

MOVIES F3 • GALLERIES F5 • BOOKS F6

Piano man

Jon Nakamatsu plays
Scarlatti sonatas next
Sunday in Corrales **F3**



ARTS

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THE SUNDAY JOURNAL

March 4, 2007



Denyce Graves sings music
she loves in her recital.

Vocalist offers a 'musical journey'

■ *Mezzo-soprano
enjoys exploring
idioms beyond the
classical aria*

By EMILY VAN CLEVE
For the Journal

Denyce Graves is a hot commodity in the opera world, known primarily for her rendition of classical arias. But when she presents recitals, she likes to treat herself to songs written in popular, jazz and American spiritual idioms.

"I'm singing music that I love," Graves said by phone about the recital program presented by the Santa Fe Concert Association that is



DANCE DISTILLED

Diverse forms from Africa and the U.S.
highlight compressed Global DanceFest

Global DanceFest 2007

■ Hafiz Dhaou and
Aicha M'Barek,
8 p.m. Wednesday,
March 7, and Thurs-
day, March 8, at the

UNM professor gets NEA award

from PAGE F6
memoir, and discuss and show samples of her visual journals and recent artist book journals.

Acequia Booksellers is at 4019 Fourth NW.
TRANSLATOR AWARD: Diane Thiel, an associate professor in UNM's English Department, has received a \$20,000 National Endowment for the Arts International Literature Award. It will allow Thiel to complete the translation from Greek into English of Alexis Stamatis' novel "American Fugue" and to publish it.

The NEA co-funded the award with the Greek Embassy in Washington, D.C., and the Center for the Book in Athens, Greece. The press release did not state the prize money in Thiel's award.

Translating is one of her specialties. She is working on the translation with her husband, Constantine Iadjlambrinos, who is an associate professor in UNM's School of Public Administration.

WRITING CONTEST: The Albuquerque-based SouthWest Writers is accepting entries for its 2007 annual contest, which has 20 separate writing categories. The contest is open to any writer. Editors or literary agents judge all

entries and critique the top three in each category. The first, second and third prize winners receive cash awards and first-place winners compete for a \$1,000 Storyteller Award.

Entries must be postmarked by May 1. For complete contest details and entries fees go to the Web site www.southwestwriters.org. For more information call 265-9485 or e-mail js2007sww@yahoo.com.

BOOK BY T OR C AUTHOR: Eagle Ashcroft of Truth or Consequences has written the book "Nibs Goes to London," published by Wasteland Press. It is the most recent in a long series of Ashcroft's books about Nibs, a 14-year-old black-and-white half-Persian tom cat. Retail price is \$11.

AT ATOMIC MUSEUM: Los Alamos author Nancy C. Bartlit gives a talk Saturday, March 10 at the National Atomic Museum on her book "Silent Voices of World War II: When the Sons of the Land of Enchantment Met the Sons of the Land of the Rising Sun." The event is 11 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Bartlit will also autograph copies of the book, which she co-authored with Everett M. Rogers. The museum is at 1905 Mountain NW.

Arts and Crafts fest is like home for noted illustrator

from PAGE F1
her she'll do another painting job, noting she's doing a full-time business managing her art career. She already been asked by to illustrate his next

now, Rorex-Bridges is forward to coming to the festival.

seems to be an attraction for arts and crafts in Albuquerque that cities don't have," she says. "The people are friendly, have a pretty big following there."

raised festival director and her staff for a well-organized, well-run festival.

its inception in 1989, the Albuquerque Arts and Crafts

Festivals have been held three times a year: in March, October and December.

The festival showcases the creations of 250 artists and craftspeople, attracting tens of thousands of buyers from around the country and the world. Visitors can talk to and shop directly with artists or they can watch artist demonstrations. There also are children's attractions and a food court.

The festival has been recognized annually as one of New Mexico's Top Ten Attractions by the New Mexico Department of Tourism. The shows are ranked in the Top 100 by Sunshine Artist Magazine, and also by Art Fair Source Book and the Harris List.

BRIEF

Out' dates Nov. 2-4

onal tour of "Movin' been rescheduled. It was to have come to all from March 6-11, will be at the venue sold for the March

dates will be valid for the November shows. To make an exchange in tickets or a refund, visit the UNM ticket office in the Bookstore. Patrons must present their tickets for a refund. Store hours are 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Tuesdays-Fridays and noon-4 p.m. Saturdays.

Cartoons by Trever



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Vocalist offers a 'musical journey'

from PAGE F1
spirituals including "Scandalize My Name," "Prayer," "Swing Low" and "Git on Board."

Jones is one of two pianists who are touring with Graves. The San Francisco Chronicle has referred to him as "the finest accompanist now working."

"I adore Warren," Graves said. "He's a magnificent musical partner. I trust his set of ears. I trust him completely."

A native of Washington, D.C., and a graduate of the Duke Ellington School for the Performing Arts, Graves continued her education at Oberlin College Conservatory of Music and the New England Conservatory. She made her debut at the Metropolitan Opera during the 1995-96 season in the title role of "Carmen" and the following season returned to the Met to star in Franco Zeffirelli's new production of the opera. She also sang the role of Carmen opposite Plácido Domingo in the opening night performance of the Metropolitan Opera's 1997-98 season.

Graves appears in a broad range of classical and

If you go

WHAT: Mezzo-soprano Denyce Graves in recital with pianist Warren Jones

WHEN: 8 p.m., Monday, March 5

WHERE: Lensic Performing Arts Center, 211 W. San Francisco St., Santa Fe

HOW MUCH: \$30-\$85. Call (505) 988-1234

contemporary repertoire with leading theaters in North America and Europe. In 2003, she was appointed as a cultural ambassador for the United States and now presents musical performances, lectures and seminars around the world under the auspices of the U.S. State Department. Her weekly show "Voce di donna" on XM Radio includes music and interviews with singers, producers, presenters and managers.

"She was a huge hit with our audience when she gave a recital here three years ago," said William Mullen, the Santa Fe Concert Association's managing director. "We've been looking forward to bringing her back."

Diverse dance in Global DanceFest

from PAGE F1
what Petronio called "a compositional field where I will start with A, add B. Then add C to A and B."

Besides his interest in building things, he wanted to use the work to express "something filled with light, about opening, maybe that transition from youth to something beyond youth..."

The company commissioned musician-composer Rufus Wainwright to write the music for the 25-minute piece. Wainwright composed a choral work in which his recorded voice covers all 40 parts in singing poems by Walt Whitman and Emily Dickinson.

The piece "bud suite" is about the pursuit of desire — physical, sensual and spiritual. The music is taken from songs on Wainwright's recent CDs, Petronio said.

The third work, "The Rite Part," is Wainwright's version of Igor Stravinsky's "The Rite of Spring."

"So these are all about that season, about the tumultuous, rapid growth at the beginning of the growth cycle," Petronio said.

Vincent Mantsoe, speaking from New York City, said his evening-length work "Men-Jaro" is about the elements of nature. His initial choreography for "Men-Jaro" came in 1995.

"It was based on seven dancers, but then as the years went by I was keen to re-create

the work and bring in traditional instruments," Mantsoe said.

For example, musicians accompanying the dance are using two instruments of the Xhosa people — a *umhube* and the *uhadi*, both of which are like the long-bowed Afro-Brazilian *berimbau* but played differently, he said.

Other instruments include the *isigubu*, a round drum of the Zulu people, and the *ngoma*, a small, heavy drum of the Zenda people.

"In South Africa, (invariably) dance has music and music has dance," Mantsoe said.

He said he always tries to make a uniform statement with his choreography: "It is the preservation of culture that moves with time."

"Even though I'm very traditional, I always adapt myself into the 21st century. It's very educational to show who you are, where you come from and why you're here, how you complement and how you communicate yourself with your fellow Africans," he said.

From a multicultural perspective, Mantsoe said what's important is that his audiences allow themselves to be transformed by the work.

From an educational perspective, he wants his choreography to see in this work a basis for people to understand each other.

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Bassist's Transit plays Outpost



Jon Gagan is the longtime bassist for Ottmar Liebert's band Luna Negra.

■ Musician has recorded album with funk, jazz and flamenco sounds

By DAVID STEINBERG
Journal Staff Writer

This could be confusing: Transit is the name of Jon Gagan's quartet and "Transit 2" is the title of the Santa Fe bassist's new CD.

The album is a far-ranging musical feast that serves up straight-ahead and cool jazz, pop, funk and, not surprisingly, Ottmar Liebert-influenced nouveau flamenco.

Gagan happens to be the longtime bassist with Liebert's group Luna Negra. The quartet will be in concert Thursday, March 8, at the Outpost Performance Space.

But that small ensemble itself isn't heard exclusively on the CD. In fact, there are 18 musicians, including Gagan, playing on it.

"I decided to go wherever it took me," he said. "Different songs suggested different musicians. So-and-so would sound great on this track..."

For example, Liebert himself plays on five of the CD's 13 cuts.

Gagan said he recorded the tracks at various points over

If you go

WHAT: Jon Gagan's Transit

WHEN: 7:30 p.m. Thursday, March 8

WHERE: Outpost Performance Space, 210 Yale SE

HOW MUCH: \$15 general public, \$10 Outpost members in advance at the Outpost or by calling 268-0044 or at the door

about 18 months at The Electric Company in Santa Fe. The recording sessions occurred as time permitted. Gagan had to fit them in between gigs with his main job of touring and recording with Liebert.

Gagan used to play Fender basses, but in early 2004 he switched over to Lakland basses, one fretted and the other fretless.

"Lakland is just a terrific instrument for me. I played Fender for years and years. I was always hoping to go in a different direction and I found (a bass) that fit the bill," he said.

"How is it different? It's got a little bit of a broader sound but still has the bite."

In the Outpost concert, Gagan will be joined by keyboardist Bert Dalton, drummer Ryan Anthony and percussionist Robby Rothschild.

Nakamatsu spotlights classic sonatas

By DAVID STEINBERG
Journal Staff Writer

In the history of classical music, 1685 is remembered as the birth year of two composing giants — Johann Sebastian Bach and George Frideric Handel.

It is also the birth year of Domenico Scarlatti, who wrote about 600 sonatas.

Handel gained fame for the "Messiah" and many other oratorios.

"And Scarlatti wasn't the contrapuntalist that Bach was but he expanded the sonata form," pianist Jon Nakamatsu said in a phone interview from his home in San Jose, Calif. "The sonatas were his most famous contributions."

"Some he wrote for his students," Nakamatsu said. "Others he wrote for entertainment or court commissions. Largely he wrote for himself."

Most of Scarlatti's sonatas were meant to be played on the harpsichord, though at the time he lived the pianoforte was in its infancy.

"In a way he was a pioneer in how people wrote for the keyboard," Nakamatsu said. "I think the form of his sonatas was something that has pretty much stuck with us as a standard in a two-part form."

He will perform four of Scarlatti's sonatas to open his March 11 concert at the Historic Old San Ysidro Church in Corrales. The concert is part of the Music in Corrales series.

Also on the program is Sergei Rachmaninoff's Variations on a Theme by Corelli, Frederic Chopin's Nocturne in F-sharp minor and Scherzo No. 3 in C-sharp minor, three works by Franz Liszt and a piece by the relatively unknown contemporary Armenian-



Pianist Jon Nakamatsu performs Scarlatti's sonatas in a concert next Sunday.

If you go

WHAT: Pianist Jon Nakamatsu

WHEN: 3 p.m. March 11

WHERE: Historic Old San Ysidro Church, Old Church Road, Corrales

HOW MUCH: \$18 general public, \$12 students in advance at Bookworks, Music Mart and Frame-N-Art. For more, information go to the Web site www.musicincorrales.org or call toll free, (877) 287-0082

Iranian composer Loris Tjeknavorian. Nakamatsu is playing five of Tjeknavorian's *Danses Fantastiques*, which are a set

of ballet music.

Through his piano teacher, Nakamatsu met the composer when he conducted the San Francisco Opera's orchestra. Tjeknavorian has also composed operas.

"His music is infused with elements of Armenian and Iranian culture," Nakamatsu said. "He's trying to fit them into Western styles of playing."

"What's interesting about this program is that each composer wrote significantly

for the piano and changed piano writing has evolved

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2

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from PAGE F1

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