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SECTION C

ARTS

SATURDAY, APRIL 22, 2006

TELEVISION - C6  
Marcia Gay Harden  
lights up the tube  
in a family drama



# Marking Mozart's genius



The Nesrallah-Bolshoy Duo, featuring guitarist Daniel Bolshoy and mezzo-soprano Julie Nesrallah, will perform in a total of four concerts on May 2 and 3 at the Guelph Spring Festival. They are the 2006 festival's resident artists.

BY JOANNE SHUTTLEWORTH  
The Guelph Spring Festival, now in its 38th year, is getting set for next Thursday night's opening performance at the River Run Centre.

Pianist Sara Buechner will perform a concert that in part reflects the 2006 festival's theme, The Magic of Mozart.

"The biggest thing will be Mozart as we celebrate the 250th anniversary of his birth," festival manager John Booth said in a recent interview as he described this year's festival lineup.

"Mozart ranks among the top 10 composers of all time. This festival is all about the genius of the guy."

Buechner, an assistant professor of piano and chamber music at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver, will play a program of works by Mozart, Friml and Gershwin.

The festival is a showcase for classical music in Guelph and has drawn ever-increasing crowds as the organizing committee has narrowed the focus of the event. As well as concerts, there is a musical competition — this year it's for vocalists.

The festival's resident artists for 2006 are guitarist Daniel Bolshoy and mezzo-soprano Julie Nesrallah, who together make up the Nesrallah-Bolshoy Duo.

In recent months the festival suffered two major blows.

Fraser Hale, board chair and head of fundraising, died suddenly last November and Murdo MacKinnon, one of the festival's founders, suffered a heart attack, forcing him to withdraw as an organizer. Because of those losses, this year's festival will be shorter. It will run from April 27 to May 7, rather than over two full weeks as has been the tradition.

"We'll maintain the same quality, but over a shorter time span," Booth said.

One festival highlight is expected to be the 8 p.m. tribute concert to Hale next Saturday.

Among other highlights:

- A multi-artist performance of Mozart's Coronation Mass featuring the Kitchener-Waterloo Symphony.
- The Guelph Chamber Choir and soloists.



Fraser Hale



- A piano duet by Anya Alexeyev and Leslie De'Ath.
- Five Dances for piano duet composed especially for Hale by Barrie Cabena, the festival's artistic director.
- Readings from Mozart's letters and diaries.

• The Guelph Mercury



PHOTO BY PETER SCHAAF

Pianist Sara Buechner will perform works by Mozart, Friml and Gershwin at the River Run Centre next Thursday on the opening night of the 2006 Guelph Spring Festival.

GUELPH SPRING FESTIVAL

Thursday, April 27, 8 p.m.

Sara Buechner, piano; River Run Centre  
Friday, April 28, 8 p.m.  
K-W Symphony, 60th Anniversary Celebration  
Concert; Centre in the Square, Kitchener

Saturday, April 29, 3 p.m.

Tea with Mozart; Guelph Youth Music Centre  
Saturday, April 29, 8 p.m.  
The Magic of Mozart — Fraser Hale Tribute Concert;  
River Run Centre

Sunday, April 30, 3 p.m.

Larry Larson, trumpet; Frederick Mooney, organ; St. George's Church  
Sunday, April 30, 8 p.m.  
Brassroots (Directed by Bramwell Gregson); Royal City Church (Chalmers)

Monday, May 1, 12:10 p.m.

Richelle Krusselbrink, piano, Royal City Church (Chalmers)

Tuesday, May 2, 12:10 p.m.

Barrie Cabena, organ; St. George's Church  
Tuesday, May 2, 1:15 p.m.  
Nesrallah/Bolshoy Duo; River Run Centre

Tuesday, May 2, 8 p.m.

Nesrallah/Bolshoy Duo; St. John's-Kilmarnock School Chapel, 2201 Shantz Station Rd., Breslau

Wednesday, May 3, 9:30 a.m.

Nesrallah/Bolshoy Duo; River Run Centre  
Wednesday, May 3, 1:15 p.m.  
Nesrallah/Bolshoy Duo; River Run Centre

Wednesday, May 3, 3-7 p.m. and Thursday, May 4, 12 noon to 9:15 p.m.

Voice competition; Guelph Youth Music Centre  
Thursday, May 4, 12:10 p.m.  
Todd Yaniv, piano; Royal City Church (Chalmers)

Friday, May 5, 12:10 p.m.

Mary-Kathryn Stevens, viola; Royal City Church (Chalmers)

Saturday, May 6, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Passport to Music; Stone Road Mall  
Saturday, May 6, 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. workshop, 4:30 performance  
Choral Workshop and Performance; St. George's Church

Saturday, May 6, 8 p.m.

Trio Hochelaga; Harcourt Church  
Sunday, May 7, 3 p.m.

Amadeus in the Afternoon (All Mozart); War Memorial Hall, University of Guelph  
Sunday, May 7, 8 p.m.  
Wolfgang's Wonderful Winds (All Mozart); War Memorial Hall, University of Guelph

Tickets \$25 to \$35; 1-519-763-3000

For more information:  
[www.guelphspringfestival.org](http://www.guelphspringfestival.org)



Brassroots will perform April 30 at the Guelph Spring Festival.

# Not your warm, fuzzy love story

BY LIANNE ELLIOTT  
RECORD STAFF

KITCHENER

A customer at the Kitchener pottery studio was sure something was amiss in the business next door.

She could hear a man and a woman screaming at each other. It sounded like World War Three was about to break out and she wondered if she should call the police.

The employees at S & S Pottery Supplies in the Globe Studios building on Whitney Place had to reassure the

woman that what she was hearing wasn't a terrible domestic dispute, but a rehearsal for the upcoming play *The Anger in Ernest & Ernestine*.

The Lost & Found Theatre group has been working through the comedy about love and marriage in the empty studio next door.

The play opens Thursday at the Registry Theatre in Kitchener.

"She really thought something terrible was happening across the hall," actor Michael Peng says, recounting the tale he heard from employees at the S & S Pottery.

"She was worried. She said, 'Shouldn't we call someone?'" It's understandable that the woman had concerns. The play can get heated.

It's a two-person comedy that follows a pair of young newlyweds, Ernest and Ernestine, as they cope with the realities of marriage.

In the beginning, they're blissfully in love, talking of nothing but Romeo and Juliet and leaping through flowery fields into each other's arms.

But put these two star-crossed lovers in a cramped basement apartment and soon they're fighting over whether the Kleenex box should go on the kitchen table or the shelf or whether his sweater deserves to hang on the coat rack, since it really isn't a coat at all.



Andrea Tutt and Michael Peng will star in the Lost & Found Theatre production of *The Anger in Ernest & Ernestine*, which will run Apr. 27 to May 6 at The Registry Theatre in Kitchener.

"I can't find my hammer because you hid it' becomes 'Why do you hate me?'" director Andrew Lakin says.

"The play is tragically comic and comically tragic. You want the warm, fuzzy thing, but life is not like that."

The play stars Peng as Ernest and Andrea Tutt as Ernestine.

Peng, a founding member of Lost & Found, has been involved in numerous productions — he directed *Vigil* and starred in *Cotton Patch Gospel*.

Tutt got rave reviews when she starred in Theatre & Company's production of *Girl in a Goldfish Bowl*.

In Ernest and Ernestine, a play cre-

ated 11 years ago by Toronto's Theatre Columbus, Peng and Tutt have to embrace a clown tradition.

It's not that they must act like circus clowns, with red noses and giant shoes, but the script demands that they act with lots of expression and big motions.

There's also an honesty to the clown tradition. The characters will say things out loud that most people would not dare.

"They say whatever they feel, the good and the bad," Tutt says. "Ernestine will say, 'I love you because you make me want to blush and I don't know why.'"

"We might not say that, but it's really a beautiful thing to say."

Both she, Peng and Lakin say they were instantly drawn to this script. They love the humour, the characters, the play's different approach, but also the fact that so many people can relate to this story.

"All three of us are married," Lakin says. "You watch the play and you think, 'Oh yes, I've had this discussion before.'"

"This play is dark, twisted and hilarious, but it's also excruciatingly honest. I think people will recognize themselves in it. We've all had moments like this."

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