

My Life contact: Allison Griffin | 240-0181 | algriffin@gannett.com | montgomeryadvertiser.com/mylife

SECTION E

SUNDAY, MAY 19, 2013

ARTS IN BRIEF

Guitar Pull

The Third Tuesday Joe Thomas Jr. Guitar Pull, starting at 7 p.m. Tuesday at the Cloverdale Playhouse, features Katie Martin, Stuart McNair and Ben Sutton. Each month, singer/songwriters play original tunes and talk about their music. Admission is \$10 at the door. The playhouse is at 960 Cloverdale Road. Call 262-1530, or log on to www.cloverdaleplayhouse.org

Also at the Playhouse: Submissions are being accepted for a play writing contest. They're due June 1 and should be one full-length, non-musical script. The winning play, selected by the artistic committee, will have a staged reading Sept. 7 at the playhouse. Winners will be announced Aug. 1. One winner will be selected in adult and youth divisions. Call 262-1530, or email infor@cloverdaleplayhouse.org.

MMFA Art Talk

From 6 to 7:30 p.m. Thursday in the Montgomery Museum of Fine Arts Conference Room, get an up-close look at artists, their work and the creative process in this program for artists as well as those interested in art.

Six times a year artists have the opportunity to bring a work of art to the museum, show it to other artists and participants and have friendly feedback about the work. Cost is \$20 for Museum or Art Guild members and \$35 for nonmembers. The Museum is in Blount Cultural Park, with an entrance at 6000 Vaughn Road.

'The Wedding from Hell'

"The Wedding from Hell," which in 2009 broke box office records for the Wetumpka Depot Players, is back, now as published script. The show will return to the Depot stage at 7:30 p.m. May 30 to June 1 and June 6 to 8, with a 2 p.m. matinee on June 2. The theater is at 300 S. Main St. Tickets are \$15 and are available by calling 868-1440 or by visiting wetumpkadepot.com

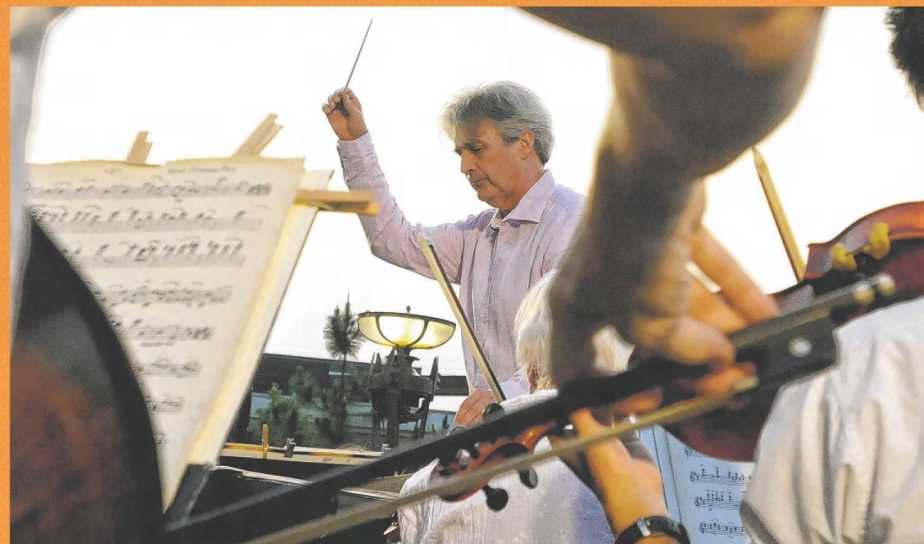
The farce, which spoofs Southern weddings, has also played in Alexander City and the Alabama Shakespearie Festival. This encore performance celebrates the publication of the script, written by Depot veterans Kristy Meanor, Mary Katherine Moore and Tom Salter, by Damselify Publications. Salter will direct. Call 868-1440 or log on to wetumpkadepot.com.

Also at the Depot: "Acting Up" kids' summer program teaches acting, stage movement, dance and singing, limited to the first 20 students enrolled. Program ends with two public performances of "101 Dalmatians." Sign-up is from 2 p.m. June 1 through 5 p.m. June 2. First rehearsal/mandatory parent's meeting is 6 p.m. June 3. Cost is \$150. Registrations open through May 30 for rising third graders and older. Email kmeanor@wetumpkadepot.com.

Art opening/reception

The Montgomery Artists Salon will host an art opening reception from 5 to 8:45 p.m. June 6 at the Anita Folmar Gallery in the Armory Learning Arts Center, 1018 Madison Ave. The show will run from June 6-28 and will be open for viewing from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Thursday and 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Friday throughout June. The show is the culmination of work completed by the artists since January 2012.

— compiled by Teri Greene



Thomas Hinds directs as the Montgomery Symphony Orchestra performs on the steps of the State Archives and History building for thousands in this May 2012 file photo. AMANDA SOWARDS/ADVERTISER FILE

Big screen sounds inspire symphony pops concert

By Nick Thomas
Special to the Advertiser

One of the earliest original soundtracks written for a full-length motion picture was Max Steiner's score for "King Kong," in 1933. Since then, some of the most recognizable music of the 20th century has resonated off the big screen.

On Friday evening, some of those popular Hollywood melodies will be featured in this year's free Jubilee Pops Concert, performed by the Montgomery Symphony Orchestra on the grounds of the state Archives building and the Capitol.

The concert was for many years the kickoff event for Jubilee CityFest, Montgomery's annual Memorial Day music and arts festival. Though Jubilee CityFest is now defunct, the Symphony has retained the name of the concert.

"Maestro (Thomas) Hinds has selected movie music to entertain everyone this year," said Helen Steineker, executive director of the MSO. "We will have everything except the popcorn and Raisinets!"

She added that Martin McCaffery, director of Montgomery's independent cinema The Capri, will narrate the program.

Music director and conductor Hinds said the program includes music from notable film composers John Williams, James Horner and Elmer Bernstein.

Hinds chose several selections by Williams, who made cinematic history in the '70s with unforgettable scores for blockbusters like "Jaws," "E.T.," and "Star Wars." His soundtrack for the original "Star Wars" was especially noteworthy since it reintroduced the grand symphonic score reminiscent of Steiner and Erich Korngold's works of the '30s and '40s.

Williams also revived the Steiner technique of giving characters and cinematic plots their own identifying musical phrases.

"I think Williams is a strikingly good composer," Hinds said. "But he gets a bad rap from some critics because he borrows elements from other composers. As if Bach and Mozart didn't!"

In fact, Hinds said, were Mozart alive and composing today, he would probably be writing for the cinema. "He would adapt stylistic themes from others and produce many amazing works very quickly like Williams."

Hinds' admiration for Elmer Bernstein, one of the all-time great soundtrack composers, is also reflected in the evening's program with the inclusion of "The Magnificent Seven" theme.

The classic '60s western starring Yul Brynner, Steve McQueen and Charles Bronson was one of more than 200 Bernstein scored. Others include "The Great Escape," "The Ten Commandments"

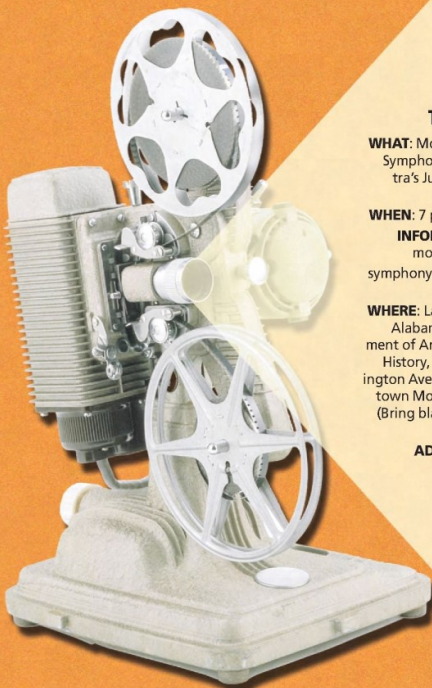
WANT TO GO?

WHAT: Montgomery Symphony Orchestra's Jubilee Pops Concert

WHEN: 7 p.m. Friday
INFORMATION: montgomerysymphony.org or call 240-4004

WHERE: Lawn of the Alabama Department of Archives and History, 624 Washington Ave., in downtown Montgomery. (Bring blankets and picnics.)

ADMISSION: Free



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Concert

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and "Ghostbusters."
 "Absolutely fabulous," said Hinds of Bernstein. "He was a composer who knew Hollywood and understood movies. He could match the emotion on screen with music so effectively."

Bernstein's son, Peter, inherited his late father's musical talent and is also a successful composer and orchestrator for film and television. Though only a child at the time, he vividly recalls his father composing "The Magnificent Seven" music.

"His studio was over the garage of our house, two rooms down from where I slept," said Bernstein from his home in Los Angeles. "Many nights I would fall sleep to the sound of him pounding away the theme on the piano."

When released, however, the film was largely ignored by the studio.

"He attended a screening for the movie's executives in New York and said they were all just sitting around, reading their *Wall Street Journals*," Bernstein recalled. "Once the film became successful in Europe, the studio began promoting it here."

The music would later gain notoriety in a popular cigarette commercial until legislation banned cigarette ads on U.S. radio and TV stations in 1971.

Elmer Bernstein was nominated for 14 Academy Awards, winning only once. (By contrast, Williams has 48 nominations, and five wins). "The Magnificent Seven"



The Montgomery Symphony Orchestra's performance begins at 7 p.m. Friday.

lost to "Exodus" for the Best Music Score of a Dramatic or Comedy Picture in 1961.

"He really wanted to win," admitted Bernstein. "But when he won for 'Thoroughly Modern Millie' in 1968, it was a total shock. He was music director for the Oscars that year and was conducting in the orchestra pit preparing to play the theme for the winner, when his name was announced. He had to turn the baton over to an assistant and rush up on stage to collect the award."

Though written more than half a century ago, the Bernstein estate continues to earn royalties from "The Magnificent Seven" music. In fact, acquiring the public performance rights for some pieces of music can be expensive for orchestras.

"It cost us around \$600 to use a few minutes of 'The Magnificent Seven' theme," said Hinds, noting that the concert is sponsored by the J.K. Lowder Family Foundation.

Now in his 30th year with the MSO, Hinds hopes his program selections will be well-re-

ceived across audience age groups.

"We've put together an evening of wonderful music that is instantly recognizable and will bring back memories of a favorite movie experience from the past," he said. "We want the audience to just sit back and relax, while we provide the musical background for an enjoyable evening to share with family and friends."

Auburn Montgomery professor and freelance writer Nick Thomas has written for more than 300 magazines and newspapers. Contact him at his blog: <http://getnickt.blogspot.com>.



The Montgomery Symphony Orchestra performs on the steps of the State Archives and History building for thousands in May 2012. PHOTOS BY AMANDA SOWARDS/ADVERTISER FILE

THE SUNDAY CROSSWORD

The Great Outdoors

By Merl Reagle
 May 19, 2013

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 - 13 Popinjays
 - 17 Siberian river
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 - 20 Bag wt., often
 - 22 "As we pulled out of the driveway, Dad started saying '...'"
 - 86 "We watched about 10 minutes of ..."
 - 90 Yule operetta boy
 - 91 B'rith
 - 92 Bad review
 - 93 "And we watched about 10 minutes of ..."
 - 96 "But since I actually like Danrv Glover"

