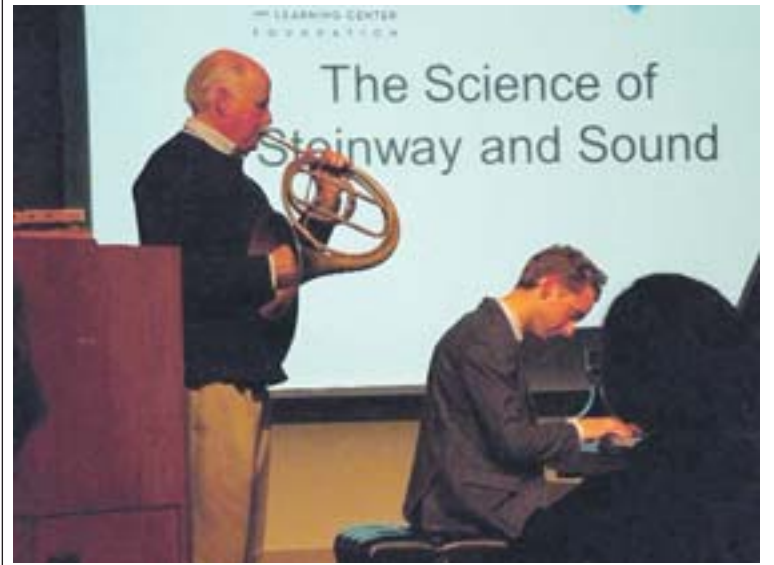
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Steinway and Sound Program Resonates with Audience

By Cathy Dausman



Holmes and Levitt in a musical duet

Photo Cathy Dausman

Justin Levitt exploded a Steinway grand piano and the audience, all 130 of them, ate it up. Then Brian Holmes assembled a working trumpet from a garden hose and plastic funnel. The two were featured speakers January 24 at a Lafayette Library and Learning Center (LLLC) Foundation Science Café.

The event, The Science of Steinway and Sound, was a sold-out success. Of course Levitt didn't literally explode a grand piano—he just detailed how some of its 12,000 parts are assembled. The Steinway on display was the library's own model B. Its seven foot frame is built up from 16 laminations of hard rock maple (each layer 3/16" thick) that are bent continuously by hand. When complete, the downward pressure pulling the 240-some strings to pitch amounts to the weight of a gorilla (or another grand piano), standing on the sound-board. Levitt, store manager for Sherman Clay in Walnut Creek, likened the musical sound which travels along the wood grain to cars on a highway. Essentially, the music goes 'round and round and comes out here, and that would be the perfect intro for Brian Holmes and his portion of the presentation.

Holmes is a guest lecturer, musician (brass), composer and Professor of Physics at San Jose State University whose interests in science and music merge in the science of musical

acoustics. Holmes began by shaking a 20-foot long slinky to demonstrate how sound waves form. Each wave travelled out, reached the end of the line and returned, inverted. Next Holmes enthusiastically assembled a trumpet, piece by piece, starting with a thin metal tube four and a half feet long. He added a mouthpiece, a bell, and presto! --- a modern day trumpet was born.

The program included solo and duet piano performances by Sue Hammond, David Glass and Levitt, and a piano and French Horn duet with Holmes on the horn. The program, scheduled to last an hour, ran 30 minutes over, but the audience sat enraptured. Foundation Executive Director Kathy Merchant was most pleased: "Little did we know when our trustee (Margaret Race) broached the idea of converting the Community Hall to a "science" cafe", we would be discussing everything from the science of art conservation to building Hoover Dam."

Science Café is a regularly scheduled presentation of the LLLC Foundation. Its next program, February 28th at 7 p.m., honors the 75th anniversary of the Golden Gate Bridge. Science Café is held in the library's Community Hall. Cost is \$5 per person; reservations can be made at reserve@LLLCF.org or call (925) 283-6513, ext. 102, with questions.



From left, front: Kathy Merchant, Marinda Wu; back: Brian Holmes, Sue Hammond, David Glass and Justin Levitt
Photo Cathy Dausman

Orinda Youth Ink 2012

Submitted by Molly Wilson

The Orinda Junior Women's Club (Orinda Juniors) is pleased to announce details for Youth Ink 2012, the annual creative writing contest open to all sixth-, seventh- and eighth-grade students who live or attend school in Orinda. The Youth Ink 2012 theme, "There is a Knock at the Door," was chosen because it encourages highly personal writing and lends well to open style choice.

Organizers say the first rule is you can write about anything you like: Real or imaginary. There is no limit to your imagination. Whatever you write about, just remember to have fun!

"We can't wait to see how Orinda's talented youth writers will approach this year's intriguing theme," said Cathy Opdycke, president of Orinda Juniors.

Generous co-sponsors of Youth Ink 2012, including The Orinda Association and The Orinda Community Foundation, have made it possible to provide impressive prizes:

- \$250 for 1st place,
- \$125 for 2nd place,
- \$75 for 3rd place
- 10 honorable mentions who receive gift certificates from a local book store

A panel of several local professional writers, including reporters and best-selling novelists, will evaluate Youth Ink 2012 submissions and choose winners. The judges' names will be shared when the winners are announced at an awards ceremony at the Orinda Public Library on Thursday, April 26, 2012, at 6:00 p.m. The public is welcome to attend.

Youth Ink 2012 submissions will be accepted on an ongoing basis but must be hand-delivered to a designated school representative or post-marked by Feb. 10, 2012 and mailed to Orinda Junior Women's Club, Post Office Box 40, Orinda, CA 94563 in order to be considered for an award. Go to www.orindajuniors.org for submission forms and more information.



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