

Green Keys please Sackville

Ciera DeSilva

Argosy Correspondent

The day before the midterm break, pianist and composer Frank Horvat braved the miserable Maritime weather to ensure that Sackville residents would have the chance to hear his original music and reflect on environmental sustainability.

The United Church hosted the concert as part of Horvat's unique Green Keys Tour which supports the release of his second CD of original piano compositions: *A Little Dark Music*. It explores themes including environmental awareness, poverty, and the terrorist attacks on September 11. Horvat's goal "was to create a sound escape that would bring peace, joy, and contentment to listeners through these sombre themes."

The friendly pianist said that his tour began in March in the Toronto region and will finish, fifty-two concerts later, this coming March after reaching live audiences in all ten provinces. All the concerts are free, allowing everyone to enjoy the high-calibre live music.

Horvat's Green Keys Tour concerts feature Earth Hour, a sixty-minute, continuous, original composition inspired by and performed in the dark. One year, during an Earth Hour, Horvat explained, "when the lights went out and people went to the other end of the room to listen to speeches, I was all alone, improvised, and experimented with how music works in the dark. Once the album [*A Little Dark Music*] was done, I was off to practice what I preach."

When asked what prompts the bold move of playing so many concerts across our vast nation, Horvat states that he has "always been an environmentalist trying to figure out how marry music and [his] environmental sustainability together."

Dedicated to raising awareness on the international Earth Hour event, which is celebrated at Mount Allison, twenty five per cent of proceeds from the album will be donated to WWF Canada.

The tour will also highlight businesses and organizations that put emphasis on sustainability. Bullfrog Power, Canada's hundred per cent green electricity provider, is a national

sponsor of the tour. Bullfrog President Heintzman says, "we're delighted to work with Horvat on this concert series, which will reach thousands of thoughtful and engaged Canadians."

As a performer, composer, and teacher, Horvat's music is both

It gets a little hectic, but it's worth it. I really love music, teaching, playing, and being active in my community.

Frank Horvat
Composer and pianist

complex and accessible. He started classical training on the piano at the age of five, but also enjoyed playing in band, jazz, and blues groups, and interpreting pop music.

After completing a Bachelor of Music, he admits that, "what helps [...] create a unique musical composition is combining everything in [his] life." He has a social personality which allows for connection and interaction with the audience.

Horvat just finished the Maritime

portion of his tour and is back home to resume teaching his regular piano, composition, and theory students in Etobicoke, ON. He has now played thirty-two of the fifty-two concerts. As a professional pianist, he has a busy schedule. He also helped start a school that gives underprivileged kids music lessons and he continues teaching in an afterschool music program.

This pianist really does seem to combine many influences from his life into his music. His powerful song 'Poverty' was inspired by a TV advertisement where Tom Cruise snaps his fingers every three seconds. Viewers didn't realize the importance of the timing, but at the end of the ad were told that every three seconds a child dies of poverty. Horvat decided to compose the piece with 3/4 time and a main beat once every three seconds to represent this reality, although the song itself is rather enchanting.

I am amazed at how one person can do so much and maintain a positive attitude towards everything. Horvat admitted, "It gets a little hectic, but it's worth it. I really love music, teaching, playing, and being active in my community."