

Arts

Owned Jazz forms This Friday

Kate Koenig
Arts Editor
This Friday,
November 18,
renowned jazz
pianist Rossano
performing on campus in an event hosted
by the Student Association. The concert will be
at the Goodrich Theater of the Fine Arts
for \$6 for students and \$20 for the



photo courtesy of Celeste Brown Thomas

ical works with jazz improvisation,
"swing and beyond." His jazz influences
include masters such as Fats Waller,
Bill Evans, blending with his
own unique classical-jazz effect in
his style of stride piano, or a jazz
style with the left hand playing single
notes on the first and third beats of
measures and chords on the second and fourth

praised by both audiences and critics
he has won multiple awards, including
in recognition of his expertise and
as well as the prestigious Vittorio
his hometown of Vigevano.

Roop Verma Entrances Listeners at the Goodrich

Emily Hooper and Ryan Huttick

Contributing Writers

Music

On Tuesday, November 8, the Goodrich Theater became entranced with the music of North India. Sitarist Roop Verma along with Naren Budhakar (tablas) and Tracy Verma (tamboura), distinctly portrayed their abilities with their respective instruments. In the program, a brief history on the importance of the music was introduced to guide the audience in their listening experience. However, as the music began, it became apparent that this was not merely a listening experience but also an experience that became emotional, spiritual and physical.

The trio, positioned in the center of the stage, instantly displayed their unity and understanding of the Raga. The Raga, as explained in the program, literally means melody. Its true nature is far more complex and was referred to in the program as the heart of Indian classical music. While the Raga is not fully understood without proper teaching, the feeling in the crowd during the second set was serene. Before the second set, Mr. Verma illustrated that the audience should not attempt to understand what was to be played, but instead the performance should be felt. As Roop Verma began the second set, one could see a sense of tranquility throughout the audience.

The Goodrich Theater went into an entire state of meditation. Some individuals had their eyes closed while others watched attentively. The smooth nature of the music allowed for a liberation of feeling and soul.

The importance of Roop Verma's performance to the Oneonta community was exhibited through the large number of non-students. The sounds of North India were welcomed and appreciated, as the audience was able to



photo courtesy of roopverma.com

Peace Serenade Fine Arts Into New Era

A dedication concert to the new wing of the Fine Arts building occurred this past Friday, November 18, in the new space Room 201. The concert consisted of a variety of styles including GlobeTrotting, and Professor Jeremy Wall's "Serenade of Peace," a 40-minute suite of nine songs in classical, jazz, pop and world music. GlobeTrotting, is a new group which formed in 2011 and is made up of Steve Gorn on woodwinds, John Davey on clarinet and soprano sax, John Melick on world percussion. Hearing an amazing meal from a foreign country was pervaded the audience during the concert before our eyes were made aware. One song felt tribal and rhythmic from the drums, another was a wide open space and was mysterious and haunting, and the last featured a solo piano, as the band grooved with a Middle Eastern feel.

GlobeTrotting's music, there was a variety of styles after opening act for the "Serenade of Peace." In its entirety, the concert was a collection of music from numerous cultures and genres of more popular styles of music. The concert was led by over 50 musicians, including the Percussion Ensemble, the Chamber Orchestra and the Chamber Singers in addition to several faculty

members. The Moroccan motif, the first song, "The Reed Bedouin" was what was to follow, incorporating English and electric guitar in an eclectic mix of styles. The music had a jazz music feel, while at one point a trumpet solo was played with a harmon mute, adding jazz flavor.

Singers chanted "Don't go back to sleep," in the escalation of the fourth song, which Conductor and Chair of the Music Department Dr. Orlando Legname concluded with a striking motion that looked as though he was delivering an attack. Suddenly, the tension was shattered with a soaring high note by Prof. Colby Thomas, and the audience breathed in release as we were carried into a peaceful, lulling period of the music.

Rising in energy once again but this time with excitement instead of tension, the piece grew into an upbeat R & B gospel song, with a bouncing bass line, then swelled with the effect of a larger orchestra with a grandiose passage, borrowing text from the beatitudes of Matthew 5:3-10. The electric guitar was featured once more as the heroic song rose to its close, then fell into the slammin' Brazilian samba with an enthusiastic count-off from Wall. With Gorn on the soprano sax and Wall on piano, they improvised through call and response. All instruments

dropped suddenly, leaving only the rhythm section, then gradually reentered until the music unfolded ostentatiously and ended with a final "Alleluia" from the chorus.

During the intermission, President Kleniewski spoke of the "spectacular" new addition, finding inspiration in a Winston Churchill quote to say that "great spaces inspire great teaching, learning and performance," and that the new space is helping "to keep SUNY Oneonta in the forefront of great public colleges." Professor Wall also offered thanks to Dr. Robert Barstow, previous chair of the music department, for giving "thousands of hours towards putting together the funding and plans" for the new wing. A work of beautiful songwriting with diverse and

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