

Music on Main's success plays loud and clear

CONCERTS: Winning audiences around

BY STUART DERDEYN
STAFF REPORTER

Dave Pay is a believer. When he decided to set up the Music On Main series, it was because he was sure that the 'hood was ripe for contemporary music in unique spaces and formats. Trying to bring the likes of Steve Reich to the hipster set was ambitious, to say the least.

But it worked and now Music On Main is back with a new season boasting a huge variety of performances.

There's a six day-long festival

with Vancouver New Music on modern Dutch composer titled Louis Andriessen @ 70, four main concerts at the venerable Heritage Hall and the super cool "A Month of Sundays" concert series at the Cellar Restaurant and Jazz Club which kicks off this Tuesday with a concert from the Borealis String Quartet.

"It's a little bit more than we began with two years ago, which was to have four concerts at the Heritage Hall," says Pay. "But that year, we actually wound up doing 28 concerts and the audience really came around to the way we were doing things."

"Listening to music like a Shostakovich piece or a new work by Owen Underhill when you've

got a glass of wine in your hand and maybe are still enjoying some dinner is pretty wonderful."

A longtime classical music promoter, Pay knows performance venues and specific works inside out. He admits that the "first time I really rocked out to Chopin was hearing Jane Coop play in the Cellar. I suddenly understood the music by hearing it in the environment it was meant for."

That the Cellar is in deepest, darkest Kitsilano has led to some kidding that Music On Main should really be Music In Kits, but Pay says no.

"It's almost like we're working a number of separate projects with different ideas. The Cellar is a small room, great for listening and very

intimate. Kind of a separate series from our program for the Heritage Hall which is about genre-bending and new music that just can't take place in such a small venue such as our season opener with Inuit throat singer Tanya Tagaq and cellist Kris Derksen with DJ Michael Red (Oct. 23, 8 p.m.; \$25/\$15)."

Other shows range from violinist Jennifer Koh (Nov. 27), who opened the new Carnegie Hall, and Steve Reich's Drumming (Feb. 3, 4) and a tour de force gig by amazing ukulele player James Hill (April 30). Yes, you read that right, a ukulele player.

"You just have to look him up on YouTube and watch this piece he spontaneously made up using the chopsticks from his bento-box

lunch. It's one of the most incredible things I've ever seen and I told him he's eating sushi before his show here."

There is no stopping Pay's enthusiasm for his programming. The only thing that really gets in the way of doing more is the lack of venues in the city. He still feels strongly about getting more, smaller venues around the city that can become specialized in certain types of art.

"I think Main Street could support a 300-seater very well. And I think a number of other neighbourhoods could too. There are still affordable options to do this out there."

For more info and tickets, visit www.musiconmain.ca

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Painting a picture

LOS ANGELES — the criminal underworld once more in a mob drama about a notorious contract


killer, it was reported on Thursday.

The duo are to make a movie adaptation of

I Heard You Paint Houses, Charles Brandt's book, reports said. — AFP

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