

Music and movie magic

Watch the acclaimed film 'La La Land' in front of a live symphony orchestra

By Leslie Renken
of the Journal Star

The stage will be full when the Peoria Symphony Orchestra presents "La La Land in Concert" on Oct. 21.

An orchestra with 60 musicians and a full jazz band are needed to provide the award-winning score for the acclaimed movie, which will be shown on a giant screen above the stage.

"People who come to these concerts say they really enjoy it because they get to see the music actually happen while watching the film," said PSO music director George Stelluto, who has directed the production at several venues over the

summer. "Often, when you watch a movie you forget that there are people making the music. To have the musicians right there playing the music along with the movie is a really cool interaction."

Set in modern day Los Angeles, "La La Land" is about two aspiring performers who meet and fall in love while pursuing their dreams. The movie won seven Golden Globe Awards, and six Academy Awards, including Best Original Score and Best Original Song.

It will be the first time the symphony has done this type of event. In two rehearsals, musicians will learn how to follow a click track, a synchronization tool commonly used when music is being recorded

for a commercial or film. Musicians wear earpieces to hear the track while also getting cues from Stelluto.

"I have to time the flow," he said. "The click track is a reinforcement of what's going on. It's a new thing for our symphony. It's a challenge to do this with 60 musicians at the same time. But I'm sure many of our musicians have done work in the studio with a click track at one time or another."

Though the music will be the same score used in the movie, playing it live allows for moments of improvisation, said Stelluto.

SEE SYMPHONY, D6

If you go

What: Peoria Symphony Orchestra presents "La La Land in Concert."

When: 7:30 p.m. Saturday. Pre-concert party at 6:30 p.m.

Where: Peoria Civic Center Theater, 201 SW Jefferson Ave.

Tickets: Start at \$35, \$20 for students, and are available by calling 671-1096, by visiting the PSO box office at 101 State St. or online at www.peoriasymphony.org.



SUPPLIED PHOTO

Emma Stone and Ryan Gosling star in the award winning movie "La La Land." The film will be shown during a performance by the Peoria Symphony Orchestra on Saturday, Oct. 21.

International guitarist giving free concert Saturday at Bradley

PEORIA — International guitarist Ana Vidovic will perform at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 21, at the Dingeldine Music Center, 1417 W. Barker Ave.

The free concert is sponsored by the Bradley Department of Music and funded by the Arthur Heidrich Series Endowment.

Vidovic comes from the small town of Karlavac, near Zagreb, Croatia. Her guitar studies began at age 5. She gave her first public performance at age 7 and by 11 she was performing internationally. She became the youngest student, 13 years old, to attend the prestigious National Musical Academy in Zagreb, where she studied with Professor Istvan Romer.

She has won many awards and international competitions. Her reputation in Europe led to an invitation by the renowned guitarist Manuel Barrueco to study at the prestigious Peabody Conservatory in Baltimore.



SUPPLIED PHOTO

Guitarist Ana Vidovic will perform at 7:30 p.m. Oct. 21 at the Dingeldine Music Center.

SEE GUITAR, D6

'Little Women' taking center stage at Bradley

PEORIA — Bradley University Theatre opens its 2017-2018 main stage season Oct. 19 with the acclaimed Broadway musical, "Little Women," based on novelist Louisa May Alcott's classic 19th-century novel.

Cherished by generations of readers since its publication in 1868, Alcott's story centers around the four March sisters, Meg, Amy, Beth and the fiery Jo, the writer who chronicles their coming-of-age in Civil War-era New England. Performances are Oct. 19-29 at the Hartmann Center for the Performing Arts.

Set in both New York City and the small town of Concord, Mass., "Little Women" alternates scenes from the March girls' lives with hilarious vignettes from Jo's blood-and-guts tales, dramatizations of author Alcott's earliest written works.

The musical draws on two volumes of the "Little Women" trilogy to evoke

If you go

What: "Little Women," a musical presented by Bradley University Theatre Arts.

Where: Hartmann Center for the Performing Arts, 1423 St. James St.

When: Oct. 19-29, Thursday through Saturday performances at 7:30 p.m. and Sundays at 2 p.m.

Tickets: \$5/students, \$18/adults, \$12/faculty, staff and seniors. To order tickets, call the Cultural Events Box Office at 677-2650.

its themes of family solidarity, individual responsibility and the conviction that young American women, even within constructs of the time, could create lives and works of authenticity, empowerment and distinction.

Staging the production and making his BU main stage directorial debut is guest artist Chad Bradford.

SEE WOMEN, D6



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