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Pianist wears many hats at concert

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By: Chris Clay

May 6, 2008 02:49 PM - Boredom comes easily to pianist Frank Horvat.

The Toronto musician finds he loses focus rather quickly and is constantly looking for new ideas and sounds. It explains why he has so many different influences.

"I'm a person who gets bored easily, and I always need to have something else going on (musically)," said Horvat.

With a list of influences ranging from Metallica to Franz Liszt and Miles Davis, Horvat brings his diverse sound to the Unitarian Congregation of South Peel in Mississauga on Saturday. Horvat will perform selections off his debut album, *I'll Be Good*, as well as renditions of popular music and even a few tunes by minimalist composer Philip Glass. Show time is 8 p.m.

"Growing up, I was always fascinated by (different) musical styles," said Horvat. "If I heard a pop song on the radio, I would try and emulate it on the piano. I think exploring all these different styles was what kept my interest in music going. One of the reasons I wanted to be a composer was to break down all these musical barriers that exist."

Last year, Horvat released the 13-track album filled with original piano music. Just because there are no lyrics doesn't mean there isn't a personal connection the composer shares with each song.

Many of the tracks are culled from Horvat's experiences or things he reads about in the news or hears from friends. The album's fifth track, *Alexis*, is about a two-year-old Toronto girl found stabbed to death in 2002.

"That story affected me so much it spawned this piece of music," said Horvat. "The song is melancholy, but also filled with anger. "I have a soft heart and I hear stuff on the news and want to explore it," he continued. "But I'm not a singer, so I want the instrumental work to reflect (what I'm seeing and feeling)."

At the concert, Horvat might share with the audience where a particular tune came from and the idea behind it. For example, *In The Name of Ignorance* is levelled at those who would raise their children by strict religious dogma. *Starsky & Hutch* is Horvat's lament that he spent too much time as a child watching television.

"I've been doing the music thing for quite a while, and I've done a lot of music for other people, so it's cool to play live and perform my own stuff," he said. "It can be extremely gratifying and flattering to listen to others (interpret) your music, but when I perform it's the way the music was intended."

Tickets cost \$15, and can be purchased in advance or at the door.

For more information, visit www.frankhorvat.com.

cclay@mississauga.net



Toronto pianist Frank Horvat comes to the Unitarian Congregation of South Peel for a concert this weekend. At the show, Horvat will perform selections off his debut album, *I'll Be Good*, among other material.

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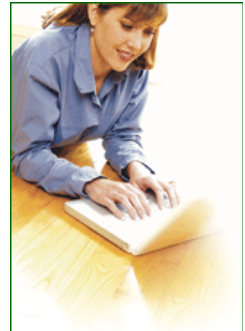


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