

► performance/classical music, dance, comedy



BLAINE COVERT

"La Boutique Fantasque"

In a vivid story ballet, toys spring to life and impart a sense of magic and wonder through stylized dances. But for once, this isn't "The Nutcracker." Pacific Artists Ballet Theatre, a pre-professional training company in Southwest Portland, distinguishes itself at holiday time with "La Boutique Fantasque." Translated as "The Enchanted Toyshop" (alternatively, "The Magic Toyshop" or "The Fantastic Toyshop"), the ballet was created by Léonide Massine in 1919, with music orchestrated by Ottorino Respighi from a set of piano miniatures by Gioachino Rossini. The toys – Cossack soldiers, poodles, can-can girls – entertain a pair of children accidentally left behind in a French shop, then cast their spell to the benefit of the shopkeeper's wife as well. John Clifford, former artistic director of Los Angeles Ballet, has updated the piece to showcase Pacific's youthful corps and the company has moved the production downtown for the first time, confident that it can both attract and reward a broader audience. 7:30 p.m. Friday, 2 and 7:30 p.m. Saturday, 1 and 4 p.m. Sunday, Lincoln Hall, 1620 S.W. Park Ave.; \$10-\$18; www.ticketmaster.com, 503-790-2787 or the PSU Ticket Office, 503-725-3307.

— Marty Hughley

recommended

"Music for Christmas": Limited tickets left for Portland Baroque Orchestra's performance of Part 1 of Handel's "Messiah" as well as Christmas music by Locatelli, Titov and Bortnyansky. 7:30 p.m. Fri, Dec. 21. First Baptist Church, 909 S.W. 11th Ave.; \$18-\$48; www.pbo.org or 503-222-6000

South Waterfront Artist in Residence Program: See story. 4 p.m. Sat, Dec. 22. Atwater Tower, South Waterfront neighborhood; free; www.southwaterfront.com or 971-998-4810

Handel's "Messiah" Portland Baroque Orchestra: Sold out. 7:30 p.m. Sat, Dec. 22; 5 p.m. Sun, Dec. 23. First Baptist Church, 909 S.W. 11th Ave.; \$18-\$48; www.pbo.org or 503-222-6000

music director Mei-Ann Chen directs Chabrier's "España, Rhapsody for Orchestra" and Falla's "El Sombrero de Tres Picos," Suite No. 2, as well as the Alumni Orchestra in Rimsky-Korsakov's "Scheherazade" with Ellen Cockerham, a former PYP concertmaster, as soloist. 7:30 p.m. Wed, Dec. 26. Arlene Schnitzer Concert Hall, 1037 S.W. Broadway; \$11-\$32; Ticketmaster, 503-224-4400; www.portlandyouthphil.org or 503-223-5939

also playing

Michael Allen Harrison: Julianne Johnson and Patrick Lamb join the popular Portland pianist in celebration of his new release, "Enchanted Christmas Vol. 3." 7 p.m. Dec. 21, 5 p.m. and 8 p.m. Dec. 22 and 23, and 2 p.m., 5 p.m. and 8 p.m. Dec. 24. The Old Church, 1422

"Christmas Oratorio": Ralph Nelson's 50-voice Bach Cantata Choir sings three of six cantatas that make up J.S. Bach's splendid choral work, accompanied by a chamber orchestra. 7:30 p.m. Fri, Dec. 21. Rose City Park Presbyterian Church, 1907 N.E. 45th Ave.; \$15-\$20; TicketsWest, 503-224-8499; www.bachcantatachoir.org or 503-282-0965

Pacific Artists Ballet Theatre: The youth ballet company presents "La Boutique Fantasque" ("The Enchanted Toyshop") 7:30 p.m. Fri, Dec. 21; 2 p.m. Sat, Dec. 22; 1 p.m. Sun, Dec. 23. Lincoln Performance Hall, Portland State University, 1620 S.W. Park Ave; \$10-\$18; Ticketmaster, 503-224-4400; www.ticketmaster.com or 503-725-3307

African Children's Choir: A choir of children from throughout Africa

Church, 181
Aloha; free
503-649-31

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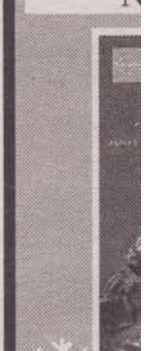
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