Piano Men To Duel At Cole Auditorium


The stage of the Robert L. and Elizabeth S. Cole Auditorium on the campus of Richmond Community College will be adorned with two grand pianos that will coordinate with the attire of the show’s creators, Kern and Cibis – one dressed in white, the other black. The pianists will compete in six rounds seeking audience approval, with each set featuring a unique musical style that may cause the audience to laugh, sing along or banter with the performers, who have distinctively different performance styles.

Cibis studied piano in Hanover and in London. As a collaborative pianist, he graduated from Guildhall School of Music and Drama in London. From 2005 to 2009, Cibis taught at Trinity College of Music in London and also conducted Lieder workshops at the Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts.

Born in South Africa, Kern studied piano in Cologne and Berlin. As a soloist and chamber musician, he has extensive experience in Europe, Canada, Hong Kong, China, Japan, India and South Africa. He was also the architect of the Piano City Berlin festival 2010, which featured more than 100 piano performances held in Berlin within one weekend. Since then, Piano City has branched out to other cities such as Milan and Barcelona.

Tuesday’s piano battle will include works written by composers such as Chopin, Liszt and Debussy and improvised works based on audience requests. Both serious and humorous, the show is comprised of recital and interactive elements, and the audience plays an active part throughout the entire program.
Additional information about the performance, including video footage of prior shows, may be found online at www.richmondcc.edu/about-us/cole-auditorium. The playbill for the Feb. 10 show will also be posted on RCC’s website prior to the show.

Tickets to the individual performance are on sale now for $35. Prorated season tickets are also available, which will grant access to the three remaining shows in the DeWitt Performing Arts Series. Other acts still to come this year include a St. Patrick’s Day themed performance of “Rhythm of the Dance” and a concert by Nashville hit-maker Collin Raye.

For more information about tickets, contact the Cole Auditorium Box Office at (910) 410-1691. Box Office hours are 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday and 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Friday. The Cole Auditorium is located at 1042 W. Hamlet Ave., Hamlet.

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