

Out and about ... with Mary Louise VanNatta

By Mary Louise VanNatta

Special to the Statesman Journal

October 17, 2010

Expression, creativity and imagination were words that the Salem Chamber Orchestra used to describe its "Cirque: An Instrumental Affair" event. This dinner and art auction was surrounded by reminders of the music they were supporting. Guests entered the Grand Ballroom to dancers Lauren Wimmer and Kelsy Richmond, part of Starr Studios. The room was decorated with festive musical centerpieces designed by Jan Stirling, and attendees were wowed by a room full of fabulous art by featured watercolorist Sam Rouslin. The musical group Unbande played in the background.

Salem Chamber Orchestra, founded in 1984, is our resident professional orchestra and is in its 26th season. Concerts are held in the Hudson Hall of the Mary Stuart Rogers Music Center at Willamette University.

Supporting the Salem Chamber Orchestra runs in families. Board Treasurer Chad Campbell attended with his parents, Trudy and Dan.

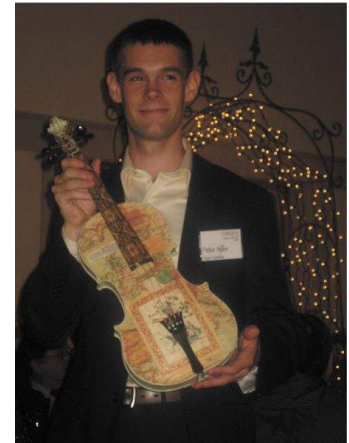
Member of the event planning committee and a board member, Rosemary Wood invited daughter Julie McFarlane from Bend and sister Margaret Doolen from Portland.

After browsing the Rouslin collection, which was a mix of impressionism and realism, we took a peek at the auction items, which were instruments transformed into imaginative works of art.

As a former woodwind player, I appreciated "Tenlaric," a stylish piece made with a clarinet, created by Salem artist, Kristin Kuhns. If you wanted a cool string instrument to display in your study, "Rio Amazonia Violin" by Salem artist Catherine Natasha Alexander would suit you. Leah and Peter Miller brought them around the room for us to view before Terry Mangum of Capitol Auction charmed bidders into taking them home.

Wine and beer from Cristom Vineyard and Seven Brides Brewing Co. was served by volunteers Adam Miles and Jenny Gleason. Gleason plays cello in the orchestra.

Dinner began with a short thank you from Keith Putman, the orchestra's board president, and a charming dance performance with a Cirque theme by young women from Starr Studios, Salem



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Peter Miller displays "Rio Amazonia Violin" by Salem artist Catherine Natasha Alexander. It was auctioned off at Salem Chamber Orchestra's "Cirque: An Instrumental Affair." Mary Louise VanNatta

School of Dance.

You can attend the next performance of the Salem Chamber Orchestra Seasonal Soiree — Piano Duets through Europe with Carole Orloff & Kristi Negri, at 4 p.m. Oct. 24. For more information, go to SalemChamberOrchestra.org.

Invite me to your event at OutandAboutSJ@live.com or follow me at twitter.com/PRSalem. See you on Sundays.