

ASTORIA MUSIC FESTIVAL

NEWS

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For Immediate Release
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Three Free Concerts and Film Introduce *Wozzeck*

The Astoria Music Festival announces three events intended to introduce audiences to its 2010 Festival Opera, the Pacific Northwest Premiere of Alban Berg's *Wozzeck*. The free events will focus on early Twentieth Century Viennese musical and cultural movements that contributed to the creation of *Wozzeck*, including *music of Mahler*. The series will be hosted by Artistic Director Keith Clark, a musician long associated with Viennese repertoire. A former student at the Vienna Music Academy and long-time resident of the city (where he lived in the home of Hermine Webern, daughter-in-law of the composer Anton Webern), he led concerts in the Vienna Schoenberg Centennial Festival, directed the complete works of Webern during the composer's centenary, and introduced Pacific Symphony audiences to Schoenberg's *Die Gurrelieder*, *Pelleas und Melisande*, and other works of the Second Viennese School.

Wednesday, February 10, 2010 at 7:30 P.M.

Clatsop Community College Performing Arts Center

VIENNA'S SACRED SPRING: A CITY OF DREAMS

The Music of Mahler and Schoenberg and *Pierrot Lunaire*

Artistic Director Keith Clark hosts a multi-media introduction to the cultural life of early 20th Century Vienna, the creative hothouse of Freud, Mahler, Gustav Klimt, Arnold Schoenberg and this summer's featured opera: Alban Berg's *Wozzeck*. The evening includes visual examples of the Expressionistic art of Egon Schiele and Oskar Kokoschka and *Jugendstil* style of Gustav Klimt as well as the music of Gustav Mahler and Berg's teacher Arnold Schoenberg.

The program includes a rare performance of Schoenberg's *Pierrot Lunaire*, a revolutionary work for singing actress and chamber ensemble, filled with Freudian

dreams and nightmares. Originally conceived as a Berlin cabaret act, *Pierrot Lunaire* tells of the sad clown Pierrot and his love for Columbine, in a unique “Song-Speech” vocal style later used by Schoenberg’s student Alban Berg in his opera *Wozzeck*.

Pierrot Lunaire will be performed by The Bergamo Ensemble, a virtuoso chamber ensemble formed at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music, featuring Portland native Amy Foot, soprano. The work will be performed in German with English super titles.

The evening concludes with post-concert Viennese pastry, coffee and discussion.

Friday, April 16, 2010 at 7:30 P.M.

Clatsop Community College Performing Arts Center

WOYZECK = WOZZECK

The Story, The Play, The Operas, The Film

Alban Berg’s opera *Wozzeck* is based on 1836 play *Woyzeck* by Georg Büchner, recognized as the first truly modern work for theater. Büchner’s play is based on the actual events surrounding the trial and public execution of Johann Christian Woyzeck. The trial was history’s first example of a defense based on insanity, and the accompanying medical investigation contributed to several of the drama’s most grotesque scenes.

This is the surrealistic story of a poverty-stricken soldier, oppressed by his superiors, experimented upon by a Frankenstein-esque mad doctor, betrayed by his common law wife, mocked by her seducer, and driven to madness and murder. *The only thing missing is Jerry Springer!*

Büchner’s play inspired two operas, simultaneously created by two composers unaware of each other’s efforts: *Wozzeck* by the German composer Manfred Gurlitt and *Wozzeck* by the Viennese composer Alban Berg. Despite its high quality, Gurlitt’s opera was quickly forgotten. Berg’s opera was an immediate sensation and is

recognized as one of music history's true masterpieces. The evening's program will include musical examples from both operas.

The evening will conclude with a showing of Werner Herzog's 1979 film *Woyzeck*, a hallmark of German New Wave Cinema. Free popcorn!

Sunday, May 2 at 3:00 P.M.
The Liberty Theater, Astoria
2010 FESTIVAL PREVIEW
Volunteer Appreciation Day

The Astoria Music Festival and Liberty Theater invite the community to a Musical Open House, previewing the 2010 Astoria Music Festival and honoring the many volunteers who make it all possible!

Hosted by Artistic Director KEITH CLARK, the matinee performance will include solos and chamber Music By The ASTORIA MUSIC FESTIVAL CHAMBER PLAYERS, CARY LEWIS, PIANIST AND DIRECTOR.

ASTORIA FESTIVAL ARTISTS will perform excerpts from the 2010 repertoire, including scenes from Grieg's *Peer Gynt* and Alban Berg's *Wozzeck*.

Astoria's NORTH COAST CHORALE, DENISE REED-HINES, CONDUCTOR, will perform excerpts from their upcoming production of Mendelssohn's *Elijah*, featuring baritone DEAC GUIDI, a regular member of the Astoria Festival ensemble.

THE LITTLE BALLET THEATRE of the Maddox Dance Studio, JEANNE MADDOX PETERSON, DIRECTOR, will be featured in this summer's productions of *Wozzeck* and *Peer Gynt*. Members of the company will perform dances from their repertoire, ranging from ballet to tap dancing.

The concert concludes with a reception for performers, volunteers and audience in the McTavish Room of the Liberty Theater.