

The Orillia Packet And Times

Playing in the dark; ENTERTAINMENT: Pianist and composer making statement on the unnecessary ubiquity of energy and technology in today's world;

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Right: Pianist, composer and teacher Frank Horvat kicks off his Green Keys Tour with stops throughout Ontario. He will be performing at St. James Church on May 2 at 2 p.m. Admission is free and the second half of the performance will be in the dark.

This Sunday, you can see music in a whole new way. Frank Horvat, a pianist, composer, teacher and environmentalist, will be sharing his passion with Orillians this weekend.

Horvat's year-long Green Keys Tour makes a stop Sunday in Orillia at St. James Church on Peter Street at 2 p.m.

The second half of the performance will be in the dark.

"It's (for) a symbolic reason," said Horvat, attempting to explain his dark performance.

"The point I'm trying to make is that art and music can be appreciated without electricity or things we tend to rely on in our society."

"The concept of sitting in the dark is hard to grasp," he said, "but I've received a lot of interesting comments from audience members, that they were able to experience a better inner clarity."

Horvat, who kicked off the release of his new CDA Little Dark Music during Earth Hour with an hour-long performance, is trying to send a message that we don't need to rely so heavily on energy and technology as a society.

He says that this is the reasoning behind his tour and even his style of music.

"It's such a common question that musicians are asked, "What type of music do you play?" but I like to say mine is a unique blend of my original music."

Horvat's usual style of music is a mix of classical, inspirational jazz and a bit of pop.

"It's a unique blend."

The concert is free of charge and CDs will be available for purchase.

"A portion of the proceeds from the sale of my new CD goes to the World Wildlife Fund," Horvat said.

Horvat will be stopping in Sudbury and North Bay before he makes his way to Orillia and will later in the year be performing in Vancouver.