**News & Notes**

The **Concert Chorale**, under the direction of **Betsy Cook Weber**, prepared a Christmas video and CD that was generously donated to and produced by Houston-based advertising firm Lopez Negrete Communications and recording studio ZapBoomBang. View the video and CD at [http://timetoregift.com](http://timetoregift.com)

ZapBoomBang is a team of award-winning engineers, producers, musicians, composers, and project managers with the latest technology, working in a unique environment designed for the ultimate in comfort, creativity, and collaboration located on Richmond Avenue in Houston.

The “**Spirit of Houston**” **Cougar Marching Band** and **UH Cheer and Dance**, under the direction of **Marc Martin** and **David Bertman**, marched in the 21st Annual MLK Grande Parade in downtown Houston to an audience of spectators estimated at 300,000 and a viewing audience of more than 4,000,000.

**Kenny Broberg** and **Jiawei Yuan** (both from the studio of **Nancy Weems**) achieved top honors in the 64th annual Wideman International Piano Competition held at Centenary College in Shreveport, Louisiana on December 5-7, 2014. Broberg tied for the Silver Medal and Yuan received the Harrison and Willis Community Foundation Award in the finals.

The Wideman International Piano Competition attracts aspiring young pianists from across the world, representing the top schools and conservatories of music in the U.S. and abroad. This year’s contest included 43 competitors from Oberlin, Yale, Julliard, Curtis, Eastman, Manhattan School, Michigan, etc. and was eventually narrowed to only eight finalists on the final day of competition, including both Kenny and Jiawei from the Moores School, one from Curtis Institute of Music, three from Julliard, and two from TCU.

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**Upcoming Events**

**Thursday, January 22, 4 pm**
**Guest Master Class**
**Dmitri Shteinberg**, piano
**Dudley Recital Hall**

**Thursday, January 22, 7:30 pm**
**Guest Recital**
**Dmitri Shteinberg**, piano
Works by Bach, Mozart, Chopin, Ravel
**Dudley Recital Hall**

**Friday, January 23, 8 pm / Sunday, January 25, 2:30 pm**
**CONCERT CHORALE with the HOUSTON SYMPHONY**
Mozart: Abduction from the Seraglio (concert version)
**Jones Hall for the Performing Arts**
615 Louisiana St., Houston
Info: 713-224-7575

**MOORES OPERA CENTER**
**Buck Ross**, producer/director
**Raymond Harvey**, music director
**Thursday, January 29, 7:30 pm / Saturday, January 31, 7:30 pm**
**Sunday, February 1, 7:30 pm / Monday, February 2, 7:30 pm**
**The Elixir of Love** by Gaetano Donizetti
A shy young man wins the girl of his dreams, with a little help from a bottle. If only it were that easy in real life! Our production of this charming comedy is set in rural Texas in the 1930’s. The opera was a favorite of both Pavarotti and Caruso and we’re sure it will become yours as well. Sung in the original Italian with English surtitles.

**Friday, January 30, 7:30 pm / Sunday, February 1, 2 pm**
**Frau Margot** by Thomas Pasatieri
Film noir meets opera. Atmospheric and enigmatic, Frau Margot is the opera that Hitchcock would have wanted to direct. In Amsterdam of 1938, the widow of a famous composer is reluctant to allow another composer to complete her late husband’s unfinished opera until she has conducted a séance to ask his permission. Trust no one. American composer Thomas Pasatieri returns to opera after scoring many Hollywood films. Frau Margot is “a score of a voluptuous splendor that suggests Klimt’s gilded paintings set to music... it has all the markings of a masterpiece.” (Wes Blomster, operatoday.com) Sung in the original English with English surtitles.
Upcoming Events
(continued)

Monday, February 2, 7 pm
A Cappella Concert
ACABELLAS, ARDORE, FLOREAT, MEN OF MOORES, RHAPSODY
A.D. Bruce Religion Center
University of Houston, Main Campus
Info: 713-743-5050

32nd ANNUAL
INTERNATIONAL PIANO FESTIVAL
February 6 - 8

Friday, February 6, 7:30 pm
Abbey Simon Recital
Works by Beethoven, Brahms, Chopin

Saturday, February 7
9 am
Roberto Plano Guest Master Class
Dudley Recital Hall

12:30 pm
Artist Conversations Luncheon
MSM Room 108
Includes box lunch. Advanced reservation recommended.

2 pm
Abbey Simon Master Class
Dudley Recital Hall

7:30 pm
Robert McDonald Guest Recital
Works by Bach, Mendelssohn, Beethoven, Brahms

Sunday, February 8
11:30 am
Robert McDonald Guest Master Class
Dudley Recital Hall

3 pm
Roberto Plano Guest Recital
Works by Debussy, Scriabin, Say, Liszt

Info: www.uh.edu/pianofestival

Monday, February 16, 7:30 pm
AURA CONTEMPORARY ENSEMBLE
Rob Smith, director
Michelle Perrin Blair, assistant director
Dan Gelok, alto saxophone
Ning Gelok, violin
Vantage Point: Works by Buller, Chambers, Connesson, Hodge, Gannon, Reich

Tuesday, February 17, 7:30 pm
Lawrence Wheeler, viola
Tali Morgulis, piano
Works by Britten, Mozart, Pigovat
Dudley Recital Hall

Friday, February 20, 7:30 pm
WIND ENSEMBLE
David Bertman, director

Sunday, February 22, 4 pm
CONCERT CHORALE
Betsy Cook Weber, conductor
Songs of Lent: Works by Allegri, Pärt, Esenvalds
St. Thomas Episcopal Church
4900 Jackwood St, Houston, TX
Info: 713-666-3111

Deadline for Upscale Weekly Submissions
Wednesday at 5 pm

UPSCALE WEEKLY

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