

Santa Barbara Music Club

# A powerful performance of Schubert's *Winterreise*

## THE DEATH OF LEGENDARY ROCK STAR DAVID BOWIE

on January 10th, particularly the unique condition of his departure, deliberately waiting to release his final album, *Blackstar*, until just days before his death, mirrors poignantly, Franz Schubert's final epiphany as he too lay dying of syphilis in 1828, composing his heartbreaking song cycle, *Winterreise* (The Winter Journey). Treading into that touching space, The Santa Barbara Music Club pulled off an artistic triumph last Saturday at First United Methodist Church, presenting a moving performance of Schubert's masterpiece

## DANIEL KEPL MUSIC REVIEW

by pianist Robert Cassidy, who has maintained a private studio at the Music Academy of the West since 2014, and bass DeAndre Simmons, remembered as a member of the cast of the Music Academy of the West's premiere of William Bolcom's opera, *A Wedding*, in 2008 and performances with Santa Barbara Choral Society.

Schubert's dark and chilling song cycle

for voice and piano, composed in the last dreadful year of his life, uses the sardonic poems of Wilhelm Müller (1794-1827)



Courtesy Photo

Pianist Robert Cassidy

whose horrifying experiences during the Napoleonic Wars of 1812-15 inform the texts. But Müller's intriguingly oblique lyrics tell a deeper tale of heartbreak, alienation, and cold in its physical and metaphorical dimensions. Schubert knew he was dying, David Bowie as well.

Both have left powerful artistic ciphers for us to contemplate.

Simmons' innate musicianship and vocal presence was apparent from the first notes of the opening song in the cycle, *Gute Nacht* (Good Night). Immediately filling the nave with his authoritative technique and interpretive intellect, it was Simmons' disarmingly silken voice that surprised, tempering his vocal prowess with gentle prescience. His low register is particularly rich, his intonation, spot-on. Several German-speakers in the house

remarked on Simmons' clean diction, an imperative for any professional singer, but especially important in the case of Müller's by turns, coy then ironic poesy.

Eschewing hyperbole, pianist Cassidy's reserved collaborative approach matched Simmons' elegant sound perfectly and was focused from the beginning on discretion. Muted passagework and dynamics, softer colors, and throughout, a steady-on pacing gave arc and cohesion to the hour-long, 24-poem work. Cassidy's clear understanding of harmonic structures and stresses brought many of Schubert's musical subtexts to the surface in delicately restrained expectancy, or becalmed resignation – beautiful playing.

A performance of *Winterreise* succeeds or fails from its opening dirge pattern in piano; the audience must be transfixed immediately, by what Schubert himself described as "a cycle of horrifying songs." The horror, of course, is Schubert's confrontation at such a young age with his mortality, just as Müller's "wanderer" in *Winterreise* is confronted by the

horrors of Napoleon's calamitous retreat from Moscow during the harsh winter of 1812. Both Simmons and Cassidy earned

their keep, [Music Club concerts have always been free to the public] because from start to finish, not a stir was to be heard or seen in the room.

Highlights: Simmons' superb vocal imagery in *Gefror'ne Tränen* (Frozen Tears); a touchingly simple realization of *Der Lindenbaum* (The Linden Tree); the sturm und drang of *Einsamkeit*

(Loneliness) and *Der stürmische Morgen* (The Stormy Morning); and *Der Wegweiser* (The Guidepost) the pivotal moment in the song cycle when denial becomes truth.

A long and pensive silence followed the last notes before the audience erupted in applause.

Daniel Kepl has been writing music, theatre, and dance reviews for Santa Barbara publications since he was a teenager. His professional expertise is as an orchestra conductor.



Courtesy Photo

Bass DeAndre Simmons

## CINEMA EVENTS

**REBELS WITH A CAUSE**— Over a span of about 40 years, several groups formed to preserve land at Point Reyes in Marin County and the San Francisco Bay. Their success is documented in this film. • Bacara Resort Theatre • Free • RSVP at <http://www.gaviotacoastconservancy.org/calendar> • 7pm Fr • 1/15.

**IN THE HEAT OF THE NIGHT**— An African American police detective investigates a murder in a racially hostile southern town • Plaza Playhouse Theater, 4916 Carpinteria Av • \$7 • 684-6380 • 7pm Sa • 1/16.

**METROPOLITAN OPERA "LIVE IN HD": LES PÊCHEURS DE PERLES**— Soprano Diana Damrau stars as Leïla, the beautiful Hindu priestess pursued by rival pearl divers competing for her hand • MAW, Hahn Hall • Free-\$28 • 969-8787 • Live 9:55am Sa & Encore 2pm Su • 1/16 & 1/31.

**BACARA RESORT & SPA: SOMM: INTO THE BOTTLE**— A never-before-seen look into the world of wine • 8301 Hollister Ave • Free-\$80/person (includes

screening, wine & chef tastings, tax & gratuity) • Buy at [www.bacararesort.com](http://www.bacararesort.com) • 2:30-6pm Sa • 1/16.

**METROPOLITAN OPERA "LIVE IN HD": LULU**— Artist & director William Kentridge applies his unique theatrical vision to Berg's notorious femme fatale who shatters lives, including her own • MAW, Hahn Hall • Free-\$28 • 969-8787 • Encore 2pm Su • 1/17.

**MOVIES THAT MATTER: AMAZING GRACE**— Tells the true story of William Wilberforce, the man of conscience in the British Parliament, who fought for years against overwhelming political odds to end the British sanctioning of slavery • Granada Theatre • \$10 Orchestra/\$20 Loge • 899-2222 • 7pm Mo • 1/18.

**THE SHOWCASE FILM SERIES: THE WONDERS**— A family of beekeepers living in the Tuscan countryside finds their household disrupted by the simultaneous arrival of a silently troubled teenage boy and a reality TV show intent on showcasing the family • Plaza De Oro Theatre, 371 S Hitchcock Way • \$7.75/\$7.25 • 963-0023 • 5 & 7:30pm We • 1/20.

**UCSB ARTS & LECTURES: THE SALT OF THE EARTH**— The life & work of photographer Sebastião Salgado, who has spent forty years documenting deprived societies in hidden corners of the world • UCSB Campbell Hall • Free • 893-3535 • 7:30pm We • 1/20.

**CUP OF CULTURE: MEET THE PATELS**— An Indian-American man who is about to turn 30 gets help from his parents and extended family to start looking for a wife in the traditional Indian way • MultiCultural Ctr Theater • Free • 893-8411 • 6pm We • 1/20.

**INSIDE ROBOCOP**— In a dystopic & crime-ridden Detroit, a terminally wounded cop returns to the

force as a cyborg haunted by submerged memories. Discussion with Screenwriter Michael Miner and UCSB professor Joshua Moss • UCSB Pollock Theater • Free • RSVP:893-5903 • 7-10pm We • 1/20.

**FERRIS BUELLER'S DAY OFF**— A high school wise guy is determined to have a day off from school, despite what the principal thinks • Plaza Playhouse Theater, 4916 Carpinteria Ave • \$7 • 684-6380 • 7pm Fr • 1/22.

**ABRAMORAMA: ROCK IN THE RED ZONE**— A tale of music and romance on the frontlines of a never-ending war. Q&A with Director Laura Bialis following the film • The Marjorie Luke Theater • \$12 • 1-800-838-3006 • 7:30pm Sa • 1/23.



**ANTIOCH UNIVERSITY SB: LOVE LETTERS**— The play is narrated by two characters, Melissa Gardner (Carol Burnett) and Andrew Makepeace Ladd III (Brian Dennehy), who read postcards, notes, and letters they've exchanged over a lifetime • The New Vic Theatre • \$200 • 962-8179 x 5314 • 4pm Su • 1/17.

**SPEAKING OF STORIES: NOTHING BUT LAUGHS**— Jay Carlander reads *Couple's First Dinner Party*; Leslie Gangl Howe reads *An Abbreviated Catalogue of Tongues*; Tony Miratti reads *She Drives For A Relationship: He Is Lost In The Transmission*; Julie Ruggier reads *The Lesbian Bride's Handbook*; Katie Thatcher reads *Ali in Wonderland*; and Tim Whitcomb reads *Scarlati Tilt and The Little Girl and the Wolf* • Center Stage Theatre • \$28/\$18 • 963-0408 • 2pm Su & 7:30pm Mo • 1/17 & 1/18.

**RECOVERY WORKS THEATER & AA SANTA BARBARA: OUR EXPERIENCE HAS TAUGHT US**— Dramatizes the experiences of the first A.A. groups in Ohio, New York, and California • Center Stage Theatre • \$18 • 963-0408 • 8pm Fr • 1/22.

**SANTA BARBARA PRO-CHOICE COALITION: THE A-IS-FOR-ABORTION PLAY**— This play sets out to reduce abortion stigma through story-telling and by sharing the complexity of women's personal experiences • Center Stage Theatre • \$18/\$11.50 • 963-0408 • 8pm Sa & 2pm Su • 1/23 & 1/24.

## Parks Plaza Buellton Movies

Movie Listings for 01/15/16-01/21/16

**13 HOURS: THE SECRET SOLDIERS OF BENGHAZI - R**  
 FRI-SUN (1/15-1/17) 10:00-1:00 4:00-7:00 9:30  
 MON (1/18) 10:00-1:00 4:00-7:00 & TUE-THU (1/19-1/21) 1:00-4:00 7:00

**THE REVENANT - R**  
 FRI-SUN (1/15-1/17) 10:00-1:00 4:00-6:45 9:30  
 MON (1/18) 10:00-1:00 4:00-6:45 & TUE-THU (1/19-1/21) 1:00-4:00 6:45

**RIDE ALONG 2 - PG13**  
 FRI-SUN (1/15-1/17) 11:45-2:15 4:45-7:15 9:30  
 MON (1/18) 11:45-2:15 4:45-7:15 & TUE-THU (1/19-1/21) 12:15-4:45 7:15

**THE BIG SHORT - R**  
 FRI-SUN (1/15-1/17) 11:45-4:30 9:30  
 MON (1/18) 11:45-4:30 & TUE-THU (1/19-1/21) 4:30

**STAR WARS - PG13**  
 FRI-SUN (1/15-1/17) 10:00-1:00 4:00-7:00 9:30  
 MON (1/18) 10:00-1:00 4:00-7:00 & TUE-THU (1/19-1/21) 1:00-4:00 7:00

**DADDY'S HOME - PG13**  
 FRI-SUN (1/15-1/17) 10:00-2:15 7:15  
 MON-THU (1/18-1/21) 2:15-7:15

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**Buellton • 805-688-7434**

METROPOLITAN THEATRES Showtimes for January 15-21 ★ = NO PASSES		
FAIRVIEW	CAMINO REAL	PASEO NUEVO
225 N FAIRVIEW AVE. GOLETA	7040 MARKETPLACE DR, GOLETA	8 WEST DE LA GUERRA PLACE, SANTA BARBARA
<b>★ NORM OF THE NORTH</b> PG-13 Fri 2:40, 5:00, 7:15; Sat to Mon 12:20, 2:40, 5:00, 7:15; Tue to Thu 2:40, 5:00, 7:15	<b>★ 13 HOURS: THE SECRET SOLDIERS OF BENGHAZI</b> R 11:30, 2:50, 6:15, 9:25 <b>★ RIDE ALONG 2</b> PG-13 11:20, 1:50, 4:20, 6:50, 9:15 <b>★ THE REVENANT</b> R 11:40, 3:00, 6:25, 9:50 <b>THE HATEFUL EIGHT</b> R Fri to Wed 11:00, 2:30, 6:05, 9:35; Thur 11:00, 2:30	<b>★ 13 HOURS: THE SECRET SOLDIERS OF BENGHAZI</b> R Fri to Mon 12:30, 3:20, 6:30, 9:45; Tue to Thu 1:40, 4:50, 8:00 <b>★ THE REVENANT</b> R Fri to Mon 12:30, 1:50, 4:10, 6:20, 7:40, 8:50; Tue to Thu 1:50, 4:10, 5:20, 7:40 <b>THE BIG SHORT</b> R Fri to Mon 12:20, 3:45, 6:40, 9:35; Tue & Wed 1:30, 4:30, 7:30; Thu 1:30, 4:30 <b>★ DIRTY GRANDPA</b> R Thu 7:30 PM
<b>JOY</b> PG-13 2:00, 4:50, 7:45	<b>DADDY'S HOME</b> PG-13 Fri 2:50, 5:10, 7:30; Sat to Mon 12:30, 2:50, 5:10, 7:30; Tue to Thu 2:50, 5:10, 7:30	<b>★ THE REVENANT</b> R Fri to Mon 12:20, 3:45, 6:40, 9:35; Tue & Wed 1:30, 4:30, 7:30; Thu 1:30, 4:30 <b>★ DIRTY GRANDPA</b> R Thu 7:30 PM
RIVIERA	METRO 4	ARLINGTON
2044 ALAMEDA PADRE SERRA, SANTA BARBARA	618 STATE STREET, SANTA BARBARA	1317 STATE STREET, SANTA BARBARA
<b>BROOKLYN</b> PG-13 Fri 5:00, 7:40; Sat to Mon 2:15, 5:00, 7:40; Tue to Thu 5:00, 7:40	<b>★ RIDE ALONG 2</b> PG-13 Fri to Mon 11:55, 2:20, 4:50, 7:25, 9:55; Tue to Thu 2:30, 5:15, 8:00	<b>★ NORM OF THE NORTH</b> PG-13 Fri to Mon 11:35, 1:50, 4:05, 6:20, 8:40; Tue to Thu 2:20, 4:40, 7:00
<b>STAR WARS: THE FORCE AWAKENS</b> PG-13 12:20, 3:30, 6:40, 9:40 <b>★ DIRTY GRANDPA</b> R Thu 7:00, 8:15, 9:35	<b>★ THE METROPOLITAN OPERA: LES PÎCHEURS DE PERLES</b> NR Sat 9:55 AM <b>STAR WARS: THE FORCE AWAKENS</b> PG-13 1:45, 4:45, 7:45 <b>PLAZA DE ORO</b> 371 SOUTH HITCHCOCK WAY, SANTA BARBARA <b>YOUTH</b> R 4:40 PM	<b>THE FOREST</b> PG-13 Fri to Mon 12:10, 2:30, 4:50, 7:10, 9:30; Tue to Thu 2:40, 5:20, 7:50 <b>DADDY'S HOME</b> PG-13 Fri to Mon 11:45, 2:05, 4:25, 6:45, 9:10; Tue to Thu 2:30, 4:50, 7:15 <b>JOY</b> PG-13 Fri to Mon 12:50, 3:40, 6:30, 9:20; Tue to Thu 2:00, 5:00, 7:40 <b>ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS: THE ROAD CHIP</b> PG-13 Fri to Mon 12:00, 2:15, Tue to Thu 2:10 PM <b>SPOTLIGHT</b> R Fri to Wed 4:30, 7:30; Thu 4:30 PM <b>★ THE 5TH WAVE</b> PG-13 Thu 7:30 PM
<b>STAR WARS: THE FORCE AWAKENS</b> PG-13 Fri to Mon 12:05, 9:15; Tue to Thu 2:45, 8:45	<b>STAR WARS: THE FORCE AWAKENS 3D</b> PG-13 Fri to Mon 3:05, 6:15; Tue to Thu 5:45 PM	<b>★ THE WONDERS</b> NR Wed 5:00, 7:30
<b>STAR WARS: THE FORCE AWAKENS 3D</b> PG-13 Fri to Mon 3:05, 6:15; Tue to Thu 5:45 PM	<b>★ THE WONDERS</b> NR Wed 5:00, 7:30	
CHECK OUT OUR NEW WEBSITE! <a href="http://www.metrotheatres.com">www.metrotheatres.com</a> 877-789-MOVIE		

## Let's Go To The MOVIES

### NORTH S.B. COUNTY THEATRES

Movie Listings for 01/15/16-01/21/16

**"FIESTA TUESDAY NIGHT SPECIAL" - \$6.50pp**  
 "REEL DEAL" (first show every day at Movies Lompoc): \$6.50 pp

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**STAR WARS: THE FORCE AWAKENS - PG13**  
 DAILY 1:30-4:15-7:00-9:45

**RIDE ALONG 2 - PG13**  
 DAILY 2:00-4:30-7:00-9:30

**THE REVENANT - R**  
 SAT-SUN 11:30-2:00-4:30-7:00-9:30

**DADDY'S HOME - PG13**  
 DAILY 2:15-4:45-7:15-9:30

**HI-WAY DRIVE-IN, SANTA MARIA**  
 (805) 937-3515 SWAPMEET EVERY SUNDAY  
 RIDE ALONG 2 - PG13 Starts @ 7:00  
 SISTERS - R

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