

Hot gypsy jazz band swings Shuler Theater audience

By Tim Keller
The Chronicle-News

RATON — Bill Fegan said it best. Since landing at the Shuler Theater in 1963, he's seen countless hundreds of quality performances. As smiling audience members milled by in the aisles after the John Jorgenson Quintet's standing ovation and encore Sunday night, Fegan simply nodded toward the stage and said, "They're a cut above."

He got that right. Jorgenson and his bandmates brought their exhilarating gypsy jazz to the Shuler Theater in the second show of this season's Raton Arts & Humanities Council performing arts series, with funding underwritten by the Whited Foundation. The Sunday night show was the band's 11th consecutive one-nighter on a November-long tour that began in Wisconsin and wound through several states on its blitz toward Raton.

The musicians were all business through the opening pair of songs, not addressing the audience and looking like the road might have taken a toll.

That stage of the two-set concert ended quickly though as Jorgenson began sharing commentaries on the music and the players got past their warm up. The smiles which emerged on



Tim Keller/Special to The Chronicle-News

Bandleader John Jorgenson wowed the Shuler Theater audience with his guitar skills and musicality this past Sunday night.

the faces of virtuoso guitarist Jorgenson and his partner-in-crime violinist Jason Anick signaled the shift. The fun had begun.

Jorgenson's resume touts a long history at the top of the music industry, playing styles from country to rock to pop to classical.

He co-founded two famed bands — the Desert Rose Band and The Hellecasters — before spending six years recording and touring the world with Elton John. The A-list session player has accompanied Barbra Streisand, Bonnie Raitt, Billy Joel, Sting, Luciano

Pavarotti, and countless others.

But ever since he discovered the hot Paris jazz of guitarist Django Reinhardt and violinist Stephane Grappelli, that style of "gypsy jazz" has been his true love. By the time he and his mates reached their

third tune Sunday night, no one in the audience wanted to hear anything else, either.

Jorgenson has surrounded himself with musicians of his own caliber, and none has been with him for less than four years. Californian Doug Martin provided a

steady strumming rhythm on a guitar identical to Jorgenson's nylon-string instrument. Lanky Simon Planting matched his upright bass with percussionist Rick Reed, who played just a snare drum, high-hat, and small cymbal plus some hand percussion.

If Jorgenson's own musicality and instrumental talent were not so immense, violinist Anick would have stolen the show. Just 26-years-old, he was the youngest in the band by far; his joy in the music showed on his face and in his swinging movements. When he and Jorgenson traded hot licks in the show's fifth song, Mediterranean Blues, it was clear that the band had hit its stride.

Jorgenson's not worried about being upstaged. There's nothing flashy about his performance: he just sits on a plain chair atop a short riser at center stage and plays his guitar. But that's plenty. One didn't have to be a guitar player to be amazed at his prowess. More important was his musicality. Achieving blazing speed is an empty accomplishment if it's not accompanied by musicality. Or, as Duke Ellington wrote, "it don't mean a thing if it ain't got that swing."

Sunday night's concert meant something, and boy did it ever swing.

Salvation Army, Safeway to help needy this holiday

By Mike Albanese
The Chronicle-News

With the holiday season approaching, Safeway and the Trinidad Salvation Army are doing their part to ensure everyone is able to have food on the table Christmas morning.

Safeway's "Help Us End Hunger" movement will donate food to the Trinidad Salvation Army, which will distribute the food to community members for their holiday meals.

Residents can come to the Salvation Army food bank to pick up food.

Safeway manager Steve Forbes said the event started last week and will run through Dec. 24, Christmas Eve.

The food donated will be put to good use, as the Salvation Army food bank in Trinidad is one of the most frequently visited food banks in Trinidad.

"We've filled up 23 bags already," center coordinator for the Trinidad Salvation Army Bernadette Davis said. "Our food bank, is the most



Mike Albanese/The Chronicle-News

Safeway management, from left, Kurt Swanson, Dean Little, Steve Forbes, Shirley Barlea and Trinidad Salvation Army coordinator Bernadette Davis are joining forces to help make the holidays brighter for needy local families by donating food to the Salvation Army for families during the holiday season.

active food bank in Trinidad."

The process of donating food is simple and can be done quickly.

Customers purchase a pre-packaged bag of groceries for \$10. After the purchase, the customer places the bag in the Salvation Army bins at the store and then the bags are taken to the local food banks.

The bags are filled with a variety of different non-perishable goods. Some of the goods include pasta, rice, cookies and other items that can be used during the holiday season.

son.

Davis said at the shelter, members of the community could come in whenever they'd like and select from any of the goods that have been donated.

This is the third year for this program.

Forbes said the 23 bags already purchased are already one-third of the number sold all of last year.

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Couple should discuss feelings before having sex

DEAR ABBY: I'm a freshman in college and have the sweetest boyfriend in the world. We've always been close and trusted each other, never pushing the other too far. I always thought it was innocent and safe.

Last weekend, though, things got a little heavy between us. We stopped before anything happened, but I felt dirty afterward. As I thought about it, I realized that, to me, it had seemed OK that our relationship was starting to take a more intimate turn.

Is it wrong for me to think this way? I don't know how to bring up the "sex talk" with him without seeming desperate or like I'm rushing things. What should I do? -- NEEDS TO KNOW IN VIRGINIA

DEAR NEEDS TO KNOW: You and your boyfriend are normal, healthy young adults. If this is the first time you and a young man have gotten "a little heavy," then it's not surprising that you felt conflicted, depending upon how you were raised to think about premarital relations. However, because you have now progressed to the point of physical intimacy, it is important that you and your boyfriend talk about last weekend and what may happen in the future. Share your feelings and ask how HE feels about what happened and what he would like to happen going forward. That's not desperate or rushing things -- that is communication. True intimacy involves the mutual sharing of thoughts and feelings in a relationship.

DEAR ABBY: A few weeks ago, my wife returned from a business meeting out of town. After unpacking, she took a bath. I happened into the bathroom just as she finished drying off. When she saw me, she grabbed a towel and held it over her shoulder

and breast, but not before I spotted a hickey and bruise on her chest.

When I asked her about the hickey, she said she had no idea what had caused it. After that, she refused to discuss the matter. The hickey faded and disappeared after two or three weeks.

Yesterday she agreed to take a polygraph test, but how do we go about arranging one? Your thoughts? -- TROUBLED HUSBAND IN TEXAS

DEAR TROUBLED HUSBAND: If your marriage is on such thin ice that you need a lie detector test to determine if your wife is telling the truth, you may need the services of a family law specialist.

You asked my opinion, and here it is: From my perspective, you and your wife could benefit more from some truth sessions with a marriage counselor than with a polygraph examiner. However, one way to find a polygraph examiner would be to Google "polygraph examiners in Texas." Another would be to consult an attorney about a referral.

And now, Dear Readers, allow me to again share the traditional Thanksgiving Prayer that was penned by my dear mother, Pauline Phillips. No Thanksgiving would be complete for me without it:

Oh, Heavenly Father,
We thank Thee for food
and remember the hungry.
We thank Thee for health
and remember the sick.

We thank Thee for freedom
and remember the enslaved.

May these remembrances stir us to service,
That Thy gifts to us may be used for others. Amen.

Have a safe and happy Thanksgiving, everyone! -- Love, ABBY

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Many scaling back as Thanksgiving prices rise

By David Klepper
and Nomaan Merchant
Associated Press

Some are holding potluck dinners instead of springing for the entire feast. Others are staying home rather than flying. And a few are skipping the turkey altogether.

On this the fourth Thanksgiving since the economy sank, prices for everything from airline flights to groceries are going up, and some Americans are scaling back. Yet in many households, the occasion is too important to skimp on. Said one mother: "I don't have much to give, but I'll be cooking, and the door will be open."

Thanksgiving airfares are up 20 percent this year, and the average price of a gallon of gas has risen almost 20 percent, according to travel tracker AAA. Rail travelers were also affected, with fares on most one-way Amtrak tickets up 2 to 5 percent.

Still, about 42.5 million people are expected to travel, the highest number since the start of the recession.

But even those who choose to stay home and cook for themselves will probably spend more. A 16-pound turkey and all the trimmings will cost an average of \$49.20, a 13 percent jump from last year, or about \$5.73 more, according to the American Farm



Associated Press

Turkeys are shown on sale at Pixley's Shurfine grocery store in Akron, N.Y., Tuesday.

Bureau Federation, which says grocers have raised prices to keep pace with higher-priced commodities.

In Pawtucket, R.I., Jackie Galinis was among those looking for help to put a proper meal on the table. She stopped at a community center this week seeking a donated food basket. But by the time she arrived, all 300 turkeys had been claimed.

So Galinis, an unemployed retail worker, will make do with what's in her apartment. "We'll have to eat whatever I've got, so I'm thinking chicken," she said.

Then her eyes lit up. "Actually, I

think I've got red meat in the freezer, some corned beef. We could do a boiled dinner."

Galinis has another reason to clear out her apartment's freezer: Her landlord is in the process of evicting her and her 3-year-old son. The unemployment rate in Pawtucket, a city struggling with the loss of manufacturing jobs, is 12.1 percent, well above the national average.

Carole Goldsmith of Fresno, Calif., decided she didn't need to have a feast, even if she could still afford it.

Goldsmith, an administrator at a community college in Coalinga, Calif., said she typically hosts an "over-the-top meal" for friends and family. This year, she canceled the meal and donated a dozen turkeys to two homeless shelters. She plans to spend Thursday volunteering before holding a small celebration Friday with soup, bread "and lots of gratitude."

"I think everybody is OK with it," she said. "They understand. Everybody is in a different place than they were a year ago."

In suburban Chicago, the Oak Park River Forest Food Pantry got rid of turkey altogether. Last year, the pantry had a lottery in October to distribute 600 turkeys between almost 1,500 families.



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