



classical sound and motion

Symphony, Opera and Dance

3/2 // RALEIGH

Kenny G

Fresh off of the release of his 13th studio album, "Heart and Soul," Grammy Award-winner Kenny G joins the North Carolina Symphony to perform the music that has made him one of the premier artists in contemporary jazz. Treat yourself to a concert to remember. Meymandi Concert Hall. ncsymphony.org.

3/7-17 // CHARLOTTE

'Peter Pan'

The North Carolina Dance Theatre presents Jean-Pierre Bonnefoux's "Peter Pan." Knight Theatre. ncdance.org.

3/7-24 // RALEIGH

'Rite of Spring'

Celebrating the 100th anniversary of Russian composer Igor Stravinsky's "The Rite of Spring." Also featuring Zalman Raffael's new hip hop ballet, "A Street Symphony." Fletcher Opera Theater. carolinaballet.com.

3/23 // CHARLOTTE

Natalie Merchant

Over the past 30 years, Natalie Merchant's distinctive voice, gift for storytelling through music and unique stage presence have earned her a place among America's most respected artists. She joins the Symphony for selections from her latest album, "Leave Your Sleep," plus favorites from her solo career and days with 10,000 Maniacs. Belk Theater. charlottesymphony.org.

4/18-26 // RALEIGH

'Fancy Free'/'Carolina Jamboree'

"Fancy Free," the first ballet choreographed

by Jerome Robbins, took New York by storm and propelled Robbins into a household name and led to a life of work on Broadway, in the movies, and in ballet. Lynne Taylor-Corbett's "Carolina Jamboree" with the The Red Clay Ramblers is one of the programs that makes Carolina Ballet unique; the combination of ballet and bluegrass will have you dancing in the aisles. Raleigh Memorial Auditorium. carolinaballet.com.

4/25-27 // CHARLOTTE

Contemporary Fusion

An eclectic evening of dance brings together the works of three choreographers including the return of Jiri Bubenicek. The talented young choreographer who last worked with Dance Theatre in March 2011 returns to create a work for the company. Knight Theater. ncdance.org.

4/26-27 // CHARLOTTE

Jussen brothers

Youthful pianists, brothers Arthur and Lucas Jussen, join the Charlotte Symphony, Christopher Warren-Green conducting, for Strauss' Till Eulenspiegel's Merry Pranks, Mozart's COncert No. 10 for Two Pianos and Mendelssohn's "Italian" Symphony No. 4. Belk Theater. charlottesymphony.org.

5/3-4 // CHARLOTTE

Symphonic Cinema

Music Director Christopher Warren-Green takes over the Pops podium to lead the Orchestra through an evening of film favorites that will span the decades. The program includes selections from The Godfather, Batman, Pirates of the Caribbean, iconic



Dutch pianists, brothers Arthur and Lucas Jussen, will perform with the Charlotte Symphony in April.

Photo Credit: Press photos, Alek (alek.nl).

scores from the pen of John Williams, and more. Belk Theater. charlottesymphony.org.

5/4 // CHARLOTTE

'Once Upon a Time'

The Charlotte Symphony joins students from the North Carolina Dance Theatre for a morning performance presenting beloved fairytales, including Hans Christian Anderson's "The Ugly Duckling," "The Frog Prince" by the Brothers Grimm, the Russian folktale "The Firebird" and others. Knight Theater. charlottesymphony.org.

5/10-12 // CHARLOTTE

Beethoven's Ninth

The Oratorio Singers of Charlotte join the Charlotte Symphony for their season finale and performance of Beethoven's Symphony No. 9. Belk Theater. charlottesymphony.org.

— Show and performance descriptions and synopses courtesy various marketing materials.



drag rag

by Miss Della
qnotes contributor

The skies are reigning men and women!

Ah, yes, boys and girls, we meet again. I hope love is in the air, or something like that, as we celebrate the Valentine's Day season.

Where to begin? I wanted to mention a great night I had out last month when I went out to see a Big Girls show at Scorpio — Victoria Parker was in town and she was joined by Big Shirli bringing her sexy back and Miss Tara Storm with her drag mother Tiffany emceeing. It was good to visit with Da Pig and find out how L.A. is treating her. She tells me living there is wonderful and that doing drag is quite different. Seems everyone wants to not only be a star of the stage, but also a mainstream superstar. Doesn't surprise me. Porkchop, good luck — you can have it. Hopefully, we'll see you in a movie or on a TV show soon if that's what you heart desires.

That same evening, I met three visitors in the audience who were in town from Atlantic City for a convention and they came out to see Victoria. Joe Ballesteros from the Miss'd America pageant and a resort in Atlantic City came with two pretty famous impersonators in their own right — Jason CoZmo, who does Dolly Parton and Lucille Ball, and the legendary Liza Minelli illusionist, Phyl Craig, who often meets up with Dame Liza for high tea and chit-chat, and I, thank you. Still trying to find Joe's number so I can call and whisper sweet nothings in his ear — nothing like a hot businessman, right?

I know by the time this comes out Alyssa Edwards will have already been to Scorpio as the first visiting queen from Season 5 of "RuPaul's Drag Race," but I am so excited to see my good sister. If you saw the first episode, I know you'll agree that the look

on her face was priceless when Coco Montrese walked in the door. I'm sure you know Coco was Alyssa's first alternate at Miss America, then Coco took over duties after Alyssa was basically dethroned for business reasons. That's okay — she was still a fierce Miss U.S.ofA., which she won on her first attempt. I hope this Texas firecracker will be back in Charlotte (or nearby) again and again.

Still harping on Scorpio, I recently had the pleasure and privilege of judging the Miss Scorpio pageant and had a great evening with fellow judges Big Mama B, Kerri Nichols and Miss U.S.ofA. at Large Dorae Saunders (all three former winners) and the current Mr. Scorpio, the handsome rascal Monte St. James. The ever-exquisite and super-sweet Eden Parque Divine relinquished her crown that night and I must say, damn, her make-up, hair, and wardrobe get better every time I see her, if that's even possible. The hair she wore for her give-up number with that sick-o-ning gown was off the damn hook, baby. Eden ended up crowning that wild and crazy Valarie Rockwell who portrayed Honey Boo Boo Child for presentation and it was a holler! Valarie's runners-up included Leah Halston of Cincinatti and

Monica Lovitt from right here in the Queen City. Formers who were on-hand to perform included NC All-American Goddess Tia Douglas, Dorae Saunders, Amber Rochelle St. James and Elaine Davis.

On a national level, I can tell you I need to be in touch with my sister Mokha Montrese, the reigning Entertainer of the Year, for prelim tea, but she did recently have Miss Mid Tri-States, which Vanity won with RU Juleene DeLaRouge. I can't wait for Mokha's trip to N.C. for the prelim here in the spring! Love that queen (as if you didn't know)! Also, on the U.S.ofA. scene, Alina Malletti recently won Arizona and her RU was former Miss Continental Domanique Chappelle.

Would you believe all the rest is Continental tea? They are updating their website these days — how exciting! I'll be all over the board with it, so pay attention, okay? Ha! Winners and runners up are: TN PLUS, Karrabelle and RU India Michaels; Dreamgirl PLUS, Farrah N. Hyte; Dreamgirl Elite, Sherri Payne; NY Elite, Tyler Alexander; NJ PLUS, Cristal Skky; NJ Elite, Miss Dena Cass; KY PLUS, Tatianna DeLaRouge; Tri-State PLUS,

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