



The late philanthropist Howard Hedinger (middle) is surrounded by artists he has supported throughout the years, Aaron Meyer (left) and The Brown Sisters — (from left) Rachel, Dorcas and Leah. Meyer pays tribute to Hedinger in his Aaron Meyer Holiday Concerts next week. The Brown Sisters also perform.

MEYER'S CONCERTS HONOR ONE MAN'S GENEROSITY

The late Howard Hedinger supported local kids, music

By JASON VONDERSMITH
The Tribune

Howard Hedinger was a pillar of the arts in Portland, and he was one of the people who supported musicians such as rock violinist Aaron Meyer.

Now, Meyer wants to shine the light on the late Hedinger, who'll be missed by many. The lifelong Portlander died in February, a day away from his 84th birthday.

The 19th Aaron Meyer Holiday Concerts, Dec. 19-21 at First Congregational Church, pays tribute to Hedinger.

"Once he got to know you and believed in you and trusted in your integrity, he was in 100 percent," said Meyer, who'll be joined by The Brown Sisters and others in his holiday concerts.

"You could ask him for anything you wanted, within reason. He was extremely generous."

Philanthropic individuals and groups are behind many musicians, financially. Meyer's concerts, for example, are supported by the Knowing Family, Mike and Karie Richardson and many others.

It's sad for Meyer not to welcome Hedinger to his concerts anymore, much as the musician had to move on after the death of his longtime partner Tim Ellis 3 1/2 years ago.

Hedinger was president of American Industries, a steel company, while also involved in real estate and owned Wildwood restaurant. He supported Self-Enhancement Inc., which benefits minority youth, as he turned to philanthropy after retirement in the early 2000s.

"I met him because I started to play at a lot of charity events, such as with Doernbecher (Children's Hospital), and saw him often," Meyer said. "He liked music, he'd talk to musicians, and he was friendly, with a great sense of humor. He had a huge heart and just loved to help."

Meyer asked Hedinger and his foundation for assistance for the 2009 Holiday Concerts and "they said absolutely. ... He really believed in me. He wanted to help it to the next level."

Each year he supported Meyer and Ellis. "He would come to my concerts, and started inviting me to play at more things," Meyer said. "He learned about my Music Education Program and wanted to support that. We became friends, and I learned what a great guy he really was."

Hedinger underwrote Meyer's appearance with the Oregon Symphony, and also the Ellis fundraising concert in early 2016.

Meyer and his band played the "Lawrence of Arabia" theme and called it "Howard of Arabia."

With Hedinger in attendance at the 2018 holiday concert, marking 10 years of his assistance, Meyer played

"Howard of Arabia" and Hedinger left his seat to stand in front of the violinist to watch and listen.

"He turned around and gave a thumbs-up," Meyer said.

So, Meyer and his band will again play "Howard of Arabia" this year, as well as a newly arranged song Hedinger would have loved — "New York, New York," by Frank Sinatra, and switch to reggae style about 20 seconds in.

"Howard would like it, and not in a traditional way," Meyer said.

"Portland will miss him. You go to any big auctions, like OMSI and Doernbecher, and he was there giving money. He also loved animals and supported Dove Lewis (ER and ICU Animal Hospital) and Oregon Humane Society." Meyer remembers seeing Hedinger at a kids' fundraiser, holding hands with the kids. "A lot of sponsors write big checks, but don't go down there and hold their hands."

Aaron Meyer will be joined in the Aaron Meyer Holiday Concerts by The Brown Sisters, his six-piece band and horn section, guest organist Beverly Everett, his violin students, Katelyn Haslebacher and Amario and Charan Loprinzi.

Concerts are at 7 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 19; 7:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 20; and 2 and 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 21, at First Congregational United Church of Christ, 1126 S.W. Park Ave. Tickets are \$35, \$45 for reserved, and can be purchased at aaronmeyer.com.

Holiday Happenings

■ The Oregon Symphony has some big events coming up:

The Gospel Christmas Concert, 7:30 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Dec. 13-14, and 2 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 15, features the Northwest Community Gospel Chorus at the Arlene Schnitzer Concert Hall, 1037 S.W. Broadway. Tickets start at \$35.

The "Storm Large Holiday Ordeal," featuring the Portland singing star and the symphony, will be at 7:30 p.m. Monday, Dec. 16, at the Schnitz. Tickets: start at \$40.

"Comfort and Joy: A Classical Christmas" is at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 18, at the Schnitz. Tickets start at \$25.

For more/tickets: orsymphony.org.

■ The Great Figgy Pudding Caroling Competition features scores of carolers on downtown streets, 5:30 p.m. Dec. 13, and finishing at 7:15 p.m. at Pioneer Courthouse Square. For more: thesquarepdx.org.

■ Michael Allen Harrison presents his 29th season of "Christmas at the Old Church," with beautiful piano arrangements and vocals by Julianne Johnson, the guitar play of Jennifer Batten (the former Michael Jackson guitarist) and special guest Bill Schonely. Shows begin Dec. 13 and go through Dec. 26 at The Old Church, 1422 S.W. 11th Ave. Schonely, the former Trail Blazers announcer known as "Schonz," will appear Dec. 13-15, Dec. 17 and Dec. 22. For complete info and tickets, see michaelallenharrison.com.

■ Watch Monica Huggett lead the Portland Baroque Orchestra in one of the most-performed works in musical history, Handel's "Messiah," at the First Baptist Church, 909 S.W. 11th Ave., with showtimes Dec. 13-16, featuring Cappella Romana. For details: pbo.org/concerts.

■ The Christmas Revels presents its seasonal show, "Ghosts of Haddon Hall," Dec. 13-22 at Newmark Theatre, 1111 S.W. Broadway. Tickets: \$19-\$85, portland5.com. There'll be music, dance, song, theater and humor involved in the 25th annual event. The story: Will Haddon Hall be torn down to build a highway, or will the ghosts save the day?

■ Metropolitan Performing Arts puts on "A Charlie Brown Christmas," Dec. 13-22 at Brunish Theatre, 1111 S.W. Broadway. Tickets: \$12-\$14, portland5.com.

■ Lakewood Theatre Company's "The Best Christmas Pageant Ever" is a delightful story about the true meaning of Christmas. The play opens at Lakewood Center for the Arts, 368 S. State St. in Lake Oswego, at 7:30 p.m. Dec. 13 and continues through Dec. 22. The play is about the Herdsmans, who were absolutely the worst kids in the history of the world, but they decided to take part in the town's Christmas pageant. Tickets: \$15, \$12 students, lakewood-center.org.

■ More than 300 tubas are part of the 29th annual Tuba Christmas Concert, 1:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 14, at Pioneer Courthouse Square. For more: thesquarepdx.org.

■ "Breakfast With Santa at the Zoo," bring the kids to the Oregon Zoo, 4001 S.W. Canyon Road, and enjoy a breakfast buffet with the family and everything the

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COURTESY PHOTO
Shivali Kadam wants to "represent the Indian American community on the Miss America stage."

Miss Oregon aims for new crown

Shivali Kadam strives to impress Miss America judges

By ELLEN SPITALERI
Pamplin Media Group

On June 29, Shivali Kadam exchanged her Miss Portland sash for the Miss Oregon crown. Now she's heading to the Miss America 2020 competition at the Mohegan Sun Arena in Uncasville, Connecticut.

The pageant takes place from Dec. 12-19, with the final event to be broadcast on NBC at 8 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 19.

Kadam, a Beaverton resident, is a 2012 graduate of Tualatin High School and received a degree in chemical engineering in 2018 from Oregon State University. Up until a month ago, she worked full time as a construction manager for Jacobs Engineering Group in semiconductor manufacturing, but took time off to prepare for the national pageant.

There are four phases of competition at Miss America — private interview, onstage question, talent and social impact pitch.

"For the portions of the competition based on public speaking, I have spent a great deal of time studying current events and interviewing in front of various mock interview panels whose judges have ranged from local titleholders to community members," Kadam said.

Her talent is a vocal performance of Christina Aguilera's "Reflection," which she said highlights the struggle everyone faces with reconciling who we truly are with who society wishes us to be.

Kadam and her parents emigrated to this country from India when she was 2 years old, so "Reflection" represents the struggle originating from her cultural duality, and the feeling that she did not fit in to either of the cultural influences in her life.

"I am excited to share my story with America, and represent the Indian American community on the Miss America stage," Kadam said.

She noted that the best way to prepare for Miss America is carrying out her duties as Miss Oregon.

"I have been fortunate enough to do a wide variety of appearances since earning the title, including performing for USO Northwest fundraisers, speaking to community groups such as Soroptomist International, and advocating for my social impact initiative, STEMpowered, at public schools and community events," she said.

At the upcoming pageant, Kadam said she is most looking forward to making memories with the other candidates.

"While the Miss America organization has a lot to

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THE SHORT LIST

STAGE

'The Strange Undoing of Prudencia Hart'

Rough Scottish ballads, karaoke mainstays and devilish encounters are part of the Artists Repertory Theatre's ART on Tour program's current show. The story is by David Grieg and is directed by Luan Schooler and Damaso Rodriguez.

The story: Prudencia Hart is passionate about traditional Scottish folk songs and has no space for popular music. Her life takes a turn when she gets lost in a snow-covered forest on her way to a bed-and-breakfast, but is saved by a man named Nick with nefarious intentions.

7:30 p.m. Tuesdays-Sundays, through Jan 5, Tiffany Center, 1410 S.W. Morrison St., artistsrep.org.



NW Dance Project's "Winter Wonders" features dancers such as William Couture and Noelle Kayser. COURTESY PHOTO: MICHAEL SLOBODIAN

\$60, \$30 under 35

'NW Dance Project

The company puts on its "Winter Wonders" show, a family friendly holiday

show made by dancers and resident choreographer Ihsan Rustem. It's the 16th annual holiday show. Dancers featured are William Couture, Kody

Jauron, Andrea Parson, Kevin Pajarillaga and Anthony Pucci. Stories include the adventure of Gerda and the Deer from "Snow Queen," The Grinch and his hapless dog Max and a battle of heat and snow; Rustem created a whimsical new interlude for 10 company dancers.

7:30 p.m. Thursday-Saturday, Dec. 12-14, Lincoln Performance Hall, 1620 S.W. Park Ave., nwdanceproject.org (check for tickets)

BodyVox

The dance company puts on its Junior Artist Generator Company winter showcase. There'll also be a holiday bazaar, featuring repurposed and embellished items by BodyVox Artistic Director Ashley Roland, such as festive elf hats, and homemade jewelry, to support the JAG program.

7:30 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Dec. 13-14, BodyVox Dance Center, 1201 N.W. 17th Ave., bodyvox.com, \$25

'ZooZoo'

Imago Theatre brings back its popular mask/costume show for the holidays, featuring bug-eyes, hippos with insomnia, arrogant anteaters, introverted frogs, paradoxical polar bears, acrobatic worms and more.

Various dates/times, Dec. 13-Jan. 5, Imago Theatre, 17 S.E. Eighth Ave., imagotheatre.com (see for tickets/prices)

Trevor Noah

The South African-born star of "The Daily Show" performs on his "Loud & Clear" comedy tour, giving his humorous take on politics and current events.

7:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 14, Moda Center, rosequarter.com, starting at \$36, parking \$17

— Jason Vondersmith