

Green Keys concert spreads the green gospel at St. Peter's

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COBOURG -- Pianist Frank Horvat is working so hard to spread the green gospel on his tour, it's only appropriate the Cobourg stop he will be making takes place at St. Peter's Anglican Church.

Horvat's Green Keys concert will be offered free to the community at 7 p.m. Oct. 16.

The pianist-composer is undergoing a 50-stop tour in all 10 provinces in support of his second CD of original piano compositions, A Little Dark Music (the follow up to his critically acclaimed first CD I'll Be Good).

At least some credit for the Cobourg concert must go to Helen Torney, who plays clarinet in the Concert Band of Cobourg and Northumberland Orchestra. Her work as a piano examiner for the conservatory brought her into contact with Horvat, who is also involved in that work.

"He asked me what would be some possible performance venues in the area, so I sent him a list of where there was a good piano available," Torney said.

The one at St. Peter's will produce some of the introspective tracks from A Little Dark Music, which deal with such real-world topics as poverty, threats to the environment and 9/11 but nonetheless manage to achieve a positive tone.

"My goal was to create a soundscape that would bring peace, joy and contentment for listeners through these sombre themes," Horvat said.

The concert includes the one-hour continuous composition called Earth Hour, inspired by the event that takes place on the last Saturday of each March -- and performed, appropriately, in the dark.

In his commitment to ensure that everyone have a chance to enjoy live music, Horvat has worked to make sure no admission fee is charged for any of the concerts on this tour.

He is donating 25% of the proceeds from his CD to the World Wildlife Fund-Canada to support its work for a living planet.

The tour also showcases businesses and organizations that put an emphasis on sustainability. Green-electricity company Bullfrog Power is a national sponsor of the tour, and local sponsors for this concert include Eco Burials at Cobourg Union Cemetery.

As a composer who takes as much pride in performing as he does in composing, Horvat forges a connection and interaction with his audience that creates a very personal concert-going experience.

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