

Aussie leaves 'em rolling in aisles

Reviewed by
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A larger than average audience received a good dose of medicine, laughter-style, when Australian pianist-humorist David Scheel performed at the GFSS auditorium last Thursday evening. From his opening variations on "Scotland the Not so Brave", to his closing with "20 tunes you love to Hate" Scheel kept the audience laughing.

Scheel's technical and artistic ability as a pianist was obvious throughout the evening as he performed classics, and not-so-classics, with comedic interpretations and variations, utilizing the styles of composers from Mozart, to Bach, and Andrew Lloyd Webber, and performers such as Victor Borge.

His comedy routines varied, and included a commentary on various bad pianos that he has played, such as an upright that was delivered just before a performance and as he placed his hands on the keys for the opening number he found there were no strings inside. And for those of us who never really quite understood the lyrics of Australia's most popular song, "Waltzing Matilda", Scheel offered a real translation.

It was audience participation that capped Scheel's comedy and performance skills, as he invited four members to call out a note, and from those four notes he masterfully created an instant composition of music.

This was followed by "In the Fall", a whimsical piece written after a similar presentation on his last tour of B.C. After a concert in Vancouver, he drove north and was so inspired by the beauty around him that he pulled off the highway and wrote the piece, using the four notes as a theme.

He also played several more of his own compositions, including "Pas de Deux", a melodic, soft and graceful piece that reflects the dance and flight of birds.

All in all, a wonderfully entertaining evening, and a perfect balance of pure fun and beautiful music.