

VENTURA COUNTY STAR



Clouds, some sun
High of 68 at
the coast, 67
inland. B8

Tuesday, Nov. 4, 2008

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Symphony, ballet company to perform Beethoven piece

Posted by Tina Vervoorn

Established as one of the pre-eminent orchestras in Southern California, the New West Symphony invites Ventura County Ballet Company to perform on stage with 80-piece orchestra in Thousand Oaks, Oxnard and Santa Monica.

"As a tribute to visual and performing arts in our Masterpiece Series, the New West Symphony will integrate ballet movement with a full 80-piece orchestra and all-original choreography by Lorin Johnson under the artistic direction of Colleen O'Callaghan for scenes from Beethoven's 'Creatures of Prometheus,'" said Nelson Dodge, executive director of the New West Symphony.

"It is rare for a ballet company to perform on stage with a full orchestra, but the New West Symphony is doing just that - inviting guest principle dancers and dancers from the Ventura County Ballet Company to collaborate with us and to create a complete visual experience for our audiences," he said.

Dodge explains the collaboration between the New West Symphony and other performing and visual arts organizations was sparked by its found-

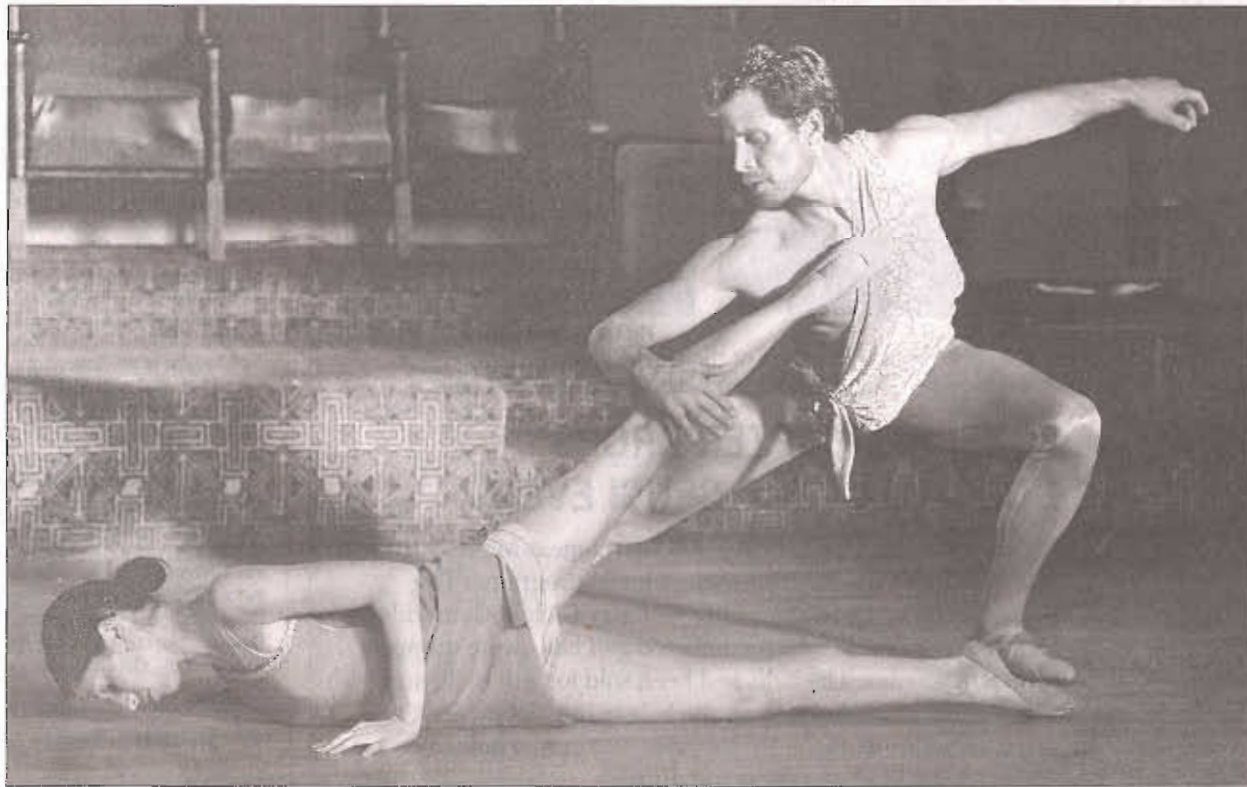


Photo by John Arnold

Principle dancers of Ventura County Ballet Company Leila Drake as Pandora and Spencer Gavin as Prometheus, rehearse a ballet scene from Beethoven's "Creatures of Prometheus," which will be performed with the New West Symphony in Oxnard on November 7; Thousand Oaks on November 8; and Santa Monica on November 9.

"We forged ahead to pursue a theme for the entire season that made reference to other art

forms, such as visual and performing arts."

Audiences also will hear fa-

vorite works including Edvard Grieg's Suite No. 1 from "Peer Gynt," Opus 46 and Modest

Mussorgsky's "Pictures at an Exhibition" during the performances.

Performances:

November 7, 2008, 8 pm -- Oxnard Performing Arts Center

November 8, 2008, 8 pm -- Countrywide Performing Arts Center at the Thousand Oaks Civic Arts Plaza

November 9, 2008, 4 pm -- Barnum Hall on the Campus of Santa Monica High School

Tickets: \$25 to \$98 per person, www.newwestsymphony.org.

Led by music director Boris Brott of Hamilton, Ontario, Canada, the New West Symphony is the fourth largest regional symphony orchestra in the Los Angeles area, presenting an annual season of classical concerts at venues in Oxnard, Thousand Oaks and Santa Monica, California.

Serving Ventura and Western Los Angeles Counties, the New West Symphony provides a variety of educational programs and performances for young people. The Music Van is a traveling "petting zoo" of musical instruments that visits schools and community festivals year round. Funding for the Music Van is provided by Symphony fundraising events, foundation grants and individual donations.