



6th edition of Cirque des Voix takes a goth turn

By Susan Rife, Herald-Tribune / Friday, March 11, 2016

Cirque des Voix, the annual collaboration between Key Chorale and the Circus Arts Conservatory that combines orchestral and choral music with contemporary circus acts, is nothing if not constantly evolving and pushing the boundaries of both circus and music.

The centerpiece of next weekend's two performances will be "Night of the Wolf" by **Nox Arcana**, orchestrated specifically for the Cirque Orchestra and being performed live for the first time.

"It's a very weird piece," said artistic director Joseph Caulkins, who also serves as ringmaster for the performances. "Nox Arcana is very popular in their own world. They kinda specialize in neoclassic, goth, mysterious music."



Joseph Caulkins conducts Key Chorale for Cirque des Voix. CLIFF ROLES PHOTO

Nox Arcana was formed in 2003 by Joseph Vargo and William Piotrowski, who compose and create electronically rather than acoustically. Caulkins said the Sarasota Ballet's youth ensemble had performed to "Night of the Wolf" and it was suggested to him that the piece was "very Cirque."

Caulkins looked the duo up online, sent them an email with a video of past Cirque des Voix performances, and heard back immediately, and with enthusiasm.



Hand balancer Ricardo Sosa / CLIFF ROLES PHOTO

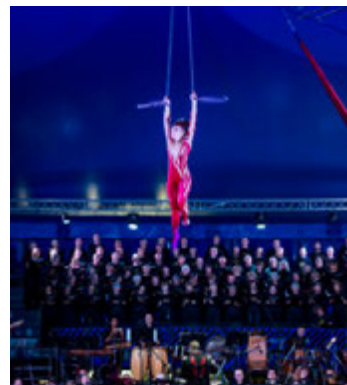
"So since January we've been working on taking their existing tracks and creating an orchestra version with chorus," he said.

"It's got a driving, pulsating rhythm to it, even more so with the orchestra," he said. "The chorus is then chanting this almost hypnotic ostinato pattern that builds as you add layer and layer and layer. It creates its own sound world."

The music will accompany illusionist Rafael Palacios in his first appearance with Cirque des Voix.

The performances Saturday and Sunday will also include theme songs from "Pitch Perfect," "Edward Scissorhands" and "Star Trek: Into Darkness," performances by the Sarasota Young Voices and student circus artists from the Sailor Circus, comic daredevil Bello Nock, hand balancing by Ricardo Sosa and aerialist Dolly Jacobs.

"I think the thing we've learned the most over the years is that piece fits Cirque des Voix, that piece doesn't," said Caulkins. "We look for music that paints a scene; we are very adept at knowing what fits us and what's for another show. The other thing we've done very well is we can pair the music and the act. We've gotten very good at just knowing what pieces fit and bring out the most in the act and vice versa."



Aerialist Dolly Jacobs / CLIFF ROLES PHOTO

CIRQUE DES VOIX
Circus Arts
Conservatory and Key
Chorale. 2 p.m.
March 19, 5 p.m.
March 20, Circus Big
Top in Nathan
Benderson Park.
Tickets \$20-\$55;
941-355-9805;
www.CircusArts.org



SUSAN RIFE
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Cirque des Voix

Circus Arts Conservatory and Key Chorale. 2 p.m. March 19, 5 p.m. March 20, Circus Big Top in Nathan Benderson Park. Tickets \$20-\$55; 941-355-9805; www.CircusArts.org