

COMING
UP AT THE MELLO

Pajaro Valley Performing Arts Association

2004
F A L L

"It's not just a re-creation,
it's an experience. I was
utterly blown away."
— Adam Cotton, Metro
Review of White Album



Tandy Beal & SoVoSó Crack

MIXED NUTZ! The Nutcracker REMixed

Friday & Saturday, Nov. 26 & 27, 2 PM & 7:30 PM; Sunday, Nov. 28, 2 PM

MIXED NUTZ! – *The Nutcracker REMixed* is a performance treat with a creative new twist on the holiday favorite, directed by California's circus and dance maestro, Tandy Beal. Tchaikovsky's glorious music is sung a cappella by California's stellar vocal group, SoVoSó. Onstage with Beal's cast of 30 dancers and circus artists, SoVoSó makes vocal magic.

Opening with original songs, seasonal favorites and audience participation, we're instantly wrapped up in Beal's multicolored vision, tied with a ribbon of zaniness. These are followed by SoVoSó's re-scoring of the second act of Tchaikovsky's *Nutcracker*. Tandy Beal first worked with SoVoSó members in Bobby McFerrin's famed *Voicestra*. Their most recent collaboration, *Song Circus*, toured nationally. In 2003, the artists teamed to present *The New Nut*, *Mixed Nutz!*'s predecessor. Beal says, "This splendid show mixes genres, mixes cultures, mixes ages and mixes up expectations. It's joyous!"

Additional artists include: aerialist and hand-balancer Svetlana Gololobova from Moscow Circus; U.S. national champion roller skating pair, Edrick Stewart and Meghan Burt (coached by Jim Pringle); jugglers Rock Lerum and Iman Lizarazu, and The Flying Karamazov Brothers' Tim Furst. Rounding out the cast are Folklorico dancers Esperanza del Valle, rhythmic gymnast Saki Sakamoto, a team of local child gymnasts – and talented hip-hop, ballroom and contemporary dancers.

Celebrate this Thanksgiving weekend, when *MIXED NUTZ!* – *The Nutcracker REMixed!* brings Tandy Beal's dazzling performers, Tchaikovsky's gorgeous music and the brilliant vocal talents of SoVoSó to your family.

Tandy Beal is an Artist in Residence at the Henry J. Mello Center for the Performing Arts, a program of the Pajaro Valley Performing Arts Association



MIXED NUTZ!'s predecessor, *The New Nut*, last year At The Mello

New Faces At The Mello! See back page



fall 2004 calendar

FRIDAY & SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 3 & 4, 8 PM

The White Album Live!

See RubberRevolver! information below.

FRIDAY & SATURDAY, OCTOBER 22 & 23, 8 PM

RubberRevolver!

Co-presented by the PVPAA and Snazzy Productions

Admission: \$25, \$30, \$35 (all reserved seating)
Tickets: Mello Box Office (831) 763-4047 or
online www.mellocenter.com or Snazzy Productions
(831) 479-9421 www.snazzyproductions.com



You must see these shows! The Beatles' White Album, live, in its entirety comes back on stage at the Mello in The White Album Live! And with all material

from Rubber Soul and Revolver, RubberRevolver expands the Beatles experience with eight top musicians and vocalists from Santa Cruz and Monterey: Jason Schimmel, Tiran Porter, Dale Ockerman, Ken Kraft, Alan Heit, Michael Daugherty, Richard Bryant, and Bob Bliss. Additional vocalists are Brianna Michaud and Gena Bergstrom. Selected numbers are accompanied by dance choreographed by Sarah Wilbourne. These shows are enhanced by era video backdrop, dance choreography, and additional instrumentation such as a string quartet, tablas and sitar.

Portions of *The White Album Live* and *RubberRevolver* ticket proceeds will go to the Watsonville High School's music program and Watsonville Charter School. A raffle will be sponsored in conjunction with both shows to benefit the Watsonville chapter of the non-profit Guitars, Not Guns.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2 PM

Santa Cruz County Symphony

Admission: \$12 - \$38
Tickets: PVPAA - 831-763-4047

Traditional European masters are represented by the triumphant Symphony No. 1 of German composer Johannes Brahms. Charles Ives creates a wonderful

blend of nationalistic styles, setting the patriotic tune "America" to a set of variations that vividly demonstrates this country's melting pot. Stephen Prutsman lends his virtuosic talent to Gershwin's mix of classics and jazz in the ever popular Rhapsody in Blue.



Stephen Prutsman

SATURDAY OCTOBER 9, 7:30 PM

SUNDAY OCTOBER 10, 2:00 PM

Primordial Winds

Watsonville Taiko's 13th Anniversary Performance

Admission: Adults \$15; Seniors and children under 12, \$12
Tickets: Mello Box Office (831) 763-4047 or online www.mellocenter.com

When you hear the pounding



sound of the Taiko, you are absorbed into a magical harmony of rhythm and sensation. This performance will take you back in time through the universal language of the Taiko.

This event sponsored by: The Cultural Council of Santa Cruz County and the PVPAA's Artists in Residence Program

MONDAY NOVEMBER 22 AT 7 PM

Santa Cecilia Concert

Presented by the PVPAA and Eleazar Cortes

Admission: \$10 adult, \$8 children, students & seniors
Tickets: PVPAA (831) 763-4047

Mariachi performer and composer Eleazar Cortes will join with local artists and guests in honor of Saint

Cecelia, patron saint of musicians. They will perform sacred music and popular contemporary songs in Spanish. *Special thanks to the PVPAA, Cultural Council and Granite Construction for their support.*



FRIDAY & SATURDAY, NOV. 26 & 27, 2 PM & 7:30 PM

SUN., NOV. 28, 2 PM

Tandy Beal & SoVoSó MIXED NUTZ! The Nutcracker REMixed

Admission: \$15-\$25, reserved seating
Tickets: Mello Box Office, (831.762.4047) or online at www.mellocenter.com.
See cover story for details.



SATURDAY NOVEMBER 20, 2004 AT 7:00 PM

The Tenth Annual

An Evening of Brass

Presented by The Watsonville Salvation Army

Admission: \$1 general plus a toy or canned food donation
Tickets: Call the Watsonville Salvation Army at 724-3922. Tickets may also be obtained at the door.

This anniversary concert features two "British Style" Brass Bands: the Salvation Army Concord Brass Band under the direction of Bandmaster James Black, and the Pacific Brass Band under the direction of Bandmaster Gonzolo H. "Bert" Viales. After separate performances, the bands will combine together in a magnificent 60-piece Brass Band. Shelly Harr of KSBW will be part of this celebration!

SAVE THE DATE!!!

- January 30, 2005 **Santa Cruz County Symphony** featuring **Jon Nakamatsu**, piano, performing Mozart's Piano Concerto No.21
- February 18 & 19, 2005 **Artist in Residence Karl Schaffer** presents Karl Schaffer & Co, an evening of dance works.
- February 23, 2005 UCSC Arts & Lectures presents **Trisha Brown Dance Company**

For more information about these and other late breaking shows, call the PVPAA at (831) 763-4047, visit our web site at www.mellocenter.com, or look for our ads in the Good Times and the Register Pajaronian.

PVPAA Receives Major Grant from the Community Foundation

We have terrific news. The Pajaro Valley Performing Arts Association has just received a grant of \$20,000 from the Community Foundation of Santa Cruz County. Proceeds from this grant will be used to broaden the Artist in Residence Program at the Mello Center.



The Artist in Residence program was established two years ago when we brought four artists into the theatre and the community. Tandy Beal (Dancer/Choreographer), Ikuyo Conant (Composer/Artistic Director of the Watsonville Taiko), Janet Johns (Founder and Director of Esperanza del Valle), and George Kahumoku (Flat Key Guitarist/Singer) were the four original artists who performed at the Mello Center, taught classes, and participated in other community events. George has returned to his native Hawaii, but Tandy, Ikuyo and Janet are still participating in the program with

newcomers Karl Schaffer (Dancer/Co-Founder of Dr. Schaffer & Mr. Stern) and Mesut Ozgen (Classical Guitarist).

With the support of the Community Foundation, the PVPAA will work with consultants Chris Esparza and Nga Trinh-Halperin of Giant Creative Services to conduct community focus groups to enhance the current Artist in Residence Program. Our immediate goals are to identify new ways to involve artists in the various Watsonville communities through demonstrations, classes and workshops and to involve local artists in the program more effectively. Through community discussions about the ways artists are integrated into community life, we will also be looking for ways to bring artists of national stature into our community for shorter periods of time, especially artists whose lives and work were inspired by connections with this region.

- By Pamela Mason

Staff List
 Executive Director
Julia Sauer
 Programming Director
Pamela Mason
 Facility Manager
Pat Edwards
 Office Manager
Michael Weeks
 Administrative Assistant
Martyn Edwards
 The Henry J. Mello Center for the
 Performing Arts is owned by the Pajaro
 Valley Unified School District and
 operated by a Joint Powers Authority of
 the City of Watsonville and the PVUSD.
 It is managed by the PVPAA, a 501(c)(3)
 non-profit charitable corporation.

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New Faces at the Mello



The PVPAA is pleased to introduce the new President of the Board of Directors, **Richard Vasquez**. Richard has a passion to support the

performing arts in our society. In addition to the PVPAA, he volunteers for the Watsonville City Library Board and El Teatro Campesino in San Juan Bautista. His commitment to being an active community member drives his leadership. We look forward a very productive year.



Another new face is new Executive Director **Julia Sauer**. Julia comes to the PVPAA with a background in non-profit man-

agement, fundraising and bookkeeping, and a supporting role in her high school's performance of Up The Down Staircase. She will be working with the Board of Directors in keeping the Henry J. Mello center a premier cultural asset.

PVPAA FALL FUNDRAISING DRIVE STARTS

Your support not only keeps great performances coming, it helps publish this newsletter, buys technical equipment, underwrites community use of the center, and supports the Artists in Residence program.

Yes! I want to be a Friend of the Mello! Here's my tax-deductible donation for:

\$25 \$50 \$100 \$250 \$_____ other

I enclose my check, payable to PVPAA

Bill my MasterCard/VISA: Number _____

Exp. Date _____ Signature _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Phone _____

Please mail to PVPAA 231 Union Street, Watsonville, CA 95076

WISH LIST: Can you make a wish come true? We're looking for a few good office machines, and a little bit of space. The Pajaro Valley Performing Arts Association is in need of a copier, a laser printer, and storage space for MIXED NUTZ! theatre props. If you're upgrading your office, or if you have a dry, secure space for storage, your in-kind donation would be most appreciated! Please call our offices at (831) 763-4047 if you can help.